



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

***INTERACTION OF GENE POLYMORPHISMS IN THE RISK OF  
CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE AND RANDOM AMPLIFIED  
POLYMORPHIC DNA ANALYSIS OF CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE***

**CHU WERN CUI**

**FPSK(m) 2015 26**



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**By**

**CHU WERN CUI**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,  
In Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science**

**July 2015**

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

**INTERACTION OF GENE POLYMORPHISMS IN THE RISK OF CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE AND RANDOM AMPLIFIED POLYMORPHIC DNA ANALYSIS OF CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE**

By

**CHU WERN CUI**

**July 2015**

**Chair: Cheah Yoke Kqueen, PhD**  
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Genetic variants of *methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase (MTHFR)*, *endothelial nitric oxide synthase (eNOS)*, and *cholesteryl ester transfer protein (CETP)*, influence homocysteine, nitric oxide synthesis, and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) metabolism, respectively and might increase the risk of coronary artery disease (CAD). It is becoming increasingly proven that polymorphisms in multiple genes are involved in the pathogenesis of CAD. Therefore, this study was conducted to investigate the association and interaction of *MTHFR C677T*, *eNOS G894T*, *eNOS 4a4b* and *CETP TaqIB* polymorphisms with the risk of CAD in multi-ethnics Malaysian population and the usefulness of random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) analysis in discriminating CAD patients. A total of 344 subjects including angiographically confirmed 243 CAD patients and 101 control subjects were genotyped. The presence of *MTHFR 677T* allele was significantly associated with the increased risk of CAD and it was associated with higher total cholesterol and low-density lipoprotein cholesterol levels in the Chinese group. The presence of *eNOS 4a* allele was significantly associated with the increased risk of CAD in Malay and Indian groups. The *CETP B2B2* genotype was significantly associated with higher HDL-C and associated with decreased risk of CAD in the Malay group. Moreover, the concomitant presence of *MTHFR 677T* and *CETP B1* alleles was significantly increased the risk of CAD in Malay group and Chinese group but not Indian. At the same time, the concomitant presence of both *CETP B1* and *eNOS 4a* alleles was significantly increased the risk of CAD in Malay group and Indian group but not Chinese. The RAPD analysis show that, under certain conditions, genetic polymorphisms in genomic DNA of CAD patients could be detected by using RAPD analysis and enable the discrimination of the CAD patients from the controls. In conclusion, this study shows that gene polymorphisms differ in both distributions and association with CAD among different ethnic groups in Malaysia. Moreover, this study has identified a novel ethnic-specific gene-gene interactions, suggested that the role of gene-gene interaction in the pathogenesis of CAD might be ethnic specific. The detected polymorphisms by the arbitrary primers OPO 02 and OPO 10 enable the discrimination of the CAD patients from the controls. These findings can be further analysed for biomarker development.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia  
Sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Ijazah Master Sains

**INTERAKSI POLIMORFISME GENE PADA RISIKO PENYAKIT CORONARI  
ARTERI DAN ANALISIS AMPLIFIKASI ACAK POLIMORFISME DNA PADA  
PENYAKIT CORONARI ARTERI**

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Variasi genetik *metilenatetrahidrofolat reduktase (MTHFR)*, *endotelial nitrik oksida synthase (eNOS)*, dan *protein cholesteryl ester transfer (CETP)*, mempengaruhi sintesis homocysteine, nitrik oksida, dan metabolisme kolesterol lipoprotein berkepadatan tinggi (HDL-C), masing-masing, dan mungkin meningkatkan risiko penyakit arteri koronari (CAD). Semakin banyak bukti menunjukkan bahawa polimorfisme dalam pelbagai gen terlibat dalam patogenesis CAD. Oleh itu, kajian ini telah dijalankan untuk menyiasat hubungan dan interaksi polimorfisme *MTHFR C677T*, *eNOS G894T*, *eNOS 4a4b* and *CETP TaqIB* dengan risiko CAD dalam pelbagai etnik penduduk Malaysia dan kegunaan analisis amplifikasi acak polimorfisme DNA (RAPD) dalam membezakan pesakit CAD. Seramai 344 subjek termasuk 243 pesakit CAD dan 101 subjek kawalan yang disahkan secara angiografi telah digenotipkan oleh kaedah PCR-RFLP. Kehadiran alel *MTHFR 677T* menyebabkan peningkatan risiko CAD dan ia dikaitkan dengan tahap jumlah kolesterol dan kolesterol lipoprotein berketumpatan rendah yang lebih tinggi dalam kumpulan Cina. Kehadiran alel *eNOS 4a* menyebabkan peningkatan risiko CAD dalam kumpulan Melayu dan India. Genotip *CETP B2B2* mempunyai kaitan dengan tahap HDL-C yang lebih tinggi dan dikaitkan dengan penurunan risiko CAD dalam kumpulan Melayu. Selain itu, kehadiran alel *MTHFR 677T* dan alel *CETP B1* sama-sama telah meningkat risiko CAD dalam kumpulan Melayu dan kumpulan tetapi bukan India. Pada masa yang sama, kehadiran kedua-dua alel *CETP B1* dan alel *eNOS 4a* sama-sama telah meningkat risiko CAD dalam kumpulan Melayu dan kumpulan India. Analisis RAPD menunjukkan bahawa, dengan syarat-syarat tertentu, polimorfisme genetik dalam DNA genomik pesakit CAD boleh dikesan dengan menggunakan analisis RAPD dan membolehkan pesakit CAD dibezakan daripada kawalan. Kesimpulannya, kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa polimorfisme gen berbeza dalam kedua-dua taburan dan hubungan dengan CAD dalam kalangan kumpulan etnik yang berbeza di Malaysia. Selain itu, kajian ini telah mengenal pasti interaksi gen-gen etnik khusus yang novel, mencadangkan bahawa peranan interaksi gen-gen dalam patogenesis CAD berkemungkinan khusus etnik. Polimorfisme dikesan oleh primer-primer arbitari OPO 02 dan 10 OPO membolehkan pembezaan pesakit CAD daripada kawalan. Penemuan ini boleh dilakukan kajian lanjut untuk pembangunan penanda bio.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015 to conduct the final examination of Chu Wern Cui on her thesis entitled “Interaction of gene polymorphisms in the risk of coronary artery disease and random amplified polymorphic DNA analysis of coronary artery disease” in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Science.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	i
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	ii
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	iii
<b>APPROVAL</b>	iv
<b>DECLARATION</b>	vi
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	x
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	xi
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	xii
<b>CHAPTER</b>	
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background of the study	1
1.2 Objectives	2
1.3 Hypothesis	2
<b>2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1 Cardiovascular disease	3
2.2 Incidence of coronary artery disease in Malaysia	4
2.3 Risk factor of coronary artery disease	4
2.3.1 Hypertension	4
2.3.2 Diabetes	4
2.3.3 Hypercholesterolaemia	5
2.3.4 Smoking	5
2.3.5 Obesity	5
2.3.6 Ethnicity	6
2.3.7 Family history of CAD	6
2.3 Gene polymorphism	7
2.3.1 Single nucleotide polymorphism	7
2.3.2 Variable number of tandem repeat	8
2.4 <i>Methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase (MTHFR)</i> gene	8
2.4.1 Homocysteine	8
2.4.2 <i>MTHFR C677T</i> polymorphism	9
2.5 <i>Endothelial nitric oxide synthase (eNOS)</i> gene	10
2.5.1 Nitric oxide	10
2.5.2 <i>eNOS G894T</i> polymorphism	11
2.5.3 <i>eNOS 4a4b</i> polymorphism	11
2.6 <i>Cholesteryl ester transfer protein (CETP)</i> gene	12
2.6.1 High-density lipoprotein cholesterol	12
2.6.2 <i>CETP TaqIB</i> polymorphism	13
2.7 Gene-gene interaction	13
2.8 Random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD)	14
2.8.1 Optimisation	15
2.8.2 Interpretation of changes in RAPD banding patterns	15
2.8.3 Application of RAPD in human disease studies	16
<b>3 MATERIALS AND METHODS</b>	<b>17</b>
3.1 Ethics clearance	17

3.2	Study design and subjects	17
3.3	DNA extraction	17
3.4	Genotyping analysis	18
3.4.1	<i>MTHFR C677T polymorphism genotyping</i>	18
3.4.2	<i>eNOS polymorphisms genotyping</i>	19
3.4.3	<i>CETP TaqIB polymorphism genotyping</i>	20
3.5	Statistical analysis	21
3.6	RAPD fingerprinting	21
<b>4</b>	<b>RESULTS</b>	<b>23</b>
4.1	Subject characteristics	23
4.2	Distribution of the polymorphisms	23
4.3	Association of the polymorphisms with CAD	23
4.4	Impact of polymorphisms on plasma lipid profile	27
4.5	Gene-gene interactions and risk of CAD	29
4.6	RAPD analysis	36
<b>5</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>48</b>
	<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>49</b>
	<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>66</b>
	<b>BIODATA OF STUDENT</b>	<b>76</b>
	<b>LIST OF PUBLICATIONS</b>	<b>77</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
3.1	List of primers that have been used for RAPD analysis with their sequence	22
4.1	Demographics and biochemical characteristic of control and CAD patients in three ethnic groups	24
4.2	The distribution of <i>MTHFR</i> , <i>eNOS</i> and <i>CETP</i> genotypes in three ethnic groups	25
4.3	The distribution of genotypes in three ethnic groups	27
4.4	Genotypic frequencies of the gene polymorphisms and plasma lipid levels in three ethnic groups	28
4.5	The carrier odds ratio interaction between <i>MTHFR 677T</i> and <i>CETP B1</i> alleles	30
4.6	The carrier odds ratio interaction between <i>CETP B1</i> and <i>eNOS 4a</i> alleles	31
4.7	The carrier odds ratio interaction between <i>CETP B1</i> and <i>eNOS 894T</i> alleles	32
4.8	The carrier odds ratio interaction between <i>eNOS 894T</i> and <i>eNOS 4a</i> alleles	33
4.9	The carrier odds ratio interaction between <i>eNOS 894T</i> and <i>MTHFR 677T</i> alleles	34
4.10	The carrier odds ratio interaction between <i>eNOS 4a</i> and <i>MTHFR 677T</i> alleles	35
4.11	Characteristics of the RAPD bands generated using 17 primers	39

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
2.1	Changes in CAD death	3
2.2	Homocysteine metabolism	8
2.3	Production of nitric oxide (NO) by endothelial cells	10
2.4	Role of CETP in plasma lipid transport	12
2.5	Proposed interactions of the <i>CETP</i> , <i>MTHFR</i> and <i>eNOS</i> polymorphisms on the risk of CAD.	14
3.1	<i>MTHFR C677T</i> polymorphism	19
3.2	<i>eNOS G894T</i> polymorphism	19
3.3	<i>eNOS 4a4b</i> polymorphism	20
3.4	<i>CETP TaqIB</i> polymorphism	21
4.1	The distribution of the risk alleles in three ethnics	26
4.2	Gel electrophoresis of RAPD-PCR products amplified by primers OPO 02, OPO 03, OPO 04, and OPO 12	36
4.3	Gel electrophoresis of RAPD-PCR products amplified by primers OPO 05, OPO 06, OPO 07, OPO 08, and OPO 10	36
4.4	Gel electrophoresis of RAPD-PCR products amplified by primers OPO 09, OPO 12, and OPO 20	37
4.5	Gel electrophoresis of RAPD-PCR products amplified by primers OPO 11, OPO 13, and OPO 14	37
4.6	Gel electrophoresis of RAPD-PCR products amplified by primers OPO 15, OPO 16, and OPO 17	38
4.7	Dendrogram generated using unweighted paired group method with arithmetic mean (UPGMA) based on RAPD patterns using primer OPO 02	40
4.8	Dendrogram generated using UPGMA based on RAPD patterns using primer OPO 10	41
4.9	The dendrogram was generated based on RAPD patterns of primer OPO 02 using Dice similarity coefficient	42
4.10	Representative RAPD patterns obtained with primer OPO 02	42
4.11	The dendrogram was generated based on RAPD patterns of primer OPO 10 using Dice similarity coefficient	43
4.12	Representative RAPD patterns obtained with primer OPO 10	43

## LIST OF SYMBOLS, UNITS, ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS

WHO	World Health Organization
CAD	coronary artery disease
<i>MTHFR</i>	<i>methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase</i>
<i>eNOS</i>	<i>endothelial nitric oxide synthase</i>
<i>CETP</i>	<i>cholesteryl ester transfer protein</i>
HDL-C	high-density lipoprotein cholesterol
RAPD	random amplified polymorphic DNA
PCR	polymerase chain reaction
CVD	cardiovascular diseases
%	percentage
NHMS	National Health and Morbidity Survey
TC	total cholesterol
TG	truglycerides
LDL-C	low-density lipoprotein cholesterol
BMI	body-mass index
≥	more than or equal to
<i>PCSK9</i>	<i>proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9</i>
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
RFLP	restriction fragment length polymorphism
FAD	flavin adenine dinucleotide
VNTR	variable number of tandem repeat
BH4	etrahydrobiopterin
NADPH	nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate
NO	nitric oxide
<i>ApoE</i>	<i>apolipoprotein E</i>
<i>ApoB</i>	<i>apolipoprotein B-100</i>
<i>CBS</i>	<i>cystathionine β-synthase</i>
NMRR	National Medical Research Registry
EDTA	ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
°C	degree Celcius
rpm	revolution per minute
w/v	weight/volume
dNTP	dinucleotide triphosphate
UPGMA	unweighted paired group method with arithmetic mean
HWE	Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium
ORs	odds ratios
CI	confidence intervals
ND	not determined

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the study

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) data published in April 2011, coronary artery disease (CAD) death in Malaysia reached 22,701 or 22.18% of total deaths. CAD also is the number one cause of premature deaths in Malaysia (Yusoff et al., 2013). This high rate could have been due to late presentation and diagnosis, leading to delayed treatment.

CAD is considered to be a complex disease that is caused by multiple genetic factors, environmental factors, and interactions among these factors. These factors may vary depending on ethnic group (Tanus-Santos, Desai, & Flockhart, 2001). Traditional risk factors such as hypertension, obesity, dyslipidaemia, smoking status, and physical activity have been studied in Malaysia (Zain, Ooyub, & Rahmat, 2007; Chin & Pengal, 2009; Rampal et al., 2010; Thon, Yein, & Lian, 2012). However, a quarter of the risk of CAD is unexplained by traditional risk factors (Dent, 2010). Some studies have showed that genetic variants can improve CAD assessment beyond the use of traditional risk factors (Damani & Topol, 2007). Therefore, understanding genetic variants that associated with CAD in Malaysian may contribute to better prevention, diagnosis and treatment of CAD in Malaysian population.

*Methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase (MTHFR) C677T (rs1801133)* that results in thermolabile *MTHFR* has been suggested to increase total plasma homocysteine and the risk of CAD (Sakowicz, Fendler, Lelonek, Sakowicz, & Pietrucha, 2013). Moreover, variants of the *endothelial nitric oxide synthase (eNOS)* gene have been associated with reduced concentration of nitric oxide (NO) and increased risk of CAD (Casas, Bautista, Humphries, & Hingorani, 2004). *Cholesteryl ester transfer protein (CETP) TaqIB (rs 708272)* polymorphism has been associated with the high-density lipoprotein (HDL) levels and the risk of CAD (Boekholdt et al., 2005). The effects of these gene polymorphisms on the risk of CAD have been reported in many countries but could not be generalised across ethnic groups. There is no data available regarding the association of these gene polymorphisms with the risk of CAD in Malaysian population. Hence, the association of these gene polymorphisms with the risk of CAD in Malaysian population should be studied.

CAD is contributed by interplay of complex biochemical processes which includes lipid and apolipoprotein metabolism, inflammatory response, endothelial dysfunction, homocysteine metabolism, thrombosis, insulin sensitivity, and blood pressure regulation (Scheuner, 2004). However, most studies of CAD focus on single-marker based analysis ignoring the interactions between markers causing the identified markers often only explain a small fraction of the phenotypic variation (Chikkagoudar, Wang, & Li, 2011). It is becoming increasingly evident that gene-gene interaction plays an important role in the etiology of complex disease such as CAD (Poduri, Khullar, Bahl, Sharma, & Talwar, 2009). Therefore, identification of the gene-gene interaction may help us to understand more on the pathological mechanisms of the CAD.



Random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) is a polymerase chain reaction – based fingerprinting technique that amplifies random DNA fragments with single short primers of arbitrary nucleotide sequence under low annealing stringency. RAPD can detect genetic alterations in the entire genome (including point mutations, microsatellite instability, chromosome alterations). RAPD method has been applied as a mean for identifying the genomic instability in brain tumours (Dil-Afroze et al., 1998), liver cancer (Zhang, Cong, Xian, Dong, & Wu, 2004), skin cancer (Ribeiro et al., 2004), and breast cancer (El-Assal, El-Tarras, & Abd-alla, 2011). There is increasing evidence that multiple mutations are responsible for the development of CAD. Therefore, RAPD analysis might be useful to detect the genetic polymorphisms that occur in CAD patients and potentially use for the detection of CAD.

## 1.2 Objectives

The general objectives of this study are to determine the association and interaction of specific gene polymorphisms with the risk of CAD in Malaysian population and the usefulness of RAPD analysis in discriminating CAD patients.

Hence, the specific objectives of this study are:

1. To profile specific gene polymorphisms for *CETP*, *MTHFR*, and *eNOS*.
2. To correlate these gene polymorphisms with the risk of CAD.
3. To determine the interaction of these gene polymorphisms in the development of CAD.
4. To compare the amplification profiles of genomic DNA in CAD patients with controls using RAPD analysis.

## 1.3 Hypothesis

Polymorphisms of *MTHFR*, *eNOS* and *CETP* genes may have an association with the risk of CAD in Malaysian population. There are possible interactions between these gene polymorphisms on the risk of CAD. Moreover, RAPD analysis might be able to discriminate the CAD patients from the control.

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