

# Nuclear receptors gene polymorphisms and risk of restenosis and clinical events following coronary stenting

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**Summary:** *Introduction:* Hereditary factors connected with inflammation and fibroproliferation may play important role in restenotic process after coronary stenting. Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors (PPAR) and retinoic X receptors (RXR) regulate the transcription of crucial genes involved in the glucose and lipid metabolism, inflammation and cell differentiation. *Methods:* In our angiographic and clinical study we assessed the association of gene polymorphisms of L162V for PPAR- $\alpha$ , C161T for PPAR- $\gamma$  and A(39526)AA for RXR- $\alpha$  with the risk of restenosis and cardiac events after coronary stenting. Primary endpoint was diameter stenosis  $\geq 50\%$  at follow-up angiography. Secondary endpoints were death, myocardial infarction and/or target lesion revascularisation at 12 months, and clinical restenosis. The results were adjusted for known predictors of restenosis. The genotypes were analysed by polymerase chains reaction (PCR) and restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) methods. *Results:* Control angiography was performed in 477 of 565 patients (84.4%) with following restenosis rates in genotype subgroups: CC 29.0% vs GC/GG 22.6% ( $p = 0.33$ ) in L162V, CC 29.9% vs TC/TT 24.6% ( $p = 0.24$ ) in C161T and A/A 26.9% vs A/AA + AA/AA 35.0% ( $p = 0.14$ ) in A(39526)AA polymorphisms. The T allele of C161T polymorphism was associated with lower frequency of clinical restenosis ( $p = 0.015$ ). *Conclusion:* We could not find an association of L162V PPAR- $\alpha$ , C161T PPAR- $\gamma$  and A(39526)AA RXR- $\alpha$  gene polymorphisms with angiographic in-stent restenosis or major cardiac events. However, we found the relationship between C161T PPAR- $\gamma$  polymorphism and clinical restenosis deserving further study.

**Key words:** in-stent restenosis – gene polymorphism – nuclear receptors

## Polymorfizmy v genech pro nukleární receptory a riziko restenózy a klinických příhod po koronárním stentingu

**Souhrn:** *Úvod:* Hereditární faktory spojené s procesy zánětu a fibroproliferace mohou hrát důležitou roli v procesu restenózy po koronárním stentingu. Nukleární receptory PPAR (peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors) a RXR (retinoic X receptors) regulují transkripci klíčových genů ovlivňujících metabolismus glukózy a lipidů, zánět a buněčnou diferenciaci. *Metodika:* V naší prospektivní angiografické a klinické studii jsme analyzovali možnost asociace L162V polymorfizmu v genu pro PPAR- $\alpha$ , C161T polymorfizmu pro PPAR- $\gamma$  a A(39526)AA polymorfizmu pro RXR- $\alpha$  s rizikem restenózy a kardiálních příhod po koronárním stentingu. Primárním endpointem byla restenóza  $\geq 50\%$  při kontrolní angiografii. Sekundárním endpointem byl výskyt úmrtí, infarktu myokardu a/nebo opětovné revaskularizace za 12 měsíců, dále pak klinická restenóza. Výsledky byly adjustovány na přítomnost známých prediktorů restenózy. Genotypy byly analyzovány metodami PCR (polymerase chains reaction) a RFLP (restriction fragment length polymorphism). *Výsledky:* Do studie bylo zařazeno 565 pacientů s implantovaným koronárním stentem, kontrolní angiografie byla provedena u 477 (84,4%) z nich. U jednotlivých genotypů byla zjištěna následná frekvence významné angiografické restenózy: CC 29,0% vs GC/GG 22,6% ( $p = 0,33$ ) u L162V, CC 29,9% vs TC/TT 24,6% ( $p = 0,24$ ) u C161T a A/A 26,9% vs A/AA + AA/AA 35,0% ( $p = 0,14$ ) u A(39526)AA polymorfizmu. T alela u C161T polymorfizmu byla asociována s nižší frekvencí klinické restenózy ( $p = 0,015$ ). *Závěr:* Nebyla nalezena asociace L162V polymorfizmu pro PPAR- $\alpha$ , C161T pro PPAR- $\gamma$  ani A(39526)AA pro RXR- $\alpha$  s angiografickou in-stent restenózou nebo závažnými kardiálními příhodami. Nalezli jsme vztah mezi C161T PPAR- $\gamma$  polymorfizmem a klinickou restenózou, což vyžaduje další práce.

**Klíčová slova:** in-stent restenóza – genové polymorfizmy – nukleární receptory

## Introduction

Several clinical, angiographic and periprocedural factors have been described to be associated with coronary in-stent restenosis (ISR) [1–6]. Inherited factors also explain increased risk for restenosis in some patients [7–8]. Genes connec-

ted with fibroproliferation, thrombosis, inflammation or endothelial dysfunction have been under examination with inconsistent results [9–16].

Nuclear peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors (PPAR) play a key role in the regulation of glucose and lipid

metabolism, homeostasis, cell differentiation and proliferation [17–19]. PPAR heterodimerize with retinoic X receptors (RXR) and modulate the transcription of DNA at specific response elements. Both PPAR- $\alpha$  and PPAR- $\gamma$  were found in vascular cells. Clinical trials showed

that PPAR- $\gamma$  activators decrease the risk of coronary restenosis and cardiac events [20,21]. L162V (or C162G) and C161T polymorphisms in the genes for PPAR- $\alpha$  and PPAR- $\gamma$ , respectively, were recognized as risk factors for cardiac events in patients with coronary artery disease [22–25]. A (39526)AA RXR- $\alpha$  polymorphism is predictor of congestive heart failure, its role in the restenosis is still unclear [26].

The goal of our study was to analyze if gene polymorphism of PPAR- $\alpha$ , PPAR- $\gamma$  and RXR- $\alpha$  is associated with the incidence of ISR.

## Methods

Our trial is a prospective, cohort, single center, angiographic and clinical study on the role of PPAR- $\alpha$ , PPAR- $\gamma$  and RXR- $\alpha$  gene polymorphisms on the risk of restenosis and cardiac events after coronary stenting for de-novo lesion in native coronary artery.

All consecutive patients, who underwent coronary stenting at the Department of Cardiology and Internal Medicine of the University Hospital Brno, between February 2004 and November 2005, were screened for this study. Patients were excluded for the following reasons: the admission diagnosis of acute myocardial infarction with ST elevation (STEMI), the presence of restenotic lesion at coronary angiography, stenosis in arterial or venous bypass graft, treatment of peroral antidiabetic PPAR- $\gamma$  agonists.

Primary endpoint was angiographic restenosis, defined as diameter stenosis  $\geq 50\%$  in the stented segment (stent length  $\pm 5$  mm) at follow-up angiography. Secondary endpoints were the presence of death, myocardial infarction and/or target lesion revascularisation (TLR). TLR was defined as repeated percutaneous intervention or coronary artery surgery because of the significant in-segment restenosis. Another secondary endpoint was clinical restenosis, defined as symptoms or signs of ischaemia in the presence of angiographic restenosis.

During the procedure, a standard weight-adjusted dose of heparin (80 IU/kg) was given intravenously. Activated clotting time (ACT) value was measured using Hemochron whole blood coagulation system (ITC, Edison, N.J., USA). After coronary stent placement, patients received dual antiplatelet therapy with 100 mg aspirin once daily as long as possible and 75 mg clopidogrel once daily. Clopidogrel was given for 1 or 6 months depending on the initial diagnosis (acute coronary syndrome or stable angina pectoris) and stent type – bare metal stent (cobalt-chromium or stainless steel) or drug eluting stent (Cypher or Taxus). Follow-up angiography was performed at 6 months in patients with bare metal stents or 12 months in patients with drug eluting stents. All procedures were performed on the Coroskop T.O.P. and Axiom Artis angiographic systems (Siemens, Erlangen, Germany) in the Department of Invasive and Interventional Cardiology of our institute. Angiographic restenosis was evaluated by offline QCA system Quantcor (Siemens, Erlangen, Germany).

Genomic DNA was isolated from peripheral leukocytes by a standard technique using proteinase K. DNA amplification was performed using polymerase chain reactions (PCR) in a 25 ml volume containing 50 ng genomic DNA, 20 pmol of each primer, 2.5 mmol/l  $MgCl_2$ , 50 mmol/l KCl, 25 mmol/l dNTP, 5 mmol/l Tris-HCl (pH 8.8) and 1 Unit Taq polymerase (MBI Ferments, USA). The genotyping of all three polymorphisms was successfully performed in 565 patients. In some patients PCR was not valid because they received unfractionated heparin or higher dose of low molecular weight heparin shortly before PCI and these patients were excluded.

The L162V mutation of PPAR- $\alpha$  gene is caused by a CG transversion at nucleotide 484 in exon 5. Mismatch PCR method was performed with the primers 5'-ACTCAAGCTGGTGTATGACAAGT-3' and 5'-CGTTGTGTGACAT-

CCCGACAGAAT-3'. PCR products were digested with Hinf I (MBI Ferments, USA), electrophoresed through 4% agarose gel, and stained with ethidium bromide. The PCR product of 117 bp was cleaved by Hinf I. This resulted in two fragments 93 bp and 24 bp for G allele and one fragment for C allele. The location of the C161T PPAR- $\gamma$  gene polymorphism is in exon 6. The fragment was amplified using the primer pair 5'-CAAGACAACCTGCTAGC-3' and 5'-TCCTGTAGATCTCCTGCAG-3'. The PCR 200bp products were digested with restriction endonuclease Eco72I (MBI Ferments, USA) at 37 °C overnight and run on 3% agarose gel followed by ethidium bromide staining. This resulted in two fragments (120 and 80 bp) for 161C alleles and one fragment (200 bp) for 161T alleles.

The variants of RXR- $\alpha$  gene in intron 5 were detected by RFLP analysis using restriction enzyme EcoO109I (MBI Ferments, USA). Primer pair was 5'-CCTCCTCCTGGCTGTACTT-3' and 5'-CTCATGACAAGTGCCTTGCT-3'. Digested PCR products (183 bp) were loaded into 2% agarose gel. RXR alleles were marked as AA – insertion of A at 39526 (159 + 24 bp), A – without insertion (183 bp).

Categorical data are presented as the percentage or absolute numbers, continuous data are presented as a mean value  $\pm$  standard deviation (SD) or median (minimum–maximum). Statistical significance for intergroup differences was assessed by  $\chi^2$  test for categorical variables. For continuous variables, 2-sample Student t test was used to compare the means or the Mann-Whitney U test to compare the medians. Adjustment of p value was performed for known predictors of restenosis: treated diabetes, cumulative stent length, stenting  $\geq 30$  mm, number of stents, reference vessel diameter  $\leq 2.75$  mm and the use of drug eluting stent as the restenotic protection. Both unadjusted and adjusted p values are reported. P value  $\leq 0.05$  was an indicator of statistical significance. The analyses were

performed using Statistica for Windows 7.1 (StatSoft Inc., Tulsa, USA), SPSS, version 12.0.1 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, USA), and NCSS 2007 (NCSS, Kaysville, USA).

Patients were enrolled into this trial after giving written informed consent for the genetic blood sample, percutaneous intervention and control angiography. Study protocol was approved by the Local Ethics Committee of University Hospital Brno, and all procedures were performed in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki.

## Results

Altogether 1,953 patients underwent coronary intervention with stenting in the study period. Of these, 1,382 were excluded from the study the following reasons ( $n =$ ): no informed consent obtained (194), STEMI (523), acute coronary syndrome treated with unfractionated heparin (141) or low molecular weight heparin (287) given 1–3 hours prior PCI (these patients were excluded because of the initial problems with PCR mentioned above), PCI of venous or arterial bypass grafts (19), PCI for in-stent restenosis (38), treatment of diabetes with PPAR- $\gamma$  agonists (2), refused a follow-up angiography (123), planned anticoagulation (14), chronic renal failure with blood creatinine  $\geq 200$   $\mu\text{mol/l}$  (11), bailout PCI with planned cardio-surgery (9), arteriosclerosis of the lower limbs with problematic arterial access (9), known allergic reaction to contrast medium (4), high age, cerebrovascular disease, carcinoma or another severe comorbidities with low probability of performing 6–12 months angiography (8). Total of 571 patients after coronary stenting were finally enrolled into our study and 565 of them had complete genotyping of all three polymorphisms. Of these, 477 patients underwent control angiography (84.4%) and represent studied patients population. The characteristics of this population are shown in table 1. Patients characteristics according to genotype are shown in table 2. There were interallelic

**Tab. 1. Patients characteristics.**

Variable	Value, $n = 477$
Age (years)	62.7 $\pm$ 9.1
Women	110 (23.1)
BMI ( $\text{kg/m}^2$ )	28.8 $\pm$ 3.8
Current smokers	125 (26.2)
Treated diabetes	119 (24.9)
Hypertension	351 (73.6)
Hyperlipidemia	335 (70.2)
Family history of CAD	105 (22.0)
Previous MI	149 (31.2)
Acute coronary syndrome	197 (41.3)
Stable AP	208 (43.6)
LVEF, median (min–max)	60 (18–81)
Cumulative stent length (mm), median (min–max)	23 (8–123)
Reference vessel diameter (mm), median (min–max)	3.1 (2.0–5.0)
Stenosis before PCI, median (min–max)	90 (61–100)
Stenting $\geq 30$ mm	87 (18.2)
RVD $\leq 2.75$ mm	123 (25.8)
No of stents, median (min–max)	1 (1–5)
No. of stents $> 1$	147 (30.8)
Stenting $> 1$ vessel	114 (23.9)
Drug eluting stents	77 (16.1)

Continuous data are expressed as means  $\pm$  SD or medians (minimum–maximum), categorical data as numbers (percentages).

AP – angina pectoris, BMI – body mass index, CAD – coronary artery disease, LVEF – left ventricle ejection fraction, MI – myocardial infarction, PCI – percutaneous coronary intervention, RVD – reference vessel diameter

differences of the left ventricle ejection fraction in PPAR- $\alpha$  group, treated diabetes in PPAR- $\gamma$  group and cumulative stent length in RXR- $\alpha$  group.

The study results are shown in table 3. None of the gene polymorphisms was significantly associated with the primary outcome measurement. The results did not change after adjustment for known ISR predictors. Also the use of drug-eluting stents did not have influence on the association between PPAR- $\alpha$ , PPAR- $\gamma$  and RXR- $\alpha$  gene polymorphisms and ISR (table 4). The analysis of secondary endpoints found the association of C161T PPAR- $\gamma$  polymorphism with clinical restenosis. Incidence of combined major adverse cardiac events (death, MI and/or TLR) was not influenced by any polymorphism.

The multivariable logistic regression analysis showed, that the independent predictors of ISR were reference vessel diameter (Odds ratio 0.43, 95% con-

fidence interval 0.28–0.67) and cumulative stent length (OR 1.02, 95% CI 1.01–1.04); the use of drug eluting stent was as expected the protection against restenosis (OR 0.15, 95% CI 0.07–0.34).

## Discussion

In our prospective study we found no association of RXR- $\alpha$ , PPAR- $\alpha$ , PPAR- $\gamma$  polymorphism with ISR. Although there was 8.1% difference in ISR occurrence in RXR- $\alpha$  genotype, such difference was most likely due to the imbalance in known prognostic factors of ISR. Also, despite the fact that the differences for some secondary endpoints were significant we could not demonstrate consistent findings for any gene polymorphism and significant findings were most likely due to the chance or multiple comparisons.

We analysed both PPAR and RXR gene polymorphisms together, which

Tab. 2. Patients characteristics with respect to genotype.

Variable genotype	PPAR- $\alpha$		P	PPAR- $\gamma$		P	RXR- $\alpha$		P
	CC	GC + GG		CC	TC + TT		A/A	A/AA + AA/AA	
No. of patients	424	53		335	142		397	80	
Age (years)	62.8 $\pm$ 9.1	61.8 $\pm$ 9.3	0.47	63.1 $\pm$ 9.1	61.6 $\pm$ 9.3	0.11	62.8 $\pm$ 9.1	62.1 $\pm$ 9.5	0.52
Women	101 (23.8)	9 (17.0)	0.27	73 (21.8)	37 (26.1)	0.31	98 (24.7)	12 (15)	0.06
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	28.8 $\pm$ 3.9	28.7 $\pm$ 2.9	0.86	28.6 $\pm$ 3.8	29.1 $\pm$ 3.8	0.30	28.8 $\pm$ 3.9	28.9 $\pm$ 3.6	0.71
Current smokers	108 (25.5)	17 (32.1)	0.30	86 (25.7)	39 (27.5)	0.68	107 (27.0)	18 (22.5)	0.41
Treated diabetes	111 (26.2)	8 (15.1)	0.08	73 (21.8)	46 (32.4)	0.01	99 (24.9)	20 (25)	0.99
Hypertension	315 (74.3)	36 (67.9)	0.32	244 (72.8)	107 (75.4)	0.57	290 (73.0)	61 (76.3)	0.55
Hyperlipidemia	296 (69.8)	39 (73.6)	0.57	241 (71.9)	94 (66.2)	0.21	281 (70.8)	54 (67.5)	0.56
Family history of CAD	93 (21.9)	12 (22.6)	0.91	75 (22.4)	30 (21.1)	0.76	88 (22.2)	17 (21.3)	0.86
Previous MI	133 (31.4)	16 (30.2)	0.86	97 (29.0)	52 (36.6)	0.10	126 (31.7)	23 (28.8)	0.60
Acute coronary syndrome	179 (42.2)	18 (34.0)	0.66	145 (43.3)	52 (36.6)	0.17	161 (40.6)	36 (45)	0.46
Stable AP	180 (42.5)	27 (50.9)	0.47	143 (42.7)	64 (45.1)	0.67	174 (43.8)	33 (41.3)	0.64
LVEF (%), median (min-max)	60 (18-81)	60 (31-80)	0.016	60 (19-80)	60 (18-81)	0.063	60 (18-81)	60 (20-77)	0.54
Cumulative stent length (mm), median (min-max)	23 (8-123)	24 (10-60)	0.35	23 (8-81)	23 (8-123)	0.77	23 (8-81)	25.5 (8-123)	0.046
RVD (mm), median (min-max)	3.1 (2.0-5.0)	3.1 (2.3-4.7)	0.88	3.1 (2.1-5.0)	3.1 (2.0-4.8)	0.80	3.1 (2.0-5.0)	3.1 (2.3-4.2)	0.93
RVD $\leq$ 2,75 mm	110 (25.9)	13 (24.5)	0.82	85 (25.4)	38 (26.7)	0.75	105 (26.4)	18 (22.5)	0.46
Stenosis before PCI, median (min-max)	90 (67-100)	89 (61-100)	0.33	90 (61-100)	90 (69-100)	0.74	90 (61-100)	90 (70-100)	0.68
Stenting $\geq$ 30 mm	76 (17.9)	11 (20.8)	0.61	63 (18.8)	24 (16.9)	0.62	71 (17.9)	16 (20)	0.65
No. of stents $>$ 1	131 (30.9)	16 (30.2)	0.60	98 (29.3)	49 (34.5)	0.63	117 (29.5)	30 (37.5)	0.16
Stenting of $>$ 1 vessel	99 (23.3)	15 (28.3)	0.43	78 (23.3)	36 (25.4)	0.63	90 (22.7)	24 (30)	0.16
Drug eluting stents	66 (15.6)	11 (20.8)	0.33	47 (14.0)	30 (21.1)	0.054	63 (15.9)	14 (17.5)	0.72

Continuous data are expressed as means  $\pm$  SD or medians (min-max), categorical data as numbers (percents).

AP – angina pectoris, BMI – body mass index, CAD – coronary artery disease, LVEF – left ventricle ejection fraction, MI – myocardial infarction, PCI – percutaneous coronary intervention, RVD – reference vessel diameter

has not been done before. RXR is alone a specific regulator of cellular proliferation [27–28]. Moreover, PPAR can not work without heterodimerisation with RXR. There are sufficient experimental and clinical data clearly showing the relationship between PPAR- $\gamma$ , muscular proliferation and restenosis, respectively. PPAR- $\gamma$  regulates target genes encoding proteins involved in the regulation of cell-cycle progression, smooth muscle cells proliferation and apoptosis [29–30]. The negative results of our study indicate that the relationship between RXR, PPAR and ISR is more complicated or that studied polymorphisms simply do not belong to the genetic factors related to ISR. Previous large trial analysing different

PPAR- $\gamma$  polymorphisms found negative results [31].

One of the reasons for our negative results with restenosis could be the type of studied population. Most of the trials with C161T and L162V PPAR polymorphisms were performed in non-European population – either in Australia, Southeastern Asia or in Northern America, as opposed to the population from Central Europe used in our study. Another reason can be different mechanism of in-stent restenosis compared to atherosclerotic progression of native coronary artery disease, which has been studied in previous works [22–25]. The third potential explanation for negative results of our study may be the size of the sample group.

From the angiographic perspective, 16.2% of patients, who underwent control angiography, had an implanted drug eluting stent, which could make the whole group not homogeneous. Nevertheless, there was not significant difference in drug eluting stents percentage between the studied alleles. Moreover, the results of primary endpoint remained the same when analysing separately patients with and without drug eluting stent.

It is also necessary to take into account a non-linear impact of inherited factors on restenosis. Similarly to the disappointment with results of I/D ACE polymorphism trials, we cannot expect a clear relationship between

Tab. 3. Study endpoints.

Variable genotype	PPAR- $\alpha$				PPAR- $\gamma$				RXR- $\alpha$			
	CC (424)	GC+GG (53)	p	p*	CC (335)	TC+TT (142)	p	p*	A/A (397)	A/AA + AA/AA (80)	p	p*
ISR $\geq$ 50 %	123 (29.0)	12 (22.6)	0.33	0.57	100 (29.9)	35 (24.6)	0.24	0.27	107 (26.9)	28 (35.0)	0.14	0.18
ISR, me- dian (IQR)	31 (19–55)	31 (20–44)	0.74	0.71	31 (20–61)	30 (12–47)	0.095	0.09	31 (18–51)	37 (20–73)	0.07	0.08
Clinical restenosis	44 (10.4)	4 (7.5)	0.52	0.68	41 (12.2)	7 (4.9)	0.015	0.014	37 (9.3)	11 (13.8)	0.23	0.37
MI <sup>a</sup>	6 (1.2)	3 (4.7)	0.098	0.049	7 (1.8)	2 (1.1)	0.53	0.54	8 (1.7)	1 (1)	0.44	0.52
Death <sup>a</sup>	4 (0.8)	1 (1.6)	0.54	0.50	3 (0.8)	2 (1.1)	0.67	0.76	3 (0.7)	2 (1.9)	0.22	0.21
TLR <sup>a</sup> (n)	61 (12.2)	4 (6.3)	0.16	0.21	52 (13.4)	13 (7.3)	0.036	0.066	48 (10.4)	17 (16.2)	0.095	0.12
MACE <sup>a</sup>	66 (13.2)	8 (12.5)	0.88	0.99	59 (15.2)	15 (8.5)	0.028	0.056	54 (11.7)	20 (19)	0.045	0.06

Continuous data are expressed as means  $\pm$  standard deviation or medians (25.–75. quartile), categorical data as numbers (percents). p\* adjusted for treated diabetes, cumulative stent length, stenting  $\geq$  30 mm, DES, number of stents, RVD  $\leq$  2,75 mm; <sup>a</sup>analysed in all 565 patients.

IQR – interquartile range, ISR – in-stent restenosis, TLR – target lesion revascularisation, MACE – major adverse cardiac events, MI – myocardial infarction

Tab. 4. Occurrence of ISR in patients with DES and without DES.

Genotype	PPAR- $\alpha$			PPAR- $\gamma$			RXR- $\alpha$		
	CC	GC + GG	p	CC	TC + TT	p	A/A	A/AA + AA/AA	p
ISR $\geq$ 50 %, DES	7/66 (10.6)	1/11 (9.1)	0.88	6/47 (12.8)	2/30 (6.7)	0.39	6/63 (9.5)	2/14 (14.3)	0.60
ISR $\geq$ 50 %, BMS	116/358 (32.4)	11/42 (26.2)	0.41	94/288 (32.6)	33/112 (29.5)	0.54	101/334 (30.2)	26/66 (39.4)	0.14

Data are expressed as numbers (percents).

BMS – bare metal stents, DES – drug eluting stents, ISR – in-stent restenosis

one gene polymorphism and complex restenotic process with its many levels that could be influenced [32]. Moreover, some crucial genes that are involved in proliferative process can be influenced by others. A good example is a trial of Tiroch et al [33]. The authors found a negative result of an association of heme oxygenase-1 (HO-1) gene promoter polymorphism with restenosis and major cardiac events, despite possible protective role of the HO-1 protein against restenosis. The explanation for this could be another trial, which demonstrates that HO-1 expression is transcriptionally regulated by PPAR- $\alpha$  and PPAR- $\gamma$  receptors [34].

In our study, however, we found the association between PPAR- $\gamma$  polymorphism and the risk of clinical restenosis. Although clinical restenosis was a secondary endpoint, we consider the results in this group of patients to be important because we usually treat only those “restenotic” patients who are symptomatic or have positive stress test. Such results generate the hypothesis that PPAR- $\gamma$  C161T polymorphism could be the independent predictor of clinical restenosis.

#### Limitations

Except for sample size limitation mentioned above, the relative limitation is that incomplete angiographic fol-

low-up was conducted in 84.4% of patients. This number is, however, in accordance with other genetic trials with control angiography. Another limitation is the absence of an independent CoreLab for angiographic evaluation.

#### Conclusions

We conclude that none of the three gene polymorphisms for PPAR- $\alpha$ , PPAR- $\gamma$  and RXR- $\alpha$  receptors was associated with significant angiographic restenosis after stenting for de-novo lesion in native coronary artery. TC and TT genotypes of C161T gene polymorphism for PPAR- $\gamma$  were associated with a decreased risk of clinical restenosis. Such finding generates the hypothesis



that an association between PPAR- $\gamma$  and ISR may exist.

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