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Coeliac disease



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Improving coeliac disease risk prediction by testing non-HLA variants additional to HLA variants

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ABSTRACT

Background The majority of coeliac disease (CD) patients are not being properly diagnosed and therefore remain untreated, leading to a greater risk of developing CD-associated complications. The major genetic risk heterodimer, HLA-DQ2 and DQ8, is already used clinically to help exclude disease. However, approximately 40% of the population carry these alleles and the majority never develop CD.

Objective We explored whether CD risk prediction can be improved by adding non-HLA-susceptible variants to common HLA testing.

Design We developed an average weighted genetic risk score with 10, 26 and 57 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP) in 2675 cases and 2815 controls and assessed the improvement in risk prediction provided by the non-HLA SNP. Moreover, we assessed the transferability of the genetic risk model with 26 non-HLA

Significance of this study

What is already known on this subject?

- HLA-DQ2 and DQ8 provide the highest genetic risk for CD. However, these genes are present in about 40% of the population, and only a subset will develop disease. Therefore, screening for HLA-DQ2 and DQ8 alleles is helpful only to identify those at extremely low risk for CD.
- Current recommendations are to perform periodic screening of certain high-risk groups for CD, such as first-degree relatives and those with type 1 diabetes. However, the degree of risk is not uniform among all of these groups.
- Current methods of genetic testing are