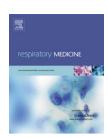


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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reply to letter to the Editor: rs4072037 Polymorphisms and their role in gastrointestinal carcinogenesis



We appreciate Dr. Kapoor's interest in our recent article published in Respiratory Medicine. 1 In this article, we reported that different distribution of the rs4072037 genotypes in MUC1 was associated with the difference in serum KL-6 levels between German and Japanese cohorts. Because the rs4072037 polymorphism is in strong linkage disequilibrium with variable numbers of tandem repeats (TRs) in MUC1² and KL-6 antigens are believed to reside in TRs of MUC1, 3,4 we concluded that serum KL-6 levels were affected by the rs4072037 genotypes in MUC1. As introduced in the letter from Dr. Kapoor, there are a couple of studies that demonstrate the linkage between the rs4072037 genotypes in MUC1 and gastrointestinal cancer incidences. Although precise mechanisms underlying these observations are not determined, we speculate that variable numbers of TRs (VNTR) in MUC1 might also influence the development of gastrointestinal cancers. Therefore, in addition to role of the rs4072037 polymorphism in gastrointestinal malignancies, further studies investigating the linkage between VNTR in MUC1 and cancer incidence would be of particular interest to us.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest associated with this letter.

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