Shared and Distinct Genomics of Chronic Thromboembolic Pulmonary Hypertension and Pulmonary Embolism

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Running title: Genome-wide association study of CTEPH

Research impact: We report the first genome-wide association study on Chronic Thromboembolic Pulmonary Hypertension (CTEPH), finding several new genetic associations, and identifying similarities and differences between the genetic architectures of CTEPH and deep vein thrombosis/pulmonary embolism (DVT/PE). Shared and differential genetic associations between CTEPH and DVT/PE may lead to insights into disease pathobiology and help in developing the potential for use of genetic markers in CTEPH risk prediction.

Contributors statement: Author contributions were as follows (using CRediT taxonomy; http://credit.niso.org/):

JL: Data Curation, Formal analysis, Investigation, Methodology, Software, Visualization, Writing original, Writing review and editing MN: Data Curation, Formal analysis, Investigation, Methodology, Software, Validation, Visualization, Writing review and editing MB: Data Curation, Methodology, Software, Resources WA: Resources JAB: Resources HB: Resources MD: Resources TF: Resources SG: Data Curation, Investigation, Software LH: Resources DJ: Resources IL: Resources EM: Resources CR: Data Curation, Investigation, Software MS: Resources LS: Resources RT: Conceptualization, Resources, Writing review and editing JW: Resources

MW: Resources NM: Funding acquisition, Project administration, Supervision JPZ: Conceptualization, Funding acquisition, Project administration, Resources, Supervision, Visualization MT: Conceptualization, Formal analysis, Investigation, Methodology, Project administration, Resources, Supervision, Visualization, Writing original, Writing review and editing.

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Abstract

Rationale

Chronic Thromboembolic Pulmonary Hypertension involves formation and nonresolution of thrombus, dysregulated inflammation, angiogenesis and the development of a small vessel vasculopathy.

Objectives

We aimed to establish the genetic basis of chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension to gain insight into its pathophysiological contributors.

Methods

We conducted a genome-wide association study on 1907 European cases and 10363 European controls. We co-analysed our results with existing results from genome-wide association studies on deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism and idiopathic pulmonary arterial hypertension.

Measurements and Main Results

Our primary association study revealed genetic associations at the ABO, FGG, F11, MYH7B, and HLA-DRA loci. Through our co-analysis we demonstrate further associations with chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension at the F2, TSPAN15, SLC44A2 and F5 loci but find no statistically significant associations shared with idiopathic pulmonary arterial hypertension.

Conclusions

Chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension is a partially heritable polygenic disease, with related though distinct genetic associations to pulmonary embolism and to deep vein thrombosis.

(162 words)

Key words: Genome-wide association study, Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension, Venous Thromboembolism

Introduction

Chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension (CTEPH) is characterised by the organisation and fibrosis of thromboembolic material leading to the obstruction of proximal pulmonary arteries which, together with a secondary small-vessel vasculopathy, results in pulmonary hypertension and subsequent right heart failure.

CTEPH is conventionally considered to result from a process of disordered thrombus resolution following one or more episodes of acute pulmonary embolism (PE) (1). The pathobiology of thrombus non-resolution following acute PE however remains poorly understood but likely arises from complex interactions between mediators of the coagulation cascade, angiogenesis, platelet function and inflammation in association with host factors. Large volume acute PEs, idiopathic presentation, and PE recurrence are associated with a risk for CTEPH development (2). Inefficient anticoagulation may also trigger thrombus formation (3). These factors however do not serve to explain the development of CTEPH in most patients. Furthermore, up to 25 % of CTEPH patients do not have a history of antecedent PE. The ability to identify abnormalities in coagulation/fibrinolysis pathways in CTEPH patients is compounded by their treatment with therapeutic anticoagulation and lack of a good animal model of CTEPH.

Genetic studies in CTEPH have the potential to inform our understanding of disease pathophysiology, but have thus far been hampered by the challenge of assembling cases in rare diseases. A European prospective registry found an increased CTEPH risk in non-O blood groups, in a similar pattern to DVT and PE (4), indicating a genetic association with the disease at this locus. This differential risk with ABO is also seen in overall risk of PE and other clotting disorders. To our knowledge, no other genetic associations with CTEPH have been confirmed at genome-wide significance (P< 5 x 10-8).

The genetic basis of a comparator disease, Idiopathic Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (IPAH) has been much more systematically explored. Heterozygous germline mutations in *BMPR2* are found in $10 - 20$ % of individuals with IPAH alongside rarer sequence variants including *SMAD9*, *ACVRL1*, *ENG*, *KCNK3* and *TBX4* (5). A more recent GWAS study has also identified common variants contributing to IPAH aetiology and clinical course (6).

An improved understanding of the genetic basis of CTEPH has the potential to not only inform disease aetiopathogenesis but in quantification of CTEPH risk, preventative strategies and treatment options. An evaluation of CTEPH genome-wide associations is therefore warranted. Co-analysis with existing GWAS in PE and DVT aims to improve both discovery and the interpretation of results in comparison to other venous thromboembolic phenotypes. Given well-known genetic drivers to the development of IPAH and its shared pathobiological features of vascular remodelling, inflammation and dysregulated angiogenesis with CTEPH, genetic associations between CTEPH and IPAH were also explored.

Methods

Study samples and participants

The study was approved by the regional ethics committee (REC no. 08/H0802/32 and 08/H0304/56). All study participants provided written informed consent from their respective institutions.

GWAS on CTEPH

We conducted a two-stage design: a discovery study including only UK samples, and a replication stage using non-UK cases and a mixture of non-UK and UK controls.

CTEPH was diagnosed in accordance with international guidelines (7). All patients were diagnosed through internationally accredited specialist centres with multimodal imaging and invasive haemodynamics. The UK cases, in addition to review at nationally designated tertiary centre MDTs are additionally reviewed at the national CTEPH MDT where all cases are discussed by a multi-disciplinary team of surgeons, cardiologists, radiologists and PH specialists. Demographics of CTEPH samples are reported in Table S1 (Supplementary Methods). Controls were sourced randomly from the population (without requiring absence of thromboembolic phenotypes). Samples in the discovery phase were genotyped on one of four platforms: the Illumina HumanOmniExpress Exome-8 v1.2 BeadChip (1555 cases, 1693 controls); the Illumina HumanOmniExpressExome-8 v1.6 BeadChip (372 cases, 12 controls); the Affymetrix Axiom Genome-Wide CEU 1 Array (541 cases, 5984 controls, including re-genotyping of 1533 controls genotyped on the Illumina HumanOmniExpressExome-8 v1.2 BeadChip) and the Affymetrix UK Biobank Axiom array (6717 controls).

We performed sample- and SNP- wise quality control on our dataset (8) and excluded cases of non-European ancestry using principal components generated using the 1000 genomes project. We imputed all genotypes to whole-genome cover using the Haplotype Reference Consortium panel on the Sanger imputation server (9,10), separating samples by genotyping platform, and we included SNPs with an INFO score of at least 0.5 across all genotyping platforms used in the study. The INFO score is a measure of imputation accuracy, interpretable as a proportion: a score of 1 indicates full knowledge of the SNP in all samples, 0 indicates no knowledge of the SNP, and other values indicate knowledge of the SNP equivalent to full knowledge in that proportion of samples (11). Full details of quality control procedures are given in the Supplementary Methods.

We separated the discovery cohort into two groups by genotyping platform (Affymetrix or Illumina) and analysed each separately. In each cohort, we used a logistic regression with ten principal component covariates to generate association statistics, and corrected results for residual genomic inflation (12). Since each analysis involved separate samples, we combined results across platforms using a routine p-value meta-analysis using Fisher's method accounting for effect directions.

Co-analysis with DVT and PE

In order to enhance our power to detect CTEPH associations, we co-analysed our p-values from the CTEPH meta-analysis with p-values derived from GWAS on self-reported PE and DVT drawn from the UK Biobank (13) (GWAS round 2; self-reported DVT (code 20002_1094) and self-reported PE (code 20002_1093)). Details of the co-analysis are given in the Supplementary Methods. In short, the output of each co-analysis is a set of pvalues for CTEPH 'adjusted' for the overall genetic similarity between CTEPH and the second disease (14), which we call 'V-values'. We also performed an analysis using results from DVT in place of results from PE, but found the results from the two analyses were very similar, so we focus principally on the analysis of PE.

CTEPH GWAS associations

Noting that our replication cohort was analysed at genome-wide SNPs, we defined genetic associations at three tiers of significance, all of which generally correspond to a genomewide significance of overall p-value $\leq 5 \times 10^{-8}$ with varying levels of evidence in the discovery and replication sub-cohorts. The first tier required $P \le 5 \times 10^{-6}$ in the combined discovery cohort, $P \le 5 \times 10^{-3}$ in the replication cohort, and $P \le 5 \times 10^{-8}$ in the combined meta-analysis, with consistent directions of effect across the two sub-analyses in the discovery study and in the replication study. The second tier, designed to ensure nominal association in each cohort and overall genome-wide significance, required a nominal association of P < 5 x 10⁻² in discovery and replication cohorts and P < 5 x 10⁻⁸ in the overall meta-analysis, again with consistent directions of effect. The 'adjusted' p-values allowed a comparison of evidence for association using cFDR in a similar way to a comparison using meta-analysed p-values, and hence we defined a third tier of association requiring a p-value of 5 x 10^{-8} in either the overall meta-analysis or the 'adjusted' sets of p-values derived from leverage of the CTEPH summary statistics on summary statistics for PE, along with consistent directions of effect in discovery and replication cohorts. All p-value thresholds used in 'tier' definitions were chosen prior to observing the data.

There was a distribution of cases and controls across genotyping batches which could enable confounding batch effects, and differing sources of cases and controls in the replication cohort necessitated across-platform comparisons and imperfect geographical matching resulting in high inflation in association statistics. We also noted recent work indicating that blood-bank sourced control samples may have differing distributions of ABO blood groups to the general population, potentially biasing association statistics at that locus. In the Supplementary material, we analyse allele frequencies across batches and cohorts directly, and thus demonstrate that these confounding effects are unlikely to drive our positive associations.

The study design is outlined in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Flow chart for study design. PCA: excluded due to inferred ancestry based on PCA. Rel/dup: excluded due to being closely related to another sample, or a duplicate of another sample. Heterozygosity: excluded due to abnormal heterozygosity rate. Missingness: excluded due to high missingness in genotype, or otherwise unusable genotype. Full details are given in the supplementary methods. In short, we recruited cases and controls from a variety of centres around the UK and Europe, including existing controls. Our discovery cohort consisted of UK and USA samples; our replicatioh cohort of European samples. Exclusions were applied sequentially: for instance, some samples which would have been excluded for abnormal heterozygosity rate in the replication cohort were already excluded by PCA.

Genetic overlap with IPAH and PE

As a cause of pulmonary arterial hypertension, we considered the possibility that CTEPH shares pathology with idiopathic pulmonary hypertension (IPAH). We firstly assessed whether our findings had any associations in common with a recent GWAS on IPAH (6). To assess for genome-scale similarity in genetic basis between IPAH and CTEPH, we used linkage disequilibrium-score regression (LDSC) (15) to estimate genetic correlation *ρ^g* between the two traits, which measures the degree of shared genetic basis. We also estimated genetic correlation between IPAH and PE (using the summary statistics for PE used in the co-analysis with CTEPH) for comparison.

Diseases with identical genetic bases have genetic correlation 1, and diseases with completely independent genetic bases have genetic correlation 0. If IPAH and CTEPH each occurred as a consequence of some identical underlying cause, we would expect them to have genetic correlation 1, whereas if they were caused by completely independent pathological processes, the genetic correlation would be 0 (and likewise for PE and CTEPH).

Comparison of DVT, PE, and CTEPH

We would expect to see a slight difference in observed effect sizes between CTEPH, PE, and DVT at any given variant due to random variation across studies. For each of our CTEPH-associated variants, we assessed whether the observed effect sizes in CTEPH and PE were consistent with random variation if CTEPH and PE/DVT had identical underlying genetic causes. Specifically, we considered a null hypothesis that the two diseases have identical effect sizes for all SNPs, and assessed the probability of seeing large differences in effect sizes between CTEPH and PE. Our approach is detailed in the Supplementary Methods, section 'Differential effect sizes between CTEPH, DVT and PE'.

Results

GWAS on CTEPH

After quality control (see Figure 1), our dataset consisted of 1146 cases and 5498 controls in the discovery cohort, and 761 cases and 4865 controls in the replication cohort. A total of 4655481 SNPs passed quality control and were included in the final analysis. At tier 2 significance, the study had approximately 80 % power to detect an odds ratio of 1.3 for a SNP of minor allele frequency (MAF) 0.25, or an odds ratio of 1.7 for a SNP of MAF 0.05. Further details of power for tier 1 and 2 significance are shown in Supplementary Figures 1,2,3. Minimal detectable effect sizes at tier 3 significance are more complex; see Supplementary Methods.

We computed genomic inflation factors (λ) which measure the overall distribution of pvalues, and should be close to 1. These were 0.95 in the discovery cohort and 1.21 in the replication cohort ($\lambda_{1000} = 1.16$; see Supplementary Methods (16)), suggesting that pvalues in the replication cohort were overall lower than expected. We were not able to reduce inflation in the replication cohort by inclusion of further covariates or by use of linear mixed models, and concluded that the degree of inflation was inevitable given the imperfect geographical matching between cases and controls in the replication dataset. We corrected P-values in the replication cohort for this residual inflation (12), thereby avoiding false positives arising from this inflation.

A Manhattan plot of meta-analysed p-values is shown in Figure 2. Manhattan plots for the discovery and replication cohorts alone are shown in Supplementary Figures 4 and 5. Two regional associations (*FGG* and *ABO*) were found at tier 1 significance, and a further association (*MYH7B*) at tier 2 significance. Two further regions (*F11* and *HLA-DRA*) reached tier 3 significance on the basis of meta-analysis p-value. Results for all SNPs reaching genome-wide significance are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Genome-wide significant regions for CTEPH. Positions shown are GRCh37 and minor allele frequency (MAF) is in controls. Overall odds ratios are estimated from meta-analysis p-values and overall sample sizes. P and P(PE) refer to CTEPH meta-analysis p-values and p-values for for PE (derived from a separate GWAS) respectively. V shows v-values, which can be thought of as p-values for CTEPH adjusted to account for overall genetic similarity with PE.

Figure 2: Manhattan plot of -log₁₀(p)-values derived from meta-analysis of discovery and replication cohorts. Points higher up correspond to variants more strongly associated with CTEPH. Variants reaching genome-wide significance (P_{CTEPH} < 5 x 10⁻⁸) are marked in black, and variants discovered using coanalysis with PE are marked in blue, both labelled with the likely associated gene. The black horizontal line denotes genome-wide significance ($p=5\times10^{-8}$). Values of -log₁₀(p) larger than 16 are truncated to 16.

Co-analysis with DVT and PE

The co-analyses with PE demonstrated four further associations at tier 3 genome-wide significance (*F2*, *TSPAN15*, *SLC44A2* and *F5/NME7*). Plots of z-scores from the three analysis showed evidence of widespread sharing of associations with DVT and PE, but differential effect sizes between phenotypes (Figures 3, 4a, 4b).

Figure 3. Back-to-back Manhattan plots for CTEPH and PE. The distance from the middle line corresponds to $-log_{10}(p)$ values; points further from the middle line correspond to variants more strongly associated with CTEPH (upwards) or PE (downwards). Values of $-log_{10}(p)$ larger than 16 are truncated to 16. Peak variants as in Table 1 are marked with the likely corresponding gene. There is substantial sharing between associations with CTEPH and with PE. Genome-wide associations (p<5 x 10-8) are marked in red. Additional associations discovered through leverage (cFDR) are marked in blue.

Figure 4a, 4b: Z-scores for CTEPH against Z-scores for DVT (left) and PE (right). Each point corresponds to a SNP, with colour and shape corresponding to chromosome as per the legend. Z-score pairs close to the origin are excluded. Points higher up correspond to variants more associated with DVT/PE, and points further to the right correspond to variants more associated with CTEPH. Potential genes (F11, F5, HLA-DRA, etc.) are labelled for some SNPs. The area to the right of the dotted black line is a rejection region based on a CTEPH genome-wide significance threshold of P_{CTEPH} < 5 x 10⁻⁸. The area to the right of the solid black line is a rejection region based on the levered analysis using conditional false discovery rates, equivalent to a V-value $\leq 5 \times 10^{-8}$. The solid red line shows the expected position of Z-score pairs if SNP effect sizes for CTEPH and DVT/PE were identical. If effect sizes were identical for all SNPs, the probability of any of the points corresponding to the ≈200 SNPs reaching genome-wide significance for CTEPH or DVT/PE falling outside the dashed red lines is < 0.05. We see that peak SNPs for *F5* and *HLA-DRA* fall outside the dashed lines in both plots.

CTEPH GWAS associations

FGG and ABO (tier 1)

We found an association with peak SNP rs7659024, around 4kb downstream of the *FGG* gene. The *FGG* gene codes for the gamma chain of the fibrinogen protein, a precursor for fibrin, the principal non-cellular component of blood clots. Polymorphisms in *FGG* are well-known to be associated with DVT (17). The variant is also 9kb downstream of the *FGA* gene, which codes for the alpha chain of the fibrinogen complex. The strongest association (by p-value) in CTEPH was rs687289 in the *ABO* gene, which determines ABO blood group. This locus is also known to be associated with DVT (17). Patients with non-O blood groups are at higher risk of CTEPH (18).

HLA-DRA, TSPAN15, F2, SLC44A2, F11 (tier 2/3)

An association (variant rs17202899) was found at tier 2 significance in the *HLA-DRA* gene, which to our knowledge has not been shown to be associated with DVT or PE. The variant is strongly associated with multiple autoimmune conditions, including type 1 diabetes (19), systemic lupus erythamatosis (20), and multiple sclerosis (21). Variant rs78677622, on chromosome 10, is an intron variant 10kb upstream of *TSPAN15*, which is known to be associated with DVT (17). Variant rs149903077 on chromosome 11 is an intron variant in the *DGKZ* gene, but is likely to correspond to an association of CTEPH with the *F2* gene, from which it is 390kb upstream.

Variant rs2288904 on chromosome 19 is a missense variant in the *SLC44A2* gene, variants in which are associated with DVT (17). Variant rs2289252 on chromosome 4 is an intron in *F11*, which codes for coagulation factor 11, variants in which are DVT-associated (17). Variant rs745849 on chromosome 20 is an intron in the *MYH7B* gene, for which there are nearby associations with DVT (17), though the variant itself does not reach genome-wide significance for either DVT or PE. The variant is associated with human height and ease of tanning (13). Finally, we found an association at rs796548658 on chromosome 1 at tier 3 significance. Although the peak variant is an intron in the *NME7* gene, it is likely to represent an association of CTEPH with the *F5* gene, which is strongly associated with DVT (17). This association is notable for the relatively small effect size in CTEPH.

Genetic overlap with IPAH and PE

We did not find genetic evidence of shared pathology between CTEPH and IPAH. No shared genome-wide associations are evident between our findings and a recent GWAS on IPAH (6). The observed genetic correlation between IPAH and CTEPH was not significantly different from 0 (est. ρ_g -0.37, standard error 0.38; p-value 0.3 against H⁰: ρ_g =0), but was significantly different from 1. The genetic correlation between CTEPH and self-reported PE was significantly above zero, indicating shared genetic architecture (est. ρ_g 1.07, standard error 0.44; p-value 0.014 against H⁰: ρ_g =0) but not significantly different from 1, indicating that identical genetic architecture could not be ruled out with this analysis. We concluded that, on the basis of genetic correlation, CTEPH is more similar to PE than to IPAH.

Comparison of DVT, PE and CTEPH

We found a substantial difference in observed effect sizes of variants in the *F5* gene between DVT, PE and CTEPH. We also noted that the *HLA-DRA* and *MYH7B* variants are not known to be associated with DVT or PE.

For both the *F5* and *HLA-DRA* regions, the probability of observing effect sizes at least as different as those seen under a null hypothesis of identical true effect sizes between CTEPH and DVT or PE was \leq 0.05, using a Bonferroni correction over all variants reaching genome-wide significance for either disease. This is shown in Figure 2.

If the observed odds ratio of the peak SNP for *F5* in DVT (or SNPs in close linkage disequilibrium) were equal to the true odds ratio in CTEPH, our study would have had > 99 % power to detect an association at tier 1 significance. Likewise, if the observed odds ratio for the *HLA-DRA* association found in our study corresponded to the true effect size in DVT, then the study on DVT would have > 99 % power to detect the association.

We conclude that the effect size of causal variants in *F5* and *HLA-DRA* in CTEPH is different to the effect of those variants in DVT and in PE. We cannot conclude that the effect size of the causal variant in *MYH7B* differs between CTEPH and DVT or PE.

Discussion

We report the first GWAS in CTEPH, comprising a multinational study on a cohort with sufficient power to find common-variant associations of reasonable size. In general, the associations we find are consistent with a shared genetic associations of venous thromboembolism, although we identify important differences in genetic architecture to PE and DVT. CTEPH is a partially heritable polygenic disease: it does not develop randomly amongst patients with pulmonary emboli, nor is development of CTEPH governed entirely by environmental triggers: if this were the case, all genetic associations for both diseases would have identical size (and variants in *F5* and *HLA-DRA* do not). Historical debate has for decades posited that the similarity in pathophysiology, presence of thrombus in some cases of IPAH and absence of index PE in up to a quarter of cases of CTEPH suggests that CTEPH is not simply the consequence of disordered thrombus fibrinolysis but instead a potential overlap of distal cases of CTEPH and IPAH (22). Our work supports evidence that CTEPH and IPAH are distinct and that despite similar vascular remodelling, inflammation and involvement of dysregulated angiogenesis, the underlying aetiologies are different. This is consistent with work examining CTEPH cohort demographics and phenotypes (23). Genetic associations of underlying susceptibility to vascular remodelling or pulmonary hypertension do not appear to be major drivers of CTEPH in this study.

The smaller effect sizes of variants in *F5* in CTEPH may be an example of index-event bias (24), a phenomenon in which the effect of a risk factor is underestimated due to the dominance of other factors. Specifically, the large effect of the *F5* Leiden variant in causing thromboembolic disease may paradoxically mean that patients with PE carrying a *F5* Leiden variant have a *lower* burden of other genetic and environmental risk factors for CTEPH, and are hence less likely to develop CTEPH following PE than those without the variant. This could also account for the apparently smaller relative effect of *F5* variants in PE than in DVT seen in Figures 4a, 4b.

To our knowledge, *HLA-DRA* has not previously been shown to be associated with either DVT or PE, though variants in the locus have been associated with a range of immunerelated phenotypes (25), likely reflecting a role in the processing and presentation of Major Histocompatibility Complex molecules. Increased CTEPH risk has long been linked with underlying autoimmune and haematological disorders (4). In addition, a variety of inflammatory cytokines are elevated in CTEPH and correlate with pulmonary artery inflammatory cell infiltration and CTEPH severity (26).

An important shortcoming of our work is imperfect geographic matching between cases and controls in the replication cohort, resulting in a degree of inflation in summary statistics. This is unavoidable with our current dataset. To manage this, we forcibly rescaled γ^2 statistics to remove the inflation (see Supplementary methods). Reassuringly, our overall findings are not unexpected. A further shortcoming of our work is its restriction to individuals of western or central European ancestry, and further investigation into the genetic architecture of CTEPH in other ethnicities is warranted.

In summary we provide the first large scale GWAS in this rare disease and we demonstrate for the first time the genetic architecture of a complex condition leveraged against comparator datasets. These analyses establish the primacy of dysregulated thrombosis/fibrinolysis in aetiology and extend our understanding of the possible contribution of additional pathophysiological mechanisms including inflammation. CTEPH did not share any genetic associations with IPAH further confirming that despite significant shared pathophysiology these conditions have divergent aetiology.

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Supplementary Methods

Sample details

We recruited CTEPH patients with western and central European ancestry from five European and one United States specialist pulmonary hypertension centres: Bad Nauheim (Kerckhoff Heart and Lung Centre, Bad Nauheim, Germany); Papworth (Royal Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, UK), Imperial (Hammersmith Hospital, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, London, UK), Leuven (KU Leuven - University of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium), San Diego (University of California, San Diego, USA), Vienna (Medical University, Vienna, Austria). CTEPH was diagnosed using international criteria (27) and patients were excluded if they had other major contributing factors to their pulmonary hypertension. Cases were recruited between 2011 and 2017. Centres supplied all available bio-banked samples that had been consented for genomic studies and were suitable for DNA extraction. Clinical details of samples are shown in table S1.

Table S1: Clinical characteristics of case and control samples, format median (IQR) where appropriate. MPAP: mean pulmonary artery pressure; PVR: pulmonary vascular resistance; CI: cardiac index; CO: cardiac output; PCWP: pulmonary capillary wedge pressure; 6MWD: six-minute walk distance; NYHA: New York Heart Association class. Percentages after values give the proportion of missing or ambiguous values. Data on height, weight, MPAP, PVR, CI, CO, PCWP, 6MWD and NYHA class were available only for patients from UK clinics

In our discovery phase, we compared UK- and California- sourced CTEPH cases to 5984 healthy controls from the UK 1958 birth cohort and UK Blood Service. These samples were originally genotyped on the Affymetrix Axiom Genome-Wide CEU 1 Array, and we re-genotyped 1533 controls on the Illumina HumanOmniExpress Exome-8 v1.2 BeadChip which was used for cases.

In our replication phase, we compared non-UK non-California samples with 6717 UKand European- samples from a recent GWAS on eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (28). Although cases used in the replication dataset were exclusively non-UK, we found that inclusion of UK-sourced controls did not worsen inflation, so we did not restrict control samples to those not from the UK.

Genotyping, quality control and imputation

As above, our cohort consisted of Illumina-typed cases and controls and Affymetrix-typed cases which we genotyped and imputed, UK-based Affymetrix-typed controls which were previously genotyped, but we imputed, and Affymetrix-typed UK- and Europe- based controls which were previously genotyped and imputed. We were able to split the discovery phase into two separate analyses by platform type, but this was not possible in the replication phase as all controls were genotyped on an Affymetrix platform. Our quality control procedures diverted slightly between the discovery and replication phase.

Illumina samples were genotyped in four separate batches, and Affymetrix cases in a fifth. Genomic DNA was extracted and from whole blood or buffy coat fractions and quantified with ultraviolet-visible spectrophotometry (LGC, Hoddesdon, Herts, UK). DNA was normalised to a concentration of 50 $n\frac{g}{\mu}$ and a total volume greater than 4 μ *L* (total DNA > 200 *ng*), which was required for the DNA microarray. Each batch of micro-array

intensity data was normalised and clustered. Genotypes were called independently using Illumina GenomeStudio (v2.0) or the Affymetrix Genotyping Console (4.0). Samples containing more than 1 % missing genotypes were removed and SNPs were re-clustered. SNPs with poor clustering quality scores (GenTrain score (< 0.7)) or clustering separation score $(0.5)) were excluded following re-clustering. Genotyping procedures for the UK$ 1958 Birth cohort and UK NBS controls chip used in the discovery cohort are described in (25) and for controls used in the replication cohort in (28). We removed samples with heterozygosity rate more than 3 standard deviations from the batch mean or disparate reported and inferred sex. Across all samples including those genotyped, we assessed relatedness and removed one of any pair with $> 30\%$ identity-by-descent, ensuring the absence of first-degree relatives in the dataset.

We then added two further batches: Affymetrix controls from the 1958 birth cohort, and Affymetrix controls from the UK NBS. Within each batch, we removed SNPs with minor allele frequency $\leq 1\%$, SNPs deviating from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium with $p \leq 1 \times 1$ 10^{-5} , and SNPs with missingness $> 2\%$ or differential missingness between cases and controls ($p < 0.05$, Bonferroni corrected). We removed samples of divergent ancestry (separating by discovery and replication cohorts), assessed using principal components derived from the 1000 Genomes project (see section below).

We then combined all Illumina samples and all Affymetrix samples into separate combined batches for imputation, and imputed combined batches separately to genomewide cover (Haplotype Reference Consortium (r1.1)) using the Sanger Imputation Server (9,10), pre-phasing with EAGLE2. Imputation details for replication controls are described in (28). We retained imputed variants with an INFO score of > 0.5 and a minor allele frequency of > 1 % in all three datasets.

We then separated all samples to be used in the replication phase. We combined remaining discovery-phase samples into two cohorts by genotyping platform (Illumina/Affymetrix). Since cases and controls in the replication phase were genotyped and imputed separately, and had somewhat different geographic distributions, we imposed further quality control measures on this cohort. We again removed SNPs with differential missingness between cases and controls ($p \le 0.05$, Bonferroni corrected), removed SNPs for which any difference was detectable between batches ($p < 1 \times 10^{-6}$), removed SNPs with even slightly differing allele frequencies between UK controls in the discovery phase and UK controls in the replication phase ($p < 0.005$).

We then formed three separate cohorts for association testing. We split the discovery cohort by platform (Illumina/Affymetrix) but were unable to do this for the replication cohort, since all control samples were genotyped on an Affymetrix platform, so combined all replication case samples into a single cohort.

Assessment of divergent ancestry

Principal component analysis using a set of independent directly genotyped SNPs was used to identify samples with outlying ancestry. This was done separately in the discovery cohort (four Illumina batches, combined Affymetrix samples) and with all samples combined in the replication cohort. Samples were initially excluded if they did not cluster with super-populations from 1000 genomes data (29) PCA was then repeated, and samples that did not cluster with 1000 genomes European populations were excluded. Samples were excluded on the basis of distance from the relevant cluster median in standarddeviation units. Thresholds for exclusion were decided visually from each plot, but in no case were samples included if they were more than 3 standard deviations from the median on either the first or second principal component. In the replication cohort, in order to reduce genomic inflation to a reasonable level, we additionally excluded samples for whom the first five principal component values were at a Mahalanobis distance of > 10 from the population mean. Plots are shown in Supplementary Figure 6. Some residual differences can be seen between cases and controls in the replication cohort. Analyses were conducted in R using the snpRelate package (30).

Statistical analysis

We assessed association between cases and controls using a logistic regression for each cohort. In the discovery analyses, we used ten principal components as covariates, in which principal components were derived from genotyped SNPs only. In the replication cohort, in order to manage a wider geographical diversity, we used five principal component covariates derived from both our samples and European samples from the 1000 genomes data, as above.

We did not adjust for age or sex in our logistic regression models. Neither age nor sex can be associated with (autosomal) genotype, so neither can act as a confounder in our analysis. In some cases, adjustment for age or sex may strengthen GWAS associations due to younger individuals in the control cohort who would become cases were they older or of a different sex. However, given the rarity of CTEPH, this is unlikely in our case.

We evaluated genomic inflation in sets of p-values derived from each study. We evaluated both direct genomic inflation, termed λ , and the effective genomic inflation had the same allele frequencies been observed in a study of 1000 cases and 1000 controls, termed λ_{1000} , defined as follows, in which *n0* is the number of control samples and *n1* the number of case samples:

$$
\lambda = 1 + (\lambda - 1) \frac{\left(\frac{1}{n_0} + \frac{1}{n_1}\right)}{\left(\frac{1}{1000} + \frac{1}{1000}\right)}
$$

The genomic inflation factor for the replication cohort was moderately large $(\lambda=1.21, \lambda_{1000})$ $= 1.16$) but we were unable to reduce it by inclusion of further covariates or by use of a linear mixed-model (BOLT-LMM (31)) in place of logistic regression. We thus simply corrected for inflation in each cohort by scaling χ^2 statistics (12).

We combined the two sets of p-values from the discovery cohorts into an overall discovery p-value, and all three sets of p-values into a set of meta-analysed p-values, using a standard z-score meta-analysis. Our criteria for genome-wide association are described in the results overview section above.

Levered analysis

Since CTEPH is phenotypically similar to DVT and PE, we expected that it would share some genetic associations. This enabled us to use results from large GWAS on PE and DVT to 'lever' our analysis on CTEPH to improve our power to detect CTEPH associations. Roughly, we do this by concentrating attention on variants more strongly associated with DVT or PE.

Define H^0 _{CTEPH} as a null hypothesis of non-association of a variant of interest with CTEPH. The p-value in our CTEPH GWAS *pCTEPH* gives us some information as to whether H^0 _{CTEPH} holds. We may also be able to glean some information about H^0 _{CTEPH} holds by considering the association of that variant with some other disease, measured by a p-value *poTHER* from an association study on other on separate samples. This will only be useful if the diseases tend to share the same associations. We use a procedure which both assesses degree of association sharing and tests assocaition with CTEPH in one, involving a quantity termed the conditional false discovery rate, or cFDR (14,32,33). In our case, the 'other' phenotype is PE, giving p-values $p_{OTHER} = p_{PE}$ (or p_{DVT}). We consider values (*pCTEPH*, *pPE*) as samples from the bivariate random variable (*PCTEPH*, *PPE*)

A routine analysis rejecting H^0 _{CTEPH} whenever p _{CTEPH} < 5 x 10⁻⁸ corresponds to a rejection subregion of the sample space of the (*PCTEPH*, *P_{PE}*): specifically, the regions to the right of the dotted black lines in Figure 4a,4b. The cFDR replaces this with a data-driven rejection region (the regions to the right of the solid black lines in Figures 4a, 4b), which approximates the most powerful possible such region (14). It is roughly equivalent to firstly restricting attention to only SNPs for which $P_{PE} < \alpha$ for some α , concentrating associations with CTEPH.

We can then estimate the joint distribution of p-values for both CTEPH and DVT under the null hypothesis for H^0 _{CTEPH} and integrate this over these data-driven rejection regions, giving 'v-values', which behave like p-values in having uniform distributions under H^0 _{CTEPH}. These v-values can be thought of as p-values against H^0 _{CTEPH} 'adjusted' for the additional information learned from the set of p-values for DVT association.

Differential effect sizes between CTEPH, DVT and PE

To determine whether the observed differential effect sizes at *F5* and *HLA-DRA* between CTEPH, DVT and PE reached significance (red lines on Figure 4a, 4b) we considered a null hypothesis that the underlying odds ratios of these variants were the same in both diseases.

If n_1 , n_0 , m_0 , m_1 , μ_1 , μ_0 represent case/control numbers, observed case/control minor allele frequencies and population case/control minor allele frequencies respectively for a SNP of interest, then the Z score is approximated by

$$
Z \approx \frac{\log (OR)}{SE\{\log (OR)\}}
$$

$$
\approx \frac{\log \left(\frac{m_1(1 - m_0)}{m_0(1 - m_1)}\right)}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\sqrt{n_0m_0} + \frac{1}{n_0(1 - m_0)} + \frac{1}{n_1m_1} + \frac{1}{n_1(1 - m_1)}}
$$

$$
\approx \frac{m_1 - m_0}{\sqrt{\mu_0(1 - \mu_0)}} \sqrt{\frac{2n_0n_1}{n_0 + n_1}}
$$

assuming *n₀* and *n₁* are large, $\mu_0 \approx \mu_1$ and the SNP is diploid. Thus

$$
E(Z) \approx \frac{\mu_1 - \mu_0}{\sqrt{\mu_0 (1 - \mu_0)}} \sqrt{\frac{2n_0 n_1}{n_0 + n_1}}
$$

$$
var(Z) \approx \frac{var(m_1 - m_0)}{\mu_0 (1 - \mu_0)} \frac{2n_0 n_1}{n_0 + n_1}
$$

$$
\approx 1
$$

Variance in Z is due to random variance in the study population, and we assume it is independent between studies on independent traits. Thus, denoting *n1 CTEPH*, *n0 CTEPH* , *n1 PE* , *n0 PE* as case/control numbers in GWAS on CTEPH and PE respectively, under a null hypothesis that the effect size of the SNP is identical in both diseases, the joint distribution of Z scores (*ZCTEPH*, *ZPE*): will be bivariate normal with mean on a line through the origin with gradient

$$
\sqrt{\frac{n_0^{PE} n_1^{PE}}{n_0^{PE} + n_1^{PE}}}\sqrt{\frac{n_0^{CTEPH} + n_1^{CTEPH}}{n_0^{CTEPH} n_1^{CTEPH}}}
$$

and unit variance *I2*. A multivariate normal with unit variance is invariant under rotation, so given *n* SNPs, the probability that at least one pair of Z-scores is at distance greater than *D* from the mean line is approximately

$$
2n\Phi(-D)
$$

where Φ is the Gaussian CDF function. Dotted lines on Figures 4a, 4b show distances *D* such that: under a null hypothesis that the effect size of all SNPs is identical for both diseases, the probability of at least one of the *n* SNPs reaching genome wide significance for either disease lying outside the dotted lines is ≤ 0.05 ,

This is somewhat conservative, since Z scores are dependent due to linkage disequilibrium and the effective number of independent SNPs is less than *n*. Correspondingly, shortcomings of this approach include the possibility that geographic origin can affect relative effect sizes between GWAS and magnitude of linkage disequlibrium between SNPs, potentially confounding the relationship between different disease pathologies and different observed effect sizes in GWAS.

Rationale for tiers of association and choice of p-value threshold

We chose to reject null hypotheses of genetic non-association for variants which had either a meta-analysis p-value or a v-value less than 5×10^{-8} . This value is generally taken as an industry standard in genome-wide association studies, based on a Šidak correction to control family-wise error rate (FWER) at 5 % across a million independent common variants (34). Even after stringent quality control, it remains possible that confounding from population structure or batch effects could lead to a false positive rate exceeding 5 % in variants affected by this confounding. Since such confounding would be more likely to differentially affect either the discovery or replication cohort, we additionally required that in order to reject the null hypothesis, variants had to have a consistent direction of effect in both the Illumina- and Affymetrix- subcohorts of the discovery cohort and in the replication cohort. We also defined higher 'tiers' of association (as defined in the main manuscript) for variants for which we additionally had stronger evidence of a consistent effect in both the discovery and replication cohorts. Although variants in all three tiers reach a reasonable threshold for genome-wide significance, we have greater confidence that variants in tier 1 and tier 2 were not rejected due to confounding affecting only one cohort.

We investigated whether the genome-wide association threshold of 5×10^{-8} was appropriate in our case, since in practice, individual genotyping platforms have fewer than a million independent sites. We also aimed to assert that our approach (in which we rejected the null hypothesis for a SNP if the p-value *or* the v-value was less than the threshold) would not lead to an FWER in excess of 5 %.

We estimated the effective number of independent variants in our dataset as follows. for 500 simulations, we repeatedly ran a logistic regression, restricted to our final qualitycontrolled set of SNPs and a single chromosome (chromosome 10), and using a random phenotype (that is, we simulated under the null hypothesis). We also found the minimum v-value when conditioning on a second random phenotype. For each simulation i, we examined set $\{p_i\}$ of meta-analysed p-values and the set $\{v_i\}$ of v-values attained in each simulation, and recorded the minimum p- or v- value from the simulation as *mi*=min(*{pi},{vi}*).

Given the set of such minimum values across 500 simulations, the log-likelihood for an effect number n_{10} of independent SNPs on chromosome 10 was

$$
l(n_{10}) = \sum_{i=1}^{500} f_{\beta(n_{10},1)}(m_i)
$$

where $f_{\beta(n_{10},1)}(m_i)$ is the density at *m_i* of a Beta distribution with parameters *n₁₀* and 1. since if we generate independent p-values for *n* SNPs for which the null hypothesis holds, the density of the minimum p-value *p* is $f_{\beta(n,1)}(p)$.

We found a maximum-likelihood estimate of 48941 effective independent variants amongst our 211705 total quality-controlled SNPs on chromosome 10. Presuming that the ratio of total variants to independent variants is roughly conserved across chromosomes, we estimate that our total dataset of 4090493 quality-controlled SNPs corresponds to approximately 945624 total independent variants (that is, slightly under a million). Under a Šidak correction to control FWER at 5%, this suggests use of a threshold of 5.4 x 10^{-8} on the minimum p-value or v-value to reject the null hypothesis for a SNP.

It is reassuring that this threshold is slightly looser than the industry standard. However, we chose to revert to the stricter threshold of 5×10^{-8} , in the interests of consistency with the standard.

Power for tier 3 association

To approximate power to reject a variant at tier 3 significance given a z-score *zother* at that variant for DVT or PE, we refer to the relevant plot in Figure 4a, 4b. The Z-score that must be obtained for CTEPH in order to reject the null hypothesis for CTEPH equivalent to a p-value $\leq 5 \times 10^{-8}$ corresponds to the x-co-ordinate of the intersection of the horizontal line at *zother* with either the dotted or solid black lines (whichever x-intersection gives the smaller value). The minimum odds-ratio resulting in the requisite Z-score given can be routinely computed given the minor allele frequency and study size.

Assessment of batch effects

Samples were genotyped in several separate procedures (batches), and between-batch differences (batch effects) could have led to false positive results. The distribution of cases and controls across batches is shown in table S2. The absence of both control and case samples in some batches meant that such batch effects could not be directly differentiated from true case/control differences, and that batch numbers could not be included as covariates in the GWAS analysis.

Table S2. Distribution across batches for cases and controls in the discovery and replication phases. Batches 1-4 used Illumina chips; all other batches used Affymetrix. Genotyping of the final three batches was performed by external groups. $\text{cont} = \text{control}, \text{rep} = \text{replication}$

The three areas of concern were 1. that in the Illumina-genotyped part of the discovery phase, batches 2-4 contained only cases; 2. that in the Affymetrix-genotyped part of the discovery phase, cases and controls were genotyped in separate batches; 3. that in the replication phase, cases and controls were genotyped in separate batches; and 4. that controls in the discovery phase were partially sourced from blood bank samples, which may drive the ABO association through differential distribution of ABO groups.

We address these problems by showing that at our discovered associations, allele frequencies are generally consistent across batches, allowing for case-control status. We also demonstrate that on a genome-wide scale, inter-batch effects are not detectable for each analysis (see section 'Between-batch comparisons'). We acknowledge that the presence of batch effects cannot be definitively ruled out, particularly for the Affymetrixgenotyped part of the discovery phase and for the replication phase.

Allele frequency at genome-wide associations

We computed allele frequencies across each batch for each genome-wide association in table 1, separating by case/control status. Across these nine associations allele frequencies in batches were generally consistent (Supplementary Figure 7).

We also note that the association at the ABO locus (chromosome 9) is not driven by the blood bank-sourced cohort (NBS); allele frequencies for the peak variant are consistent in the NBS cohort and 1958BC cohort, the latter of which, as a birth cohort, can be considered an unbiased population sample. Indeed, allele frequencies are consistent for the NBS and 1958BC cohort for all associations.

Between-batch comparisons

Where possible, we analysed whether allele frequencies differed systematically across batches within one of the three case/control comparisons. We compared allele frequencies amongst cases in batches 1-4 for the Illumina-genotyped discovery phase, amongst NBS

and 1958BC controls in the Affymetrix-genotyped discovery phase (Supplementary Figure 8), amongst all batches (including between Affymetrix and Illumina) amongst cases in the replication phase, and between controls in the replication phase and NBS and 1958BC controls.

We compared allele frequencies at all variants using Fisher's exact test, and assessed whether the distribution of resultant p-values differed from the expected distribution of pvalues should the observed batches represent identically-genotyped truly random samples from a common population. We removed 48 variants for which an allelic difference between batches had a p-value $\leq 1 \times 10^{-6}$.

We found that our results were consistent with equality of underlying allele frequency between each pair of compared batches using Q-Q plots of log-p values (Supplementary Figure 8). Moreover, in all cases, inflation of test statistics was ≤ 1 , and (after removing variants as above), there was no evidence of a surplus of low p-values, in that all Q-Q plots lay below the X-Y line.

Amongst our claimed CTEPH associations (Table 1), no variant reached a p-value $\leq 1 \times$ 10^{-3} in any comparison (Bonferroni-corrected significance threshold 4 x 10^{-4}). We were thus otherwise unable to detect any systematic or specific differences between batches after accounting for case/control status. We concluded that systematic batch effects were unlikely to be present, and SNP-specific batch effects were unlikely to be causing falsepositive associations.

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STREGA guidelines statement

Supplementary Figures

Supplementary Figure 1: Power to reject a null hypothesis of CTEPH non-association at tier 1 or 2 significance for a range of of minor allele frequencies in controls. For instance, if a SNP has a MAF of 0.4 in controls, and has an odds ratio of 1.4 between CTEPH cases and controls, we have approximately 20 % power to detect it at tier 1, and 40 % power to detect it at tier 2. Power calculations take account of the meta-analytic structure.

Supplementary Figure 2: Power to reject a null hypothesis of CTEPH non-association at tier 1 significance for a range of minor allele frequencies in controls and odds ratios. Colours correspond to power. As expected, we have greater power to detect variants at higher MAF and higher odds ratios. Power calculations take account of the meta-analytic structure.

Supplementary Figure 3: Power to reject a null hypothesis of CTEPH non-association at tier 2 significance for a range of minor allele frequencies in controls and odds ratios. Colours correspond to power. As expected, we have greater power to detect variants at higher MAF and higher odds ratios. Power calculations take account of the meta-analytic structure.

Supplementary Figure 4: Manhattan plot of $-log_{10}(p)$ -values from analysis of discovery cohort only. Points higher up correspond to variants more strongly associated with CTEPH. Variants reaching genome-wide significance (P_{CTEPH} < 5 x 10⁻⁸) are marked in black, and variants discovered using co-analysis with PE are marked in blue, both labelled with the likely associated gene. Note that most variants do not reach genomewide significance when analysis is restricted to the discovery cohort. The black horizontal line denotes genome-wide significance ($p=5\times10^{-8}$). Values of -log₁₀(p) larger than 16 are truncated to 16

Supplementary Figure 5: Manhattan plot of $-log_{10}(p)$ -values from analysis of replication cohort only. Points higher up correspond to variants more strongly associated with CTEPH. Variants reaching genome-wide significance (P_{CTEPH} < 5 x 10⁻⁸) are marked in black, and variants discovered using co-analysis with PE are marked in blue, both labelled with the likely associated gene. Note that most variants do not reach genomewide significance when analysis is restricted to the replication cohort. The black horizontal line denotes genome-wide significance ($p=5\times10^{-8}$). Values of -log₁₀(p) larger than 16 are truncated to 16

Supplementary Figure 6: Principal components of genetic samples combined with 1000 Genomes (1KG) samples. Leftmost plots show principal components including all 1KG samples, middle plots including all European 1KG samples, and rightmost plots including all European 1KG samples after exclusions. Black lines indicate exclusion boundaries. Cases are marked in black, and controls in red. Some cases and controls can be seen to cluster with East Asian or African 1KG samples, and some are widely aberrant and isolated (likely due to widespread genotyping errors).

Supplementary Figure 7. Allele frequencies across batches at peak SNPs in Table 1. Horizontal lines show average allele frequencies, and vertical lines show 95 % confidence intervals. In general, observed allele frequencies in cases and controls are consistent with equal underlying case and control allele frequencies in each batch.

Supplementary Figure 8. Q-Q plot for genome-wide p-values for between-batch comparisons. In each case, we compare the allele frequency for each variant in our final dataset between two batches, and compute p-values using Fisher's exact test. We then consider the distribution of $-log_{10}(p)$ values against the distribution of $-log_{10}(p)$ values we would expect to see if there were no differences in underlying allele frequency between batches. If any p-values are lower than what would be expected in this case, they would correspond to the black line lying above the red X-Y line. Figures on the graph show 'inflation', analogous to genomic inflation; values above 1 indicate that p-values are generally lower than expected. Since all black lines stay below the X-Y line, and all between-batch inflation values are less than 1, we conclude that our data (following quality control) show no evidence of between-batch differences in allele frequency.

Phasing and imputation

SNP quality control 2: INFO score, between-batch differences, between-control differences.

Genotyping (Illumina) Genotyping (Affymetrix) UK Blood Service: 2997 1958 UK birth cohort: 2987 Cases Controls Papworth: 925 Imperial: 229 Sheffield: 59 San Diego: 160 Total: 1373 cases, 5984 controls 1183 118451 197 1533

SNP quality control: MAF, HWE, missingness, differential missingness

Total: 1146 cases, 5498 controls Total: 761 cases, 4865 controls

Fig. 1

Discovery **Replication**

Fig. 2

Chromosome

Fig. 3

Chromosome

Fig. 4a

Z-score, CTEPH

Fig. 4b

Z-score, CTEPH

Power: tier 1 (black), tier 2 (red)

 \downarrow

Odds ratio

Tier 1

Tier 2

Discovery

Chromosome

Chromosome

Batch

Batch

Batch

01234567

 \circ

Log₁₀ expected p-val

01234567

 \circ

Log₁₀ expected p-val

01234567

 \circ

Citation on deposit: Liley, J., Newnham, M., Bleda, M., Bunclark, K., Auger, W., Barbera, J. A., …Toshner, M. (in press). Shared and Distinct Genomics of Chronic Thromboembolic Pulmonary Hypertension and Pulmonary Embolism. American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care

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