

## Analysis of exome-sequenced UK Biobank subjects implicates genes affecting risk of hyperlipidaemia

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### Abstract

Rare genetic variants in *LDLR*, *APOB* and *PCSK9* are known causes of familial hypercholesterolaemia and it is expected that rare variants in other genes will also have effects on hyperlipidaemia risk although such genes remain to be identified. The UK Biobank consists of a sample of 500,000 volunteers and exome sequence data is available for 50,000 of them. 11,490 of these were classified as hyperlipidaemia cases on the basis of having a relevant diagnosis recorded and/or taking lipid-lowering medication while the remaining 38,463 were treated as controls. Variants in each gene were assigned weights according to rarity and predicted impact and overall weighted burden scores were compared between cases and controls, including population principal components as covariates. One biologically plausible gene, *HUWE1*, produced statistically significant evidence for association after correction for testing 22,028 genes with a signed log<sub>10</sub> p value (SLP) of -6.15, suggesting a protective effect of variants in this gene. Other genes with uncorrected p<0.001 are arguably also of interest, including *LDLR* (SLP=3.67), *RBP2* (SLP=3.14), *NPFFR1* (SLP=3.02) and *ACOT9* (SLP=-3.19). Gene set analysis indicated that rare variants in genes involved in metabolism and energy can influence hyperlipidaemia risk. Overall, the results provide some leads which might be followed up with functional studies and which could be tested in additional data sets as these become available. This research has been conducted using the UK Biobank Resource.

### Keywords

Hyperlipidaemia; biobank; exome; *HUWE1*; *RBP2*; *NPFFR1*; *ACOT9*.

### Introduction

Hyperlipidaemia is an important risk factor for cardiovascular disease which is modified by genetic variation and some of the genes involved have been identified (Sharifi et al., 2017). Rare variants with a large dominant effect in *LDLR*, *APOB* and *PCSK9* cause 40% of cases of familial hypercholesterolaemia (FH), a severe form of hyperlipidaemia. A whole genome sequencing study of over 16,000 subjects failed to identify rare variants in any additional genes influencing lipid levels, though yielded a total of 26 loci containing common variants which were genome-wide significant, largely replicating findings from previous genome wide association studies (GWAS) (Natarajan et al., 2018; Willer et al., 2013). A GWAS of medication usage in 320,000 European UK Biobank participants identified 55 independent SNPs associated with taking statins, including 19 previously shown to be associated with low density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDLC), and showed that these were enriched in a number of gene sets involved with lipid metabolism (Wu et al., 2019). Another GWAS of European

UK Biobank participants identified hundreds of genome-wide significant independent SNPs associated with lipid levels (Richardson et al., 2020).

Although common genetic variation makes a substantial overall contribution to the variance in lipid levels, selection pressures mean that common variants individually have small effects and it can be difficult to elucidate the biological mechanisms underlying their association. It is to be expected that rare variants will also have effects and it is possible that some of them might have large effect sizes. Such analyses may be better able to identify specific genes rather than genetic loci and may indicate a direction of effect. The UK Biobank sample (<http://www.ukbiobank.ac.uk/about-biobank-uk/>) contains information about medication usage and clinical diagnoses, both as reported by participants and as extracted from their health records. Exome sequence data is available for 50,000 subjects and a gene-wise weighted burden analysis of rare variants was carried out to attempt to identify genes associated with a hyperlipidaemia phenotype, defined as subjects with a diagnosis of hyperlipidaemia and/or taking cholesterol-lowering medication.

## Methods

The UK Biobank dataset was downloaded along with the variant call files for 49,953 subjects who had undergone exome-sequencing and genotyped using the GRCh38 assembly with coverage 20X at 94.6% of sites on average (Hout et al., 2019). UK Biobank had obtained ethics approval from the Research Ethics Committee (REC; approval number: 11/NW/0382) and informed consent from all participants. All variants were annotated using the standard software packages VEP, PolyPhen and SIFT (Adzhubei et al., 2013; Kumar et al., 2009; McLaren et al., 2016). To obtain population principal components reflecting ancestry, version 1.90beta of *plink* (<https://www.cog-genomics.org/plink2>) was run with the options `--maf 0.1 --pca header tabs --make-rel` (Chang et al., 2015; Purcell et al., 2007, 2009).

The hyperlipidaemia phenotype was determined from four sources in the dataset: self-reported high cholesterol; reporting taking cholesterol lowering medication; reporting taking a named statin; having an ICD10 diagnosis for hyperlipidaemia in hospital records or as a cause of death. Subjects in any of these categories were deemed to be cases with hyperlipidaemia while all other subjects were taken to be controls.

The SCOREASSOC program was used to carry out a weighted burden analysis to test whether, in each gene, sequence variants which were rarer and/or predicted to have more severe functional effects occurred more commonly in cases than controls. Attention was restricted to rare variants with minor allele frequency (MAF)  $\leq 0.01$ . As previously described, variants were weighted by MAF so that variants with MAF=0.01 were given a weight of 1 while very rare variants with MAF close to zero were given a weight of 10 (Curtis, 2020). Variants were also weighted according to their functional annotation using the default weights provided with the GENEVARASSOC program, which was used to generate input files for weighted burden analysis by SCOREASSOC (Curtis, 2016, 2012). For example, a weight of 5 was assigned for a synonymous variant, 10 for a non-synonymous variant and 20 for a stop gained variant. Additionally, 10 was added to the weight if the PolyPhen annotation was possibly or probably damaging and also if the SIFT annotation was deleterious, meaning that a non-synonymous variant annotated as both damaging and deleterious would be assigned an overall weight of 30. The full set of weights is shown in Supplementary Table S1, copied from the previous reports which used this method (Curtis et al., 2019, 2018). The weight due to MAF and the weight due to functional annotation were then multiplied together to provide an overall weight for each variant. Variants were excluded if there were more than 10% of genotypes missing in the controls or if the heterozygote count was smaller than both homozygote counts in the controls. If a subject was not genotyped for a variant then they were assigned the subject-wise average score for that variant.

For each subject a gene-wise weighted burden score was derived as the sum of the variant-wise weights, each multiplied by the number of alleles of the variant which the given subject possessed. For variants on the X chromosome, hemizygous males were treated as homozygotes.

For each gene, a ridge regression analysis was carried out with  $\lambda=1$  to test whether the gene-wise variant burden score was associated with the hyperlipidaemia phenotype. To do this, SCOREASSOC first calculates the likelihood for the phenotypes as predicted by the first 20 population principal components and then calculates the likelihood using a model which additionally incorporates the gene-wise burden scores. It then carries out a likelihood ratio test assuming that twice the natural log of the likelihood ratio follows a chi-squared distribution with one degree of freedom to produce a p value. The statistical significance is summarised as a signed log p value (SLP) which is the log base 10 of the p value given a positive sign if the score is higher in cases and negative if it is higher in controls. We have shown that incorporating population principal components in this way satisfactorily controls for test statistic inflation when applied to this heterogeneous dataset (Curtis, 2020).

Gene set analyses were carried out using the 1454 "all GO gene sets, gene symbols" pathways as listed in the file *c5.all.v5.0.symbols.gmt* downloaded from the Molecular Signatures Database at <http://www.broadinstitute.org/gsea/msigdb/collections.jsp> (Subramanian et al., 2005). For each set of genes, the natural logs of the gene-wise p values were summed according to Fisher's method to produce a chi-squared statistic with degrees of freedom equal to twice the number of genes in the set. The p value associated with this chi-squared statistic was expressed as a minus  $\log_{10} p$  (MLP) as a test of association of the set with the hyperlipidaemia phenotype.

## Results

There were 11,490 cases with a diagnosis of hyperlipidaemia and/or taking cholesterol-lowering medication and 38,463 controls. There were 22,028 genes for which there were qualifying variants and the quantile-quantile (QQ) plot for the SLPs obtained for each gene is shown in Figure 1. This shows that the test is well-behaved and conforms well with the expected distribution.

Table 1 shows the results for all genes with an absolute value of SLP exceeding 3 (equivalent to  $p < 0.001$ ). By chance, from 22,028 genes one would expect 11 to have SLP greater than 3 and 11 to have SLP less than -3, whereas the actual numbers are 15 and 28. Applying a Bonferroni correction to test for genome-wide statistical significance would yield a threshold of  $\log_{10}(22,028/0.05)=5.6$  for the absolute value of the SLP and this is achieved by only two genes, *HUWE1* and *CXorf56*. For both these genes the SLP was negative, indicating that rare, functional variants were enriched in controls compared with cases and suggesting that impairment of these genes might be protective against hyperlipidaemia.

*HUWE1* (SLP=-6.15) codes for an ubiquitin protein ligase which has functions in development and tumorigenesis and which regulates the ABCG1 and ABCG4 lipid transporters such that over-expression of *HUWE1* reduces ABCG1 and ABCG4 protein levels and their cholesterol export activity while silencing the gene has the reverse effects (Aleidi et al., 2015). It also mediates the ubiquitination of peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor  $\alpha$  (PPAR $\alpha$ ), thereby reducing its function (Zhao et al., 2018). PPAR $\alpha$  is a transcriptional factor which promotes hepatic lipid catabolism by stimulating fatty acid oxidation and ketogenesis in response to nutrient starvation.

*CXorf56* (SLP=-5.61) is a brain expressed gene which is not well characterised but has recently been implicated as a cause of intellectual disability (Rocha et al., 2020). Subjects with variants damaging this gene are reported to have intellectual disability and sometimes related features including epilepsy and alopecia but there are no reports of abnormalities of lipid metabolism.

No other gene was formally genome-wide significant and it is reasonable to assume that for most of those listed in the table the SLPs represent chance findings. However for a few it is possible that there is a real biological effect which is being picked up. The most obvious of these is *LDLR*, with SLP=3.67. It is well known that variants in this gene can cause familial hyperlipidaemia (Sharifi et al., 2017). It is worth noting however that the other two genes implicated in autosomal dominant familial hyperlipidaemia, *APOB* (SLP=0.11) and *PCSK9* (SLP=-0.66) did not produce any evidence of association. The same applies to *HMGCR* (SLP=-0.38), which codes for the target of statins. On inspection of the detailed output files, for all three of these genes there was a range of variants with different functionality and no general tendency for the distribution of the most functional variants to vary between cases and controls.

Others of the genes with magnitude of SLP exceeding 3 (equivalent to  $p < 0.001$ ) which might be of interest are as follows.

*RBP2* (SLP=3.14) is expressed in the gut and its product is responsible for uptake of vitamin A but recent studies in mice have shown that it also influences body weight, the response to glucose challenge and hepatic triglyceride levels while *Rbp2* deficient mice have increased adiposity, with larger adipocytes, and decreased energy expenditure (Lee et al., 2020). The authors suggest a signalling role for RBP2 and if similar mechanisms were present in humans then it is plausible that variants disrupting *RBP2* could lead to increased risk of hyperlipidaemia.

*STAT5B* (SLP=3.11) codes for a transcription factor which is responsible for mediating the signal from various ligands, including growth hormone, and is also involved in adipogenesis (Goupille et al., 2016; Wakao et al., 2011). Two common variants in *STAT5B*, rs8082391 and rs8064638, have previously been reported to be associated with total cholesterol and low-density lipoprotein cholesterol while mice deficient in hepatic *Stat5a/b* had reduced serum cholesterol (Kornfeld et al., 2011). Additionally, a small candidate gene study claimed that SNPs in *STAT5B* were associated with lipid changes in response to growth hormone replacement therapy (Makimura et al., 2011). However no SNPs close to *STAT5B* were genome-wide significantly associated with low density lipoprotein cholesterol or triglyceride levels in 180,000 UK Biobank subjects so the early SNP association results may have been false positives (Richardson et al., 2020). The mouse phenotype remains of interest, although it might suggest that variants in the gene should reduce, rather than increase, the risk of hyperlipidaemia

*NPFRR1* (SLP=3.02) codes for a receptor for a variety of neuropeptides including NPAF and NPFF and is expressed on adipocytes, where NPFF or NPAF treatment results in increased expression of adrenergic receptors and potentiation of the response to beta agonists to increase adenylyl cyclase activity (Lefrère et al., 2002). It is also expressed in the brain and NPFF has been shown to be anorexigenic in rats and chicks (Cline et al., 2007; Murase et al., 1996). Knockout of *Npffr1* in mice has differential effects according to sex including increased susceptibility to high fat diet with impaired glucose tolerance in males but increased weight and sensitivity to obesogenic insults in females (Leon et al., 2018). Overall it seems possible that impaired functioning of this receptor might lead to metabolic abnormalities which predispose to hyperlipidaemia.

*ACOT9* (SLP=-3.19) codes for a mitochondrial acyl-CoA thioesterase which has recently been proposed to have a key role in liver lipogenesis and risk of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) (Steensels et al., 2020). It is a regulator of lipid accumulation and its expression is higher in NAFLD patients, while *Acot9* deficient mice are protected against weight gain, hepatic glucose production, steatosis and steatohepatitis in the setting of excess nutrition. These observations are consistent with the possibility that variants in *ACOT9* might tend to be protective against metabolic responses resulting in hyperlipidaemia.

*GK* (SLP=-3.31) codes for glycerol kinase and a number of variants in the gene have been reported to cause X-linked glycerol kinase deficiency syndromes which can be very mild or which may involve

symptoms including vomiting, hypoglycaemia, hyperketonaemia and intellectual disability (Sjarif et al., 1998). Its product has recently been shown to enhance hepatic liver metabolism and increased expression in mice leads to increased blood levels of cholesterol and triglycerides (Miao et al., 2020). Thus it is possible that variants mildly impairing *GK* but not sufficient to cause clinical glycerol kinase deficiency might be somewhat protective against hyperlipidaemia.

The gene sets with  $MLP > 3$  (equivalent to uncorrected  $p < 0.001$ ) are shown in Table 2. Given that 1454 sets were tested the critical value for the MLP to reach if a Bonferroni correction were applied would be  $\log_{10}(1454/0.05) = 4.46$ , though this may be somewhat conservative given that some gene sets overlap with each other. This threshold is reached by the set HISTONE\_MODIFICATION which contains 23 genes, one of which is *HUWE1* (SLP=-6.15). No other genes in the set appear likely to have a direct role in risk of hyperlipidaemia and it appears that the result for the set is essentially driven by this single gene. The other set to be formally statistically significant is GENERATION\_OF\_PRECURSOR\_METABOLITES\_AND\_ENERGY with  $MLP = 5.47$ , implying that variants disrupting the function of one or more genes in this set can impact hyperlipidaemia risk. The set contains 120 genes, none of which individually produced an SLP with magnitude greater than 3. However Table 3 shows the members of this set which have individual  $SLP \geq 1.3$ , equivalent to an uncorrected p value of 0.05, and a number of them appear to be of interest, as detailed below. These genes all have negative SLPs, suggesting that rare variants impacting their functioning might tend to be protective against hyperlipidaemia.

*ADIPOQ* (SLP=-1.37) codes for adiponectin, an adipokine which is expressed in adipocytes which influences fat metabolism, and common variants in the gene are associated with cardiovascular disease risk and lipid levels (Liu et al., 2018; Salazar-Tortosa et al., 2020; Wang et al., 2019; Zhang et al., 2019). Adiponectin has a hypoglycaemic effect and can reverse the insulin resistance associated with both lipoatrophy and obesity (Berg et al., 2001; Yamauchi et al., 2001). A rare intronic variant, rs74577862, has been reported to be associated with decreased levels of adiponectin and increased risk of atherosclerosis (Chen et al., 2017; UK10K Consortium et al., 2015).

*SURF1* (SLP=-1.71) codes for a protein involved in the assembly of cytochrome c oxidase complex and variants in it can cause Leigh syndrome, a fatal neurological condition (Lee et al., 2012). However mice completely lacking in *Surf1* have increased longevity, lower adiposity and enhanced fatty acid oxidation. These findings suggest that variants which moderately impact *SURF1* in humans might result in a more favourable lipid profile.

*ADRB3* (SLP=-1.81) codes for an adrenoceptor which promotes lipolysis and thermogenesis in response to sympathetic nerve stimulation and, as reviewed recently, the common variant Trp64Arg is associated with obesity and levels of serum lipids and adipokines (Luo et al., 2020).

*GYG2* (SLP=-2.00) has, like *SURF1*, been reported to be a cause of Leigh syndrome (Imagawa et al., 2014). Knockdown in adipocytes causes reduction in total lipid and number of lipid droplets per cell as well as increased lipolysis (Kerr et al., 2019).

*PHKA1* (SLP=-2.29) and *PHKA2* (SLP=-2.66) code for subunits of phosphorylase kinase and abnormalities in them are known to cause glycogen storage diseases with very variable phenotypes which can include hypoglycaemia, hypercholesterolaemia and hypertriglyceridaemia (Beauchamp et al., 2007; Preisler et al., 2012).

Inspection of the detailed results for all the genes mentioned revealed that the SLPs obtained tended to arise from the cumulative effects of many rare variants. For no gene was it possible to identify any individual variant which appeared to be a main driver for the overall differences in burden scores between cases and controls.

The SLPs for all genes and the MLPs for all gene sets are provided in supplementary tables S2 and S3.

## Discussion

This analysis identifies one gene, *HUWE1*, which reaches conventional standards for statistical significance after correction for multiple testing and which could plausibly have a role in influencing risk of hyperlipidaemia. An increased burden of rare functional variants is found in controls versus cases, implying that impaired functioning reduces hyperlipidaemia risk and suggesting that theoretically it might be considered a target for lipid-lowering pharmacotherapy, although one caveat is that it can act as either a tumour suppressor or as an oncogene (Crawford et al., 2020).

Other genes with uncorrected p values less than 0.001 are not formally statistically significant but might still be worth further investigation. The result for *LDLR* (SLP=3.67) demonstrates that even genes known to influence lipid levels may not achieve definitive results with a dataset of this size. Taking account of other information available, *RBP2* (SLP=3.14), *NPFFR1* (SLP=3.02) and *ACOT9* (SLP=-3.19) are especially noteworthy.

The results from the gene set analysis confirm that the variants tending to affect genes involved in metabolism and energy influence hyperlipidaemia risk, which is of course a biologically plausible result and one which can be regarded as fairly robust given that the MLP obtained, 5.47, is formally statistically significant after correction for testing of multiple gene sets. However it is difficult to say exactly which genes are involved in driving this result. The results for *ADIPOQ* (SLP=-1.37) and *ADRB3* (SLP=-1.81) are in the opposite direction to what might be expected, since the literature would predict that disruption of these genes could promote hyperlipidaemia and one would expect multiple variants having major effects on function to tend to more often impair function than enhance it. On the other hand, it seems plausible that reduced function of *SURF1* (SLP=-1.71) or *GYG2* (SLP=-2.00) could be protective.

With the exception of *STAT5B*, for none of the genes of interest has there been a report of association of hyperlipidaemia with nearby common SNPs such as are used in GWAS panels. Selection pressures mean that variants having major effects on function tend to be very rare and hence are not included in such panels. For all of the genes noted, the overall effect detected derives from a large number of rare variants and hence one would only expect to observe an association with a common SNP if a substantially larger number of these variants were in linkage disequilibrium with one allele of the SNP than the other.

A major weakness of this kind of approach is that it is currently not possible to confidently predict in advance which DNA variants will actually have major effects on protein function. This means that at best one can obtain some kind of statistical signal suggesting that a gene may be involved in affecting a particular phenotype but as each variant is individually rare one cannot usually draw firmer conclusions than this. To illustrate this point, we can note that the method produces some support for the involvement of *LDLR* but essentially none at all for *APOB*, *PCSK9* or *HMGCR*, three genes which are known to affect lipid levels. There may well be some rare variants impacting function in these genes but any signal present may be swamped by other variants which are weighted highly but which are not, in fact, relevant. There are other ways in which variants could be weighted, for example using other software or taking into account features such as regional conservation, but we do not have a scheme which we know in advance is optimal and attempting to apply multiple different weighting schemes would risk generating false positive results by chance.

Overall, this analysis demonstrates that next generation sequence data does not provide a magic bullet for identifying rare variants influencing complex traits, even with large sample sizes. On the other hand, there are some potentially interesting results which are close to the threshold for formal significance such that it would be quite reasonable to expect that further definitive results could be obtained from a somewhat larger sample. The present results should be regarded as hypothesis-generating rather than conclusive. At time of writing, exome sequencing of 200,000 UK Biobank

samples has been completed and this data should be released soon and may well provide further insights.

### Conflicts of interest

The author declares he has no conflict of interest.

### Data availability

The raw data is available on application to UK Biobank. Detailed results with variant counts cannot be made available because they might be used for subject identification.

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**Table 1** Genes with absolute value of SLP exceeding 3 or more (equivalent to  $p < 0.001$ ) for test of association of weighted burden score with hyperlipidaemia.

<b>Gene symbol</b>	<b>SLP</b>	<b>Gene name</b>
<i>GPR108</i>	4.37	G Protein-Coupled Receptor 108
<i>LOC112268007</i>	4.35	GRM3 Antisense RNA 1
<i>LOC107984851</i>	3.77	Uncharacterized LOC107984851
<i>C16orf71</i>	3.76	Chromosome 16 Open Reading Frame 71
<i>LDLR</i>	3.67	Low Density Lipoprotein Receptor
<i>CLU1OS</i>	3.44	CLU1 Antisense RNA 1
<i>DCUN1D4</i>	3.35	Defective In Cullin Neddylation 1 Domain Containing 4
<i>LOC101927854</i>	3.34	Uncharacterized LOC101927854
<i>F11R</i>	3.19	F11 Receptor
<i>UNC5A</i>	3.18	Unc-5 Netrin Receptor A
<i>FAM219B</i>	3.14	Family With Sequence Similarity 219 Member B
<i>RBP2</i>	3.14	Retinol Binding Protein 2
<i>STAT5B</i>	3.11	Signal Transducer And Activator Of Transcription 5B
<i>NPFFR1</i>	3.02	Neuropeptide FF Receptor 1
<i>TRAPPC5</i>	3.02	Trafficking Protein Particle Complex 5
<i>AOX1</i>	-3.01	Aldehyde Oxidase 1
<i>RAB9B</i>	-3.01	RAB9B, Member RAS Oncogene Family
<i>MAN2B2</i>	-3.07	Mannosidase Alpha Class 2B Member 2
<i>HCFC1</i>	-3.08	Host Cell Factor C1
<i>ZFR</i>	-3.08	Zinc Finger RNA Binding Protein
<i>PLP1</i>	-3.13	Proteolipid Protein 1
<i>JDP2</i>	-3.14	Jun Dimerization Protein 2
<i>SCML2</i>	-3.17	Scm Polycomb Group Protein Like 2
<i>ACOT9</i>	-3.19	Acyl-CoA Thioesterase 9
<i>PCDHB10</i>	-3.23	Protocadherin Beta 10
<i>SLC9A7</i>	-3.23	Solute Carrier Family 9 Member A7
<i>ATP11C</i>	-3.25	ATPase Phospholipid Transporting 11C
<i>RPS6KA3</i>	-3.25	Ribosomal Protein S6 Kinase A3
<i>ZNF709</i>	-3.27	Zinc Finger Protein 709
<i>GK</i>	-3.31	Glycerol Kinase
<i>CYTL1</i>	-3.34	Cytokine Like 1
<i>ATRX</i>	-3.43	ATRX Chromatin Remodeler
<i>WDFY4</i>	-3.43	WDFY Family Member 4
<i>XPNPEP2</i>	-3.48	X-Prolyl Aminopeptidase 2
<i>ATP7A</i>	-3.51	ATPase Copper Transporting Alpha
<i>AMELX</i>	-3.60	Amelogenin X-Linked
<i>CFAP47</i>	-3.82	Cilia And Flagella Associated Protein 47
<i>TENM1</i>	-3.90	Teneurin Transmembrane Protein 1
<i>THOC2</i>	-4.17	THO Complex 2
<i>USP9X</i>	-4.78	Ubiquitin Specific Peptidase 9 X-Linked
<i>MTMR1</i>	-5.31	Myotubularin Related Protein 1
<i>CXorf56</i>	-5.61	Chromosome X Open Reading Frame 56

<i>HUWE1</i>	-6.15	HECT, UBA And WWE Domain Containing E3 Ubiquitin Protein Ligase 1
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**Table 2** Gene sets with value of MLP of 3 or more (equivalent to  $p \leq 0.01$ ) for test of association of weighted burden scores with hyperlipidaemia.

Gene set	MLP
GENERATION_OF_PRECURSOR_METABOLITES_AND_ENERGY	5.47
HISTONE_MODIFICATION	4.46
COVALENT_CHROMATIN_MODIFICATION	4.24
PROTEIN_SECRETION	4.19
HYDROGEN_ION_TRANSMEMBRANE_TRANSPORTER_ACTIVITY	4.10
MONOVALENT_INORGANIC_CATION_TRANSMEMBRANE_TRANSPORTER_ACTIVITY	3.74
ATPASE_ACTIVITY_COUPLED	3.59
SECRETION_BY_CELL	3.48
REGULATION_OF_PROTEIN_SECRETION	3.34
HYDROLASE_ACTIVITY_ACTING_ON_ACID_ANHYDRIDESCATALYZING_TRANSMEMBRANE_MOVEMENT_OF_SUBSTANCES	3.24
REGULATION_OF_CYTOKINE_SECRETION	3.23
SECRETION	3.22
ATPASE_ACTIVITY_COUPLED_TO_MOVEMENT_OF_SUBSTANCES	3.22
NERVOUS_SYSTEM_DEVELOPMENT	3.17
OXIDOREDUCTASE_ACTIVITY_ACTING_ON_THE_ALDEHYDE_OR_OXO_GROUP_OF_DONORS	3.09
LYASE_ACTIVITY	3.08
CYTOKINE_SECRETION	3.05
PURINE_RIBONUCLEOTIDE_BINDING	3.05
PRIMARY_ACTIVE_TRANSMEMBRANE_TRANSPORTER_ACTIVITY	3.04
MEMBRANE	3.03

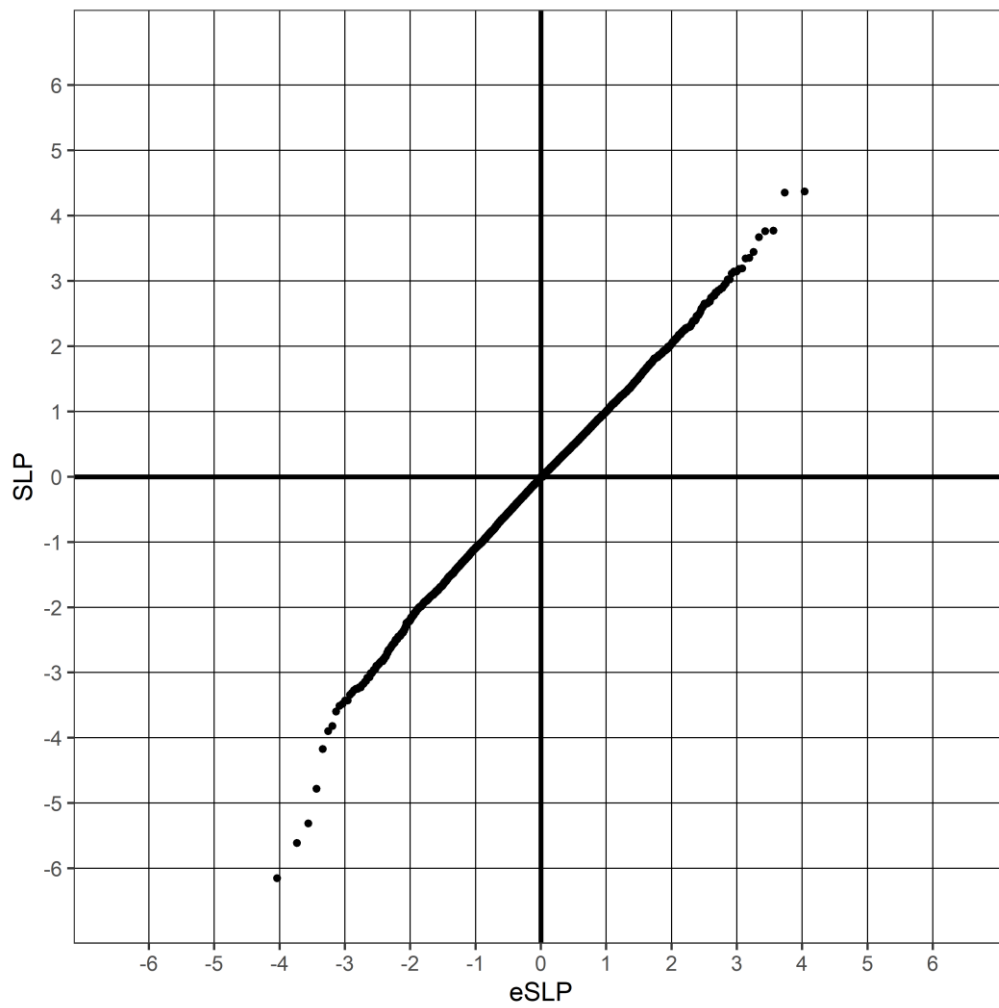


**Table 3** Genes within GENERATION\_OF\_PRECURSOR\_METABOLITES\_AND\_ENERGY with absolute value of SLP exceeding 1.3 (equivalent to  $p < 0.05$ ) for test of association of weighted burden score with hyperlipidaemia.

<b>Gene symbol</b>	<b>SLP</b>	<b>Gene name</b>
<i>PDHB</i>	2.82	Pyruvate Dehydrogenase E1 Subunit Beta
<i>ALDH5A1</i>	2.38	Aldehyde Dehydrogenase 5 Family Member A1
<i>SLC25A3</i>	1.62	Solute Carrier Family 25 Member 3
<i>ASIP</i>	1.37	Agouti Signaling Protein
<i>XYLB</i>	-1.31	Xylulokinase
<i>ADIPOQ</i>	-1.37	Adiponectin, C1Q And Collagen Domain Containing
<i>AVP</i>	-1.46	Arginine Vasopressin
<i>SURF1</i>	-1.71	SURF1 Cytochrome C Oxidase Assembly Factor
<i>ALDH9A1</i>	-1.72	Aldehyde Dehydrogenase 9 Family Member A1
<i>ADRB3</i>	-1.81	Adrenoceptor Beta 3
<i>ENOX2</i>	-1.83	Ecto-NOX Disulfide-Thiol Exchanger 2
<i>AKR1C3</i>	-1.84	Aldo-Keto Reductase Family 1 Member C3
<i>GLUD2</i>	-1.99	Glutamate Dehydrogenase 2
<i>GYG2</i>	-2.00	Glycogenin 2
<i>PHKA1</i>	-2.29	Phosphorylase Kinase Regulatory Subunit Alpha 1
<i>HCCS</i>	-2.56	Holocytochrome C Synthase
<i>PHKA2</i>	-2.66	Phosphorylase Kinase Regulatory Subunit Alpha 2

**Figure 1**

QQ plot of SLPs obtained for weighted burden analysis of 22,028 genes for association with hyperlipidaemia showing observed against expected SLP for each gene.



### Supplementary Table 1

The table shows the weight accorded to each type of variant as annotated by VEP (McLaren et al., 2016). 10 was added to this weight if the variant was annotated by Polyphen as possibly or probably damaging and 10 was added if SIFT annotated it as deleterious (Adzhubei et al., 2013; Kumar et al., 2009).

VEP annotation	Weight
intergenic_variant	1
feature_truncation	3
regulatory_region_variant	3
feature_elongation	3
regulatory_region_amplification	3
regulatory_region_ablation	3
TF_binding_site_variant	3
TFBS_amplification	3
TFBS_ablation	3
downstream_gene_variant	3
upstream_gene_variant	3
non_coding_transcript_variant	3
NMD_transcript_variant	3
intron_variant	3
non_coding_transcript_exon_variant	3
3_prime_UTR_variant	5
5_prime_UTR_variant	5
mature_miRNA_variant	5
coding_sequence_variant	5
synonymous_variant	5
stop_retained_variant	5
incomplete_terminal_codon_variant	5
splice_region_variant	5
protein_altering_variant	10
missense_variant	10
inframe_deletion	15
inframe_insertion	15
transcript_amplification	15
start_lost	15
stop_lost	15
frameshift_variant	20
stop_gained	20
splice_donor_variant	20
splice_acceptor_variant	20
transcript_ablation	20

