

(Table 6. Contd....)

Allele	Nucleotide Change	Amino Acid Change	Population	Allele Frequency	Number of Subjects	Functional Effect	Reference
*3	1334T>C	M445T	Caucasian	0.005	213	No apparent change in activity (<i>in vitro</i>)	Eiselt <i>et al.</i> 2001
			Caucasian	0.042	24	No apparent change in activity (<i>in vitro</i>)	Dai <i>et al.</i> 2001
			European	0.021	94	No change in activity (<i>in vitro</i>)	Lee <i>et al.</i> 2005 Garsa <i>et al.</i> 2005
*4	352A>G	I118V	Chinese	0.015	102	Reduced activity (*4:n=3, <i>in vivo</i>)	Hsieh <i>et al.</i> 2001
			Chinese	0.033	211	Reduced activity (*4:n=8, <i>in vivo</i>)	Wang <i>et al.</i> 2005
			Chinese	0.004	387		Wen <i>et al.</i> 2004
			Chinese	0.024	451		Liu <i>et al.</i> 2005
*5	653C>G	P218R	Chinese	0.010	102	Reduced activity (*5:n=2, <i>in vivo</i>)	Hsieh <i>et al.</i> 2001
			Chinese	0.007	387		Wen <i>et al.</i> 2004
			Chinese	0.007	451		Liu <i>et al.</i> 2005
*6	830_831insA	frame-shift	Chinese	0.005	102	Reduced activity (*6:n=1, <i>in vivo</i>)	Hsieh <i>et al.</i> 2001
			Chinese	0.005	387		Wen <i>et al.</i> 2004
			Malay	0.005	104		Chowbay <i>et al.</i> 2003
			Indian	0.005	101		Chowbay <i>et al.</i> 2003
			Japanese	0.001	416		Fukushima-Uesaka <i>et al.</i> 2004
*7	167G>A	G56D	Caucasian	0.014	213	No apparent change in activity (<i>in vitro</i>)	Eiselt <i>et al.</i> 2001
*8	389G>A	R130Q	Caucasian	0.003	150	No holoprotein (<i>in vitro</i>)	Eiselt <i>et al.</i> 2001
*9	508G>A	V170I	Caucasian	0.002	212	No apparent change in activity (<i>in vitro</i>)	Eiselt <i>et al.</i> 2001
*10	520G>C	D174H	Caucasian	0.002	212	Reduced activity? (<i>in vitro</i>)	Eiselt <i>et al.</i> 2001
			Caucasian	0.020	53		Lamba <i>et al.</i> 2002
			African-American	0.020	21		Lamba <i>et al.</i> 2002
			Mexican	0.050	10		Lamba <i>et al.</i> 2002
*11	1088C>T	T363M	Caucasian	0.003	149	Reduced holoprotein level (<i>in vitro</i>)	Eiselt <i>et al.</i> 2001
			Japanese	0.002	416	Reduced activity (<i>in vitro</i>)	Fukushima-Uesaka <i>et al.</i> 2004 Murayama <i>et al.</i> 2002
*12	1117C>T	L373F	Caucasian	0.003	149	Altered activity depending on the substrates (<i>in vitro</i>)	Eiselt <i>et al.</i> 2001

(Table 6. Contd....)

Allele	Nucleotide Change	Amino Acid Change	Population	Allele Frequency	Number of Subjects	Functional Effect	Reference
*13	1247C>T	P416L	Caucasian	0.003	149	No holoprotein (<i>in vitro</i>)	Eiselt <i>et al.</i> 2001
*14	44T>C	L15P	unknown	0.060	8	Unknown	Lamba <i>et al.</i> 2002
*15	485G>A	R162Q	African	0.042	24	Unknown	Dai <i>et al.</i> 2001
*16	554C>G	T185S	Mexican	0.050	10	Reduced activity (<i>in vitro</i>) Reduced activity (*16:n=9, <i>in vivo</i>)	Lamba <i>et al.</i> 2002
			Japanese	0.050	10		Lamba <i>et al.</i> 2002
			Japanese	0.014	416		Fukushima-Uesaka <i>et al.</i> 2004
			Japanese				Murayama <i>et al.</i> 2002 Nakajima <i>et al.</i> 2006
*17	566T>C	F189S	Caucasian	0.021	24	Reduced activity (<i>in vitro</i>)	Dai <i>et al.</i> 2001
			Caucasian	ND	100	Markedly reduced activity (<i>in vitro</i>)	Lee <i>et al.</i> 2005
*18	878T>C	L293P	Asian	0.021	24	Increased activity (<i>in vitro</i>)	Dai <i>et al.</i> 2001
			Japanese	0.028	416	Increased activity (<i>in vitro</i>)	Fukushima-Uesaka <i>et al.</i> 2004
						No change in activity (<i>in vitro</i>)	Murayama <i>et al.</i> 2002
			Chinese	0.008	387	No change in activity (<i>in vitro</i>)	Lee <i>et al.</i> 2005 Wen <i>et al.</i> 2004
*19	1399C>T	P467S	Asian	0.021	24	No apparent change in activity (<i>in vitro</i>)	Dai <i>et al.</i> 2001
						No change in activity (<i>in vitro</i>)	Lee <i>et al.</i> 2005
*20	1461_1462insA	frame-shift	Brazilian	unknown	unknown	No holoprotein (<i>in vitro</i>)	Westlind-Johnsson <i>et al.</i> 2006

ND: not detected.

the promoter region, resulting in reduced enzymatic activity [Rodriguez-Antona *et al.*, 2005], and lowered systemic clearance of midazolam [Wandel *et al.*, 2000]. Other studies, however, suggested no changes (or rather an increase) in enzyme activity both *in vivo* [Ball *et al.*, 1999; Hesselink *et al.*, 2004] and *in vitro* [Westlind *et al.*, 1999]. A recent report also showed its association with even higher expressions of mRNA and protein and enzymatic activity [Schirmer *et al.*, 2006]. At least part of this discrepancy *in vivo* might be explained by the linkage between *CYP3A4**1*B* and *CYP3A5**1 (wild-type) as discussed below.

In contrast to the *1*B* allele, nonsynonymous polymorphisms were relatively rare in all ethnic groups (Table 6). The allele *2 with a S222P change showed a higher *K_m* and lower *V_{max}* for nifedipine, resulting in a 6 to 9-fold reduction of intrinsic clearance *in vitro* [Sata *et al.*, 2000]. However, no significant change was observed in testosterone 6β-hydroxylase activity. This allele was found at frequencies of 0.027 in Finnish [Sata *et al.*, 2000] and 0.045 in Portuguese

[Cavaco *et al.*, 2003]. *CYP3A4**3 (M445T) had no functional changes for chlorpyrifos [Dai *et al.*, 2001], testosterone and progesterone [Eiselt *et al.*, 2001], and nifedipine [Lee *et al.*, 2005] when the variant enzyme was expressed in *E. coli*. *CYP3A4**4 to *6 were found only in Asians. *CYP3A4**4 (I118V) has been detected at 0.01 to 0.03 frequencies only in Chinese, but has not been detected in 416 Japanese subjects [Fukushima-Uesaka *et al.*, 2004]. The subjects with the *4 allele showed a reduced ratio of urine 6β-hydroxycortisol to free cortisol, suggesting reduced enzyme activity [Hsieh *et al.*, 2001; Wang *et al.*, 2005]. Furthermore, heterozygous *4 patients showed significantly increased lipid-lowering effects of simvastatin compared with homozygous *1 patients [Wang *et al.*, 2005]. Two Chinese subjects with heterozygous *5 (P218R) also showed a reduced ratio of urine 6β-hydroxycortisol to free cortisol [Hsieh *et al.*, 2001]. *CYP3A4**5 was detected at ~1% frequency only in Chinese, but not in 416 Japanese [Fukushima-Uesaka *et al.*, 2004]. *CYP3A4**6 allele, a rare allele detected in Chinese, Japanese,

Malay and Indian, has an insertion of adenine between 830 and 831, resulting in a frame-shift from E277 and an immature stop codon at 285 [Hsieh *et al.*, 2001]. Thus, the variant enzyme is most likely to be non-functional. A patient heterozygous for this allele showed a reduced urine 6 β -hydroxycortisol/free cortisol ratio [Hsieh *et al.*, 2001]. *CYP3A4**7 (G56D), *8 (R130Q), and *9 (V170I) were detected only in Caucasians [Eiselt *et al.*, 2001]. The *8 variant exhibited no holoprotein formation in *E. coli*, although its apoprotein was slightly expressed. *CYP3A4**10 (D174H) was found in Caucasians, African-Americans, and Mexicans but not in Japanese. The variant protein exhibited a slightly reduced testosterone and progesterone hydroxylase activity at a low substrate concentration (25 μ M) [Eiselt *et al.*, 2001]. *CYP3A4**11 (T363M) is a rare allele detected in Caucasians and Japanese, and its recombinant protein had reduced holoprotein levels [Eiselt *et al.*, 2001]. When expressed in a human liver cell line, HepG2, the variant enzyme had ~40% decrease in intrinsic clearance (V_{max}/K_m) for the testosterone 6 β -hydroxylation reaction [Murayama *et al.*, 2002]. Both *CYP3A4**12 (L373F) and *13 (P416L) with reduced expression levels were detected only in Caucasians with very low frequencies [Eiselt *et al.*, 2001]. Functional significance of *CYP3A4**14 (L15P) and *15 (R162Q) has not been reported until now. *CYP3A4**16 (T185S) was found in Japanese and Mexicans with 0.01 to 0.05 frequencies. The *CYP3A4*.16 proteins expressed in HepG2 cells exhibited about 50% reduction in the intrinsic clearance (V_{max}/K_m) in testosterone 6 β -hydroxylation activity with about 60% decrease in V_{max} [Murayama *et al.*, 2002]. Very recently, we have shown for the first time that heterozygous *16 patients administered paclitaxel show significantly reduced 3'-*p*-hydroxypaclitaxel/paclitaxel AUC ratio and increased 6 α -hydroxypaclitaxel/paclitaxel AUC ratio, suggesting that *CYP3A4**16 is indeed a low-activity allele [Nakajima *et al.*, 2006]. *CYP3A4**17 (F189S) detected in Caucasians had a low activity to testosterone and almost negligible activities for chlorpyrifos and nifedipine *in vitro* [Dai *et al.*, 2001; Lee *et al.*, 2005]. *CYP3A4**18 allele (L293P) was found in Asians at 0.01 to 0.03 frequencies. The *CYP3A4*.18 protein exhibited increased activities for testosterone and chlorpyrifos, but was unchanged for nifedipine compared with wild-type *CYP3A4* enzymes [Dai *et al.*, 2001; Lee *et al.*, 2005]. Our *in vitro* analysis revealed that increased activity for testosterone was attributed to an increased V_{max} [Murayama *et al.*, 2002]. However, the *in vivo* activity did not alter in Japanese heterozygotes [Nakajima *et al.*, 2006]. *CYP3A4**19 (P467S) in Asians catalyzes testosterone, chlorpyrifos and nifedipine similar to that of the wild-type enzymes [Dai *et al.*, 2001; Lee *et al.*, 2005]. The most recently identified *20 allele, found in a Brazilian patient, is defective, but was not detected in 413 Caucasian, 195 African and 230 Chinese samples [Westlind-Johnsson *et al.*, 2006]. Overall, functionally important and relatively frequent ($\geq 1\%$) alleles are *4, *16 and *18 (and probably *5) for Asians (at least for East Asians) and *2 for Caucasians.

Since nonsynonymous polymorphisms are relatively rare, the transcriptional regulatory regions have also been analyzed. It has been shown that *CYP3A4* induction is mediated by pregnane/steroid X receptor (PXR/SXR), constitutive androstane receptor and the vitamin D receptor (VDR)

through binding to the distal xenobiotic-responsive enhancer module (XREM) (-7.7 kb and -7.3 kb upstream of the transcriptional start site), and to the proximal promoter region, especially to the proximal PXR/SXR response element (-169 to -152 from the transcriptional start site) [Goodwin *et al.*, 1999, 2002; Drocourt *et al.*, 2002]. Hepatocyte nuclear factor-4 α also binds to the region immediately upstream of XREM and increases basal and the above transcriptional factor-mediated reporter gene expression [Tirona *et al.*, 2003]. However, no functional polymorphism has been found in these transcriptional factor-binding elements in Japanese [Fukushima-Uesaka *et al.*, 2004]. Recently, Matsumura *et al.* [2004] reported that a TGT insertion between -11,129 and -11,128 (from the transcriptional start site) resulted in the disruption of transcriptional factor USF1 binding and a 36% reduction of enhancer activity. This polymorphism was detected at a 0.031 frequency in 511 French subjects, but not in 131 Japanese subjects, suggesting that this polymorphism is an important factor in regulating *CYP3A4* activity in Caucasians.

LDs and Haplotype Structures of the *CYP3A* Cluster

The *CYP3A5*, *CYP3A7*, *CYP3A4*, and *CYP3A43* genes are located on chromosome 7 (7q21.1) in this order. Extreme interethnic variability exists in *CYP3A5* expression, and this variation has been shown to be mostly due to IVS3-237A>G (6986A>G) in intron 3, designated *CYP3A5**3. This polymorphism generates an incorrectly spliced mRNA and a non-functional protein [Kuehl *et al.*, 2001]. This allele has reported in the frequencies of 0.06-0.84 in Africans, 0.85-0.95 in Caucasians, 0.59-0.82 in Asians, 0.71-0.85 in Hispanics, and 0.79-0.82 in Pacific Islanders (summarized in Table 7). Thus, there is extreme variation in allele frequencies in Africans. This allele was known to be associated with reduced midazolam hydroxylation [Kuehl *et al.*, 2001] and clearance [Wong *et al.*, 2004], increased AUC of alprazolam [Park *et al.*, 2006], and reduced oral clearance of sirolimus [Le Meur *et al.*, 2006]. We analyzed haplotype structures of *CYP3A4* in 416 Japanese subjects [Fukushima-Uesaka *et al.*, 2004] and *CYP3A5* in 187 Japanese subjects [Saeki *et al.*, 2003]. Overall, 25 haplotypes were inferred in *CYP3A4*. Then, the association between the *CYP3A4* and *CYP3A5* haplotypes was analyzed [Fukushima-Uesaka *et al.*, 2004]. In Japanese, LD analysis of *CYP3A4* and *CYP3A5* showed strong linkages of polymorphisms between both genes. The *CYP3A4* haplotypes containing the IVS10+12G allele (such as *1A) are very closely linked to *CYP3A5**3. Inversely, most of the *CYP3A4* haplotypes with IVS10+12A (such as *1G) are linked to *CYP3A5**1. Thus, these results suggested that, in a Japanese population, genotyping the IVS10+12 position in *CYP3A4* can predict whether the subject has *CYP3A5**3 although the IVS10+12G>A polymorphism itself lacks functional significance [Nakajima *et al.*, 2006]. In addition, the low-activity haplotype *CYP3A4**16B (with T185S and IVS10+12G>A) is perfectly linked with *CYP3A5**1E (with IVS9+77G>T), but not with *3. We also found that a *CYP3A7* SNP -425G>C (A of the translational start site of *CYP3A7* is numbered +1) was perfectly linked with a *CYP3A5* haplotype containing IVS2-102C>T and IVS11+177C>T [Fukushima-Uesaka *et al.*, 2004]. These results suggested that *CYP3A4*, *CYP3A5*, and *CYP3A7* (in the order

Table 7. Allelic Frequencies of CYP3A5*3 (IVS3-237A>G) in Different Ethnic Populations

Population	Allele Frequency	Number of Subjects	Reference
Caucasians			
Caucasian-American*	0.85	27	Kuehl <i>et al.</i> 2001
Dutch ^{††}	0.92	500	van Schaik <i>et al.</i> 2002
Caucasian-Canadian ^{††}	0.93	77	Roy <i>et al.</i> 2005
French*	0.91	29	Thompson <i>et al.</i> 2004
Russian*	0.92	25	Thompson <i>et al.</i> 2004
Italian (Sardinian)*	0.95	28	Thompson <i>et al.</i> 2004
Africans			
African-American ^{††}	0.55 0.27	20 45-50	Kuehl <i>et al.</i> 2001 Hustert <i>et al.</i> 2001
Nigerian (Yoruba)*	0.06	25	Thompson <i>et al.</i> 2004
Senegalese (Mandenka)*	0.31	24	Thompson <i>et al.</i> 2004
Algerian (Mozabite)*	0.84	29	Thompson <i>et al.</i> 2004
Zimbabwean	0.78	100	Roy <i>et al.</i> 2005
Asians			
Japanese	0.71 0.77 0.74 0.76	45-50 200 196 187	Hustert <i>et al.</i> 2001 Fukuen <i>et al.</i> 2002 Hiratsuka <i>et al.</i> 2002 Saeki <i>et al.</i> 2003
Chinese	0.73 0.76	45-50 108	Hustert <i>et al.</i> 2001 Balram <i>et al.</i> 2003
Korean*	0.70	45-50	Hustert <i>et al.</i> 2001
Malay ^{††}	0.61	98	Balram <i>et al.</i> 2003
Indian ^{††}	0.59	90	Balram <i>et al.</i> 2003
Cambodian*	0.73	11	Thompson <i>et al.</i> 2004
Pakistani (Kalash)*	0.76	25	Thompson <i>et al.</i> 2004
Palestinian	0.82	51	Thompson <i>et al.</i> 2004
Hispanics			
Mexican (Maya)*	0.71	24	Thompson <i>et al.</i> 2004
Brazilian (Karitiana)*	0.77	24	Thompson <i>et al.</i> 2004
Colombian*	0.85	13	Thompson <i>et al.</i> 2004
Pacific islanders			
Papua New Guinean*	0.79	17	Thompson <i>et al.</i> 2004
Melanesian (Bougainville)*	0.82	22	Thompson <i>et al.</i> 2004

^{††}Significant differences ($P < 0.01$, chi-square test) in allele frequencies between the Japanese population and each ethnic population. When plural studies were undertaken for each ethnic population, combined data were used for comparison. The multiple comparison was corrected by Bonferroni's method.

*Not statistically analyzed due to the small number of subjects (<50 subjects).

3A5-3A7-3A4 on chromosome 7) are in the same LD block in Japanese.

In Caucasians, a close linkage between CYP3A4*1A and CYP3A5*3 (inversely, CYP3A4*1B and CYP3A5*1) was

also observed [Plummer *et al.*, 2003; Zeigler-Johnson *et al.*, 2004]. A weaker linkage was also observed in African-Americans. The *CYP3A4*1B* and **1G* alleles were very closely linked in Caucasians [Schirmer *et al.* 2006], and no **1B* allele was detected in Japanese. Therefore, the linkage patterns between *CYP3A4* and *CYP3A5* are similar between Caucasians and Japanese. Similar LD patterns between *CYP3A4* and *CYP3A5* were also reported by a different group [Thompson *et al.*, 2004], where haplotype structures were shown to be different between African-Americans and non-African-Americans (Europeans and Han Chinese). The same group extended the analysis to all four genes in the *CYP3A* cluster using the 224 detected polymorphisms for 3 ethnic groups [Thompson *et al.*, 2006]. In Han Chinese and Europeans, strong LDs were observed among *CYP3A5*, *CYP3A7* and *CYP3A4*, but only between *CYP3A5* and *CYP3A7* in African-Americans. In all populations, LD decays substantially between *CYP3A4* and *CYP3A43* [Thompson *et al.*, 2006]. Thus, in the two non-African populations, the LD profiles of the *CYP3A* locus are relatively similar. Another group reported the LD patterns and haplotype structures of the *CYP3A* locus for 5 different ethnic groups (African-Americans, African Sans, European Caucasians, Chinese, and Japanese) [Schirmer *et al.*, 2006]. Strong LDs were also observed for the *CYP3A5-CYP3A7-CYP3A4* region in European Caucasians and Japanese, and their most frequent haplotype was similar. The tendency observed in Chinese was similar, but the LD between *CYP3A7* and *CYP3A4* was far weaker than in European Caucasians and Japanese. In African-Americans and African Sans, strong linkages were not detected between the *CYP3A7* and *CYP3A4* regions. The *CYP3A43* region forms discrete LD blocks in African-Americans and African Sans. The 5'-part of *CYP3A4* was in LD with *CYP3A43* in European Caucasians. In Chinese and Japanese, strong linkages were not observed in this region. This paper also described haplotype structures of the entire *CYP3A* cluster region and revealed that the most common haplotype was the same among Caucasians, Japanese and Chinese although the linkages downstream of the *CYP3A43* gene were different.

The clinical importance of these linkages among the *CYP3A* genes has not been investigated. However, the linkage between *CYP3A4*1B* and *CYP3A5*1* is probably important if a substrate drug is metabolized by both enzymes. In Japanese, the low-activity haplotype *CYP3A4*16B* was perfectly linked with *CYP3A5*1*, but not **3*, suggesting that the resulting expression of *CYP3A5* can compensate for decreased *CYP3A4* activity.

UGT1A1 AND OTHER UGT1AS

Glucuronidation, catalyzed by UGTs, is one of the critical steps in the detoxification and elimination of various endogenous and exogenous compounds [Radominska-Pandya *et al.*, 1999, Tukey and Strassburg, 2000]. Glucuronidation accounts for about 35% of phase II drug metabolism [Evans and Relling, 1999]. As for the genes encoding UGTs, the four subfamilies, *UGT1*, *UGT2*, *UGT3* and *UGT8*, have been identified in humans [Mackenzie *et al.*, 2005]. As the *UGT1* subfamily, the *UGT1A* gene complex, located on chromosome 2q37, spans approximately 200 kb and consists of 9 active and 4 inactive first exons (in the following order:

UGT1A12P, *1A11P*, *1A8*, *1A10*, *1A13P*, *1A9*, *1A7*, *1A6*, *1A5*, *1A4*, *1A3*, *1A2P* and *1A1*) and common exons 2 to 5. One of the 9 active first exons (namely, *1A1* and *1A3* to *1A10*) can be used in conjunction with the common exons [Tukey and Strassburg, 2000]. The *UGT1A* N-terminal domains (encoded by the first exons) determine the substrate-binding specificity, and the C-terminal domain (encoded by exons 2 to 5) is important for binding to UDP-glucuronic acid [Radominska-Pandya *et al.*, 1999]. The first exons, encoding substrate-binding domains, confer the substrate specificity of *UGT1A* isoforms, and the 5'-flanking region of each exon 1 is presumed to independently regulate the expression of each isoform. *UGT1A1*, *1A3*, *1A4*, *1A6*, and *1A9* are expressed in liver as well as extrahepatic tissues such as colon [Tukey and Strassburg, 2000]. Recently, *UGT1A5* was reported to be also expressed in liver and intestine at low levels and shown as catalytically active [Finel *et al.*, 2005]. In contrast, *UGT1A7*, *1A8*, and *1A10* are expressed only in extrahepatic tissues including esophagus, stomach, small intestine and colon [Tukey and Strassburg, 2000; Basu *et al.*, 2004]. Substantial interindividual differences were detected in mRNA, protein and activity levels of *UGT1A* isoforms [Ritter *et al.*, 1999; Congiu *et al.*, 2002].

UGT1A1 Polymorphisms and Segmental Haplotypes

A number of genetic polymorphisms including SNPs in *UGT1As* have been identified and publicized in the UDP-Glucuronosyltransferase (UGT) Alleles Nomenclature Home Page (<http://galien.pha.ulaval.ca/alleles/alleles.html>, as of July 14, 2006), and some of them are known to affect glucuronidation rates [Guillemette, 2003 for review]. *UGT1A1* is known to be the principal isoform for the glucuronidation of bilirubin and SN-38, an active metabolite of the anticancer drug irinotecan [Ando and Hasegawa, 2005]. To date, 64 alleles were reported in this isoform, most of which are rare and related to two severe familial forms of unconjugated hyperbilirubinemia syndromes (Crigler-Najjar types I and II). However, several genetic polymorphisms are relatively common and involved in altered drug metabolism. A(TA)_nTAA number polymorphisms in the TATA box region (-54 to -39 from the translational start codon) include four variant alleles (n=5, *UGT1A1*36*; n=6, wild-type; n=7, *UGT1A1*28*; n=8, *UGT1A1*37*). *In vitro* and *in vivo* studies showed that increasing the TA repeat number leads to a decrease in the transcriptional activity of *UGT1A1*. Given the transcriptional activity of n=6 was defined as 100%, those of n=5, 7, and 8 were approximately 130%, 65% and 50%, respectively [Beutler *et al.*, 1998]. The frequencies of these repeat polymorphisms in various populations are summarized in Table 8. *UGT1A1*28* was distributed at 0.35-0.56 frequencies in Africans, 0.26-0.39 in Caucasians, and 0.07-0.19 in East and South-East Asians, and 0.25-0.49 in South and Middle East Asians. While the frequencies in South and Middle East Asians were comparable to Caucasians, there were no remarkable differences between East and South-East Asians. *UGT1A1*36* and **37* were detected at 0.01-0.12 frequencies in Africans and 0-0.02 in Caucasians, but not found in Asians. *UGT1A1*28* is known to be associated with an increased risk of SN-38 (an active irinotecan metabolite)-induced toxicity [Ando *et al.* 2000] as well as a mild type of inherited unconjugated hyperbilirubinemia syndrome

Table 8. Frequencies of TATA Box Polymorphism of *UGT1A1* in Different Ethnic Populations

Population	Allele Frequency				Number of Subjects	Reference
	*36	Wild-Type	*28	*37		
	A(TA) ₅ TAA	A(TA) ₆ TAA	A(TA) ₇ TAA	A(TA) ₈ TAA		
Caucasians						
Sardinian ^d	ND	0.743	0.257	ND	70	Hall <i>et al.</i> 1999
European ^d	ND	0.613	0.387	ND	71	Beutler <i>et al.</i> 1998
Caucasian ^{ff}	0.005	0.698	0.295	0.002	101	Lampe <i>et al.</i> 1999
	0.009	0.616	0.366	0.009	56	Innocenti <i>et al.</i> 2002
	0.017	0.588	0.388	0.007	147	Kaniwa <i>et al.</i> 2005
	0.004	0.659	0.337	ND	132	Innocenti <i>et al.</i> 2005
Caucasian-Brazilian ^{ff}	0.007	0.662	0.324	0.007	71	Fertrin <i>et al.</i> 2002
Africans						
African-American ^{ff}	0.035	0.470	0.426	0.069	101	Beutler <i>et al.</i> 1998
	0.080	0.520	0.380	0.020	200	Guillemette <i>et al.</i> 2000a
	0.038	0.500	0.346	0.115	56	Innocenti <i>et al.</i> 2002
	0.044	0.446	0.446	0.064	149	Kaniwa <i>et al.</i> 2005
African-Brazilian ^{ff}	0.065	0.519	0.407	0.009	54	Fertrin <i>et al.</i> 2002
Pygmy Mbenzele (Cameroon)*	0.036	0.333	0.560	0.071	42	Hall <i>et al.</i> 1999
Kenyan ^{ff}	0.100	0.444	0.444	0.013	80	Premawardhena <i>et al.</i> 2003
at Ivory coast ^{ff}	0.061	0.466	0.358	0.115	74	Premawardhena <i>et al.</i> 2003
Asians						
Japanese	ND	0.903	0.097	ND	150	Kaniwa <i>et al.</i> 2005
	ND	0.914	0.086	ND	116	Kanai <i>et al.</i> 2005
	ND	0.870	0.130	ND	301	Saeki <i>et al.</i> 2006
Koreans	ND	0.873	0.127	ND	324	Ki <i>et al.</i> 2003
	ND	0.932	0.068	ND	81	Han <i>et al.</i> 2006
Chinese	ND	0.840	0.160	ND	89	Balram <i>et al.</i> 2002
Taiwanese	ND	0.876	0.124	ND	218	Huang <i>et al.</i> 2002
Thai	ND	0.844	0.156	ND	96	Boyd <i>et al.</i> 2006
Vietnamese	ND	0.916	0.084	ND	83	Premawardhena <i>et al.</i> 2003
Malay	ND	0.920	0.080	ND	50	Yusoff <i>et al.</i> 2006
	ND	0.812	0.188	ND	93	Balram <i>et al.</i> 2002
Indonesian	ND	0.808	0.192	ND	60	Premawardhena <i>et al.</i> 2003
Indian ^{ff}	ND	0.649	0.351	ND	84	Balram <i>et al.</i> 2002
	ND	0.592	0.408	ND	119	Premawardhena <i>et al.</i> 2003
Sri lankan ^{ff}	ND	0.506	0.493	ND	229	Premawardhena <i>et al.</i> 2003
Yemenite ^{ff}	ND	0.746	0.254	ND	61	Premawardhena <i>et al.</i> 2003

(Table 8. Contd....)

Population	Allele Frequency				Number of Subjects	Reference
	*36	Wild-Type	*28	*37		
	A(TA) ₅ TAA	A(TA) ₆ TAA	A(TA) ₇ TAA	A(TA) ₈ TAA		
Lebanese*	ND	0.643	0.357	ND	42	Premawardhena <i>et al.</i> 2003
Hispanics*	0.011	0.614	0.375	ND	44	Hall <i>et al.</i> 1999
Parakana Indian*	ND	0.672	0.328	ND	32	Fertrin <i>et al.</i> 2002

ND: not detected.

*Significant differences ($P < 0.01$, chi-square test) in allele frequencies between the Japanese population and each ethnic population. Between Japanese and Caucasian or African populations, all four alleles were compared. Between Japanese and other Asian populations, only A(TA)₅TAA and A(TA)₇TAA were compared. When plural studies were undertaken for each ethnic population, combined data were used for comparison. The multiple comparison was corrected by Bonferroni's method.

*Not statistically analyzed due to the small number of subjects (<50 subjects).

*Not applicable for chi-square test.

(Gilbert's syndrome) [Bosma *et al.*, 1995; Monaghan *et al.*, 1996]. Another *IA1* polymorphism 211G>A (G71R, *6 allele) in exon 1 is also a causative factor for Gilbert's syndrome [Aono *et al.*, 1995], reduced metabolic activity to SN-38 [Gagne *et al.*, 2002; Jinno *et al.*, 2003a], and lower tumor response and higher incidence of grade 4 neutropenia in Koreans [Han *et al.*, 2006]. This allele is found at intermediate frequencies (0.13-0.24) in East Asians, and at low (0.01-0.10) levels in South-East Asians, but hardly found in Caucasians and Africans (Table 9). In addition, *IA1**60 allele (-3279T>G) is located in the distal enhancer region (so called phenobarbital-responsive enhancer module) and shows reduced transcriptional activity [Sugatani *et al.*, 2002]. The frequencies of this allele are very high (0.85) in Africans, high (0.35-0.55) in Caucasians, and moderate (0.17-0.34) in Asians (Table 10). A minor allele *27 (686C>A, P229Q) was reported to be associated with Gilbert's syndrome in Asians [Aono *et al.*, 1995], but its effect on enzymatic activity is marginal *in vitro* [Jinno *et al.*, 2003a]. Using these alleles, haplotypes were estimated for *UGT1A1* exon 1 in Japanese, Caucasians, and African-Americans (Fig. 4) [Sai *et al.*, 2004; Kaniwa *et al.*, 2005 for detail]. The *28 (A(TA)₇TAA), *36 (A(TA)₅TAA), and *37 (A(TA)₈TAA) alleles were found to be linked with the *60 allele (-3279T>G) in most cases forming *28*b* (and *28*c*), *36*b*, and *37*b* haplotypes, respectively. The *27 allele (686C>A, P229Q), detected only in Asians, was exclusively harbored by the *28*b* haplotype (forming *28*c* haplotype), suggesting that its association with Gilbert's syndrome may be due to its linkages with A(TA)₇TAA and -3279T>G. The *6 (211G>A, G71R) and *28 (A(TA)₇TAA) alleles are mutually exclusive. The wild-type haplotype *1*a* is less frequent in African-Americans (0.15), but about half of the Caucasians or Asians has this active haplotype (Table 11). The frequencies of *28 haplotypes were more than 0.34 in Caucasians and African-Americans, but less than 0.14 in Asians. The *60*a* haplotype was frequent in African-Americans (0.30-0.33) but less frequent in Asians (0.14-0.23) and Caucasians (0.09-0.14). The *6 haplotypes were found only in Asians with 0.13-0.24 frequencies.

In addition to the *UGT1A1* exon 1, segmental haplotypes for *UGT1A8*, *IA10*, *IA9*, *IA7*, *IA6*, *IA4*, *IA3*, and common exons 2-5 were estimated in Japanese [Sai *et al.*, 2004; Saeki

et al., 2005; 2006]. Thomas *et al.* also sequenced the *UGT1A* complex including *IA5* for 92 Caucasians and 46 Asians, and estimated segmental haplotypes of these populations separately [Thomas *et al.*, 2006]. The haplotype configurations for all segments of the complex were significantly different between Caucasians and Asians.

LDs and Haplotype Structures of UGT1A Gene Complex

Co-occurrence of the segmental haplotypes with functional changes in the *UGT1A* complex could lead to a cooperative alteration in glucuronidation activity. Using the genetic variations obtained from 196 Japanese subjects, linkage disequilibrium analysis was performed for the *UGT1A* gene complex [Saeki *et al.*, 2006 for detail]. Strong linkages were observed between *IA8* and *IA10*, among *IA9*, *IA7* and *IA6*, and between *IA3* and *IA1*. Thus, the region from *IA8* to common exons was divided into five LD blocks: Block 8/10 (*IA8* and *IA10*), Block 9/6 (*IA9*, *IA7* and *IA6*), Block 4 (*IA4*), Block 3/1 (*IA3* and *IA1*), and Block C (common exons 2-5). This block partitioning was similar to that of Thomas *et al.* [2006] in Asians except that they further divided the blocks at region *IA7*. LD profiles were considerably different between Caucasians and Asians: close linkage was observed among *UGT1A6*, *IA5*, *IA4*, *IA3* and *IA1*, forming one LD block in Caucasians [Thomas *et al.*, 2006]. Furthermore, a recent report showed that the LD profile across *UGT1A1*, *IA6* and *IA9* in African-Americans was clearly different from those of Caucasians and Asians [Maitland *et al.*, 2006].

Block haplotyping was only reported in Japanese [see Saeki *et al.*, 2006 for detail]. As for Block 8/10 consisting of two segments *IA8* and *IA10*, 14 haplotypes were inferred, and the 4 haplotypes with frequencies $\geq 5\%$ accounted for 93.8% of the total haplotypes. It is noteworthy that the low-activity *IA10* haplotype *3 (containing 605C>T, T202I, now renamed to *UGT1A10**6) [Jinno *et al.*, 2003b] was completely linked with the *IA8**1 haplotype (wild-type). Regarding Block 9/6 (*IA9*-*IA7*-*IA6*), 22 haplotypes were inferred, and the 3 haplotypes with frequencies $\geq 5\%$ accounted for 85.2% of the total haplotypes. Notably, most of the high-activity segment haplotype *IA9**22 (with -126_-118 T₉>T₁₀, now renamed to be *1*b* allele) [Yamanaka *et al.* 2004] was linked with *IA7**1 (wild-type) and *IA6**1 (wild-type). The

Table 9. Allelic Frequencies of *UGT1A1**6 (211G>A, G71R) in Different Ethnic Populations

Population	Allele Frequency	Number of Subjects	Reference
Caucasians			
German [¶]	ND	50	Akaba <i>et al.</i> 1998
Caucasian [¶]	ND	132	Innocenti <i>et al.</i> 2005
	0.007	150	Kaniwa <i>et al.</i> 2005
	ND	92	Thomas <i>et al.</i> 2006
Africans			
African-American [¶]	ND	150	Kaniwa <i>et al.</i> 2005
Asians			
Japanese	0.130	101	Akaba <i>et al.</i> 1998
	0.157	150	Kaniwa <i>et al.</i> 2005
	0.177	116	Kanai <i>et al.</i> 2005
	0.153	301	Saeki <i>et al.</i> 2006
Korean [¶]	0.230	50	Akaba <i>et al.</i> 1998
	0.213	324	Ki <i>et al.</i> 2003
	0.241	81	Han <i>et al.</i> 2006
Chinese	0.230	50	Akaba <i>et al.</i> 1998
Taiwanese	0.156	218	Huang <i>et al.</i> 2002
Thai	0.104	96	Boyd <i>et al.</i> 2006
Malay [¶]	0.030	50	Yusoff <i>et al.</i> 2006
	0.014	36	Sutomo <i>et al.</i> 2004
Indonesian (Javanese) [¶]	0.015	68	Sutomo <i>et al.</i> 2004
Asians (mostly East-Asians)*	0.130	150	Innocenti <i>et al.</i> 2005

ND: not detected.

[¶]Significant differences ($P < 0.01$, chi-square test or Fisher's exact test) in allele frequencies between the Japanese population and each ethnic population. When plural studies were undertaken for each ethnic population, combined data were used for comparison. The multiple comparison was corrected by Bonferroni's method.

*Not statistically analyzed because of mixed populations.

Table 10. Allelic Frequencies of *UGT1A1**60 (-3279T>G) in Different Ethnic Populations

Population	Allele Frequency	Number of Subjects	Reference
Caucasians			
Caucasian [¶]	0.473	55	Innocenti <i>et al.</i> 2002
	0.550	150	Kaniwa <i>et al.</i> 2005
	0.439	132	Innocenti <i>et al.</i> 2005
German	0.351	57	Kanai <i>et al.</i> 2005
Africans			
African-American [¶]	0.851	37	Innocenti <i>et al.</i> 2002
	0.847	150	Kaniwa <i>et al.</i> 2005
Asians			
Japanese	0.167	27	Sugatani <i>et al.</i> 2002
	0.257	150	Kaniwa <i>et al.</i> 2005
	0.261	157	Kanai <i>et al.</i> 2005
	0.262	301	Saeki <i>et al.</i> 2006

(Table 10. Contd....)

Population	Allele Frequency	Number of Subjects	Reference
Korean	0.327	55	Kanai <i>et al.</i> 2005
	0.267	324	Ki <i>et al.</i> 2003
	0.235	81	Han <i>et al.</i> 2006
Chinese	0.300	50	Kanai <i>et al.</i> 2005
Asians (mostly East-Asians)*	0.340	150	Innocenti <i>et al.</i> 2005

*Significant differences ($P < 0.01$, chi-square test) in allele frequencies between the Japanese population and each ethnic population. When plural studies were undertaken for each ethnic population, combined data were used for comparison. The multiple comparison was corrected by Bonferroni's method.

*Not statistically analyzed because of mixed populations.

1A7 low-activity haplotype *3 (containing -57T>G, 387T>G, 391C>A, 392G>A, and 622T>C, resulting in N129K, R131K, and W208R) [Guillemette *et al.* 2000b, Villeneuve *et al.* 2003] was mostly linked with 1A6 high-activity haplotype *2 (containing 19T>G, 541A>G, and 552A>C, resulting in S7A, T181A, and R184S, respectively) [Krishnaswamy *et al.*, 2005]. The single *UGT1A4* segment is Block 4 [Saeki *et al.*, 2005]. Using 19 genetic polymorphisms, 16 haplotypes were inferred. Regarding Block 3/1 (1A3-1A1), 16 haplotypes were inferred, and the 5 haplotypes with frequencies $\geq 5\%$ accounted for 89.5% of the total haplotypes. It is noteworthy that the high-activity segment haplotype 1A3*2 (containing 31T>C and 140T>C, resulting in W11R and V47A respectively, previous haplotype 1A3*11R47A) [Iwai *et al.* 2004] was completely linked with the low-activity haplotype 1A1*28. The low-activity haplotype 1A1*6 was linked with the 1A3*1 haplotype (wild-type) or 1A3*4 haplotype (containing 133C>T, R45W, previous haplotype 1A3*45W). The 1A3*3 haplotype (containing 31T>C, W11R, previous haplotype 1A3*11R) was perfectly linked with the low-activity 1A1*60 haplotype. As for common exons 2-5 (Block C), 14 haplotypes were inferred using 13 polymorphisms [Sai *et al.*, 2004].

Then, block-haplotype combinations (whole complex haplotypes) among Block 9/6, Block 4, and Block 3/1 were also estimated for Japanese [see Saeki *et al.*, 2006 for detail]. Block 8/10 and Block C (common exons 2 to 5) were excluded due to a high degree of recombination. We found several functionally important linkages across the blocks. The haplotype *UGT1A9**1-1A7*2-1A6*4 (containing *UGT1A7* N129K and R131K, and *UGT1A6* S7A and R184S, low activity in 1A7) [Guillemette *et al.*, 2000b] and 1A3*2-1A1*28c (containing *UGT1A3* W11R and V47A, and *UGT1A1* -3279T>G, A(TA)₇TAA and P229Q, high activity in 1A3 and low in 1A1) were perfectly linked. Most of the *UGT1A1**6-containing haplotypes (G71R, low activity) were associated with *UGT1A7**3-1A6*2 (containing *UGT1A7* N129K, R131K and W208R, and *UGT1A6* S7A, T181A and R184S, low activity in 1A7 and high in 1A6). Inversely, most of *UGT1A7**3-1A6*2 haplotypes were associated with the 1A3*2-1A1*28b (having -3279T>G and A(TA)₇TAA, low activity in 1A1) haplotypes (26% of *UGT1A7**3-1A6*2 haplotype) or *UGT1A1**6-containing haplotypes (67%). The *UGT1A7**2 (low activity), 1A4*3 (containing 142T>G, L48V, activity changes depending on the substrates) [Ehmer *et al.*, 2004, Mori *et al.* 2005] and 1A1*60 (-3279T>G, low

Nucleotide change [#]	-3279T>G (*60 allele)	A(TA) _n TAA (allele name)			211G>A (*6 allele)	686C>A (*27 allele)
		n=5 (*36)	n=7 (*28)	n=8 (*37)		
Amino acid change					G71R	P229Q
*1a						
*6a						
*6d						
*28b						
*28c						
*28d						
*36b						
*37b						
*60a						

Fig. (4). Haplotype structure of *UGT1A1*. [#]A of the translational initiation codon is numbered +1 according to the reference sequence AF297093.1. ^{*}Major allele, white; minor allele, gray.

Table 11. Haplotype Frequencies of *UGT1A1* in Different Ethnic Populations

Population	*1a	*6		*28			*36b	*37b	*60a	Number of Subjects	Reference
		*6a	*6d	*28b	*28c	*28d					
Caucasian	0.53	- [*]	- [*]	0.36	- [*]	ND	0.01	0.01	0.09	55	Innocenti <i>et al.</i> 2002
	0.451	ND	ND	0.389	ND	ND	0.017	0.007	0.135	147	Kaniwa <i>et al.</i> 2005
	0.558	ND	ND	0.340	ND	ND	- ^{**}	ND	0.102	132	Innocenti <i>et al.</i> 2005
African-American	0.15	- [*]	- [*]	0.35	- [*]	ND	0.04	0.12	0.33	37	Innocenti <i>et al.</i> 2002
	0.150	ND	ND	0.446	ND	ND	0.044	0.065	0.296	149	Kaniwa <i>et al.</i> 2005
Asian	0.526	0.130	ND	0.076	0.034	ND	ND	ND	0.233	150	Innocenti <i>et al.</i> 2005
Japanese	0.582	0.151	ND	0.121	0.005	0.005	ND	ND	0.136	195	Sai <i>et al.</i> 2004
	0.610	0.141	0.003	0.097	0.003	ND	ND	ND	0.145	150	Kaniwa <i>et al.</i> 2005
Korean	0.518	0.235	ND	0.061	- ^{***}	0.012	ND	ND	0.172	81	Han <i>et al.</i> 2006

ND: Not detected.

^{*}211G>A and 686C>A were not genotyped.^{**}A(TA)₇TAA was detected in an extra subject but excluded from the haplotype analysis.^{***}686C>A was not genotyped.

activity) were very closely linked with each other. In addition, we found that *UGT1A10*3* (now *6, having T202I, low activity) was strongly linked with these *1A7*2*, *1A4*3*, and *1A1*60* (80% of *UGT1A10*3*). These linkages across the segments were also reported in other populations. Kohle *et al.* reported close linkages among *1A1*28* (A(TA)₇TAA), *1A6*2* (T181A/R184S) and *1A7*3* (N129K/R131K/W208R) in Caucasians and Egyptians [Kohle *et al.*, 2003]. Linkage between *1A1*6* and *1A7*3* alleles was also suggested in Taiwanese [Huang *et al.*, 2005]. Note that different profiles for the linkage of *1A7*3* with the *1A1* polymorphisms between the Caucasians and East Asians reflect the facts that the frequency of the *1A1*6* haplotype in the East Asian populations was relatively high, and that the *1A1*28* and *6 alleles were mutually exclusive [Sai *et al.*, 2004]. Innocenti *et al.* reported the linkage between *UGT1A9* and *1A1* haplotypes, and the most common three *1A9-1A1* haplotype combinations were *1A9*22* (now *1b, with -126_-118 T₉>T₁₀)-*1A1*1* (frequency: 36.4%), *1A9*1-1A1*28b* (28.0%) and *1A9*1-1A1*1* (18.6%) for Caucasians, and *1A9*22* (*1b)-*1A1*1* (45.3%), *1A9*1-1A1*60* (22.3%) and *1A9*1-1A1*6* (12.7%) for Asians (mostly from East Asians) [Innocenti *et al.*, 2005]. For Japanese, *1A9*22* (*1b)-*1A1*1*, *1A9*1-1A1*60*, and *1A9*1-1A1*6* (58.5%, 11.9%, and 13.3%, respectively) were also the three most common combinations, and most of the *1A1*1* haplotype (98%) was linked with *1A9*22* (*1b), and 87% of *1A1*6*, 100% of *1A1*28c*, and 93% of *1A1*60* were associated with *1A9*1* [Saeki *et al.*, 2006]. A recently published report also showed that *1A9*22* (*1b)-*1A1*1*, *1A9*1-1A1*60*, and *1A9*1-1A1*6* (48.1%, 16.0%, and 20.4%, respectively) were also the most common three combinations in Koreans [Han *et al.*, 2006]. Collectively, haplotype combinations are suggested to be different between Caucasians and East Asians.

These linkages might be crucial for the metabolism of a certain drug in which two or more *UGT1A* isoforms are sig-

nificantly involved. In fact, multiple *UGT* isoforms contribute to glucuronidation of several compounds. For example, *UGT1A1*, *1A9* and *1A7* have glucuronidation activity to SN-38 [Ciotti *et al.*, 1999; Gagne *et al.*, 2002]. The *1A1*60*, *28, and *6 haplotypes are associated with reduced *UGT1A1* activity [Beutler *et al.*, 1998; Sugatani *et al.*, 2002; Jinno *et al.*, 2003a]. The *1A7*3*, but not *2, haplotype has a reduced (by 60%) glucuronidation activity to SN-38 [Gagne *et al.*, 2002]. As described in the above haplotype analyses, most *1A7*3*-containing haplotypes were estimated to be linked with *1A1*28* in Caucasians or with either *1A1*6* or *1A1*28* in East Asians. Thus, it is often difficult to distinguish the contributions of low-activity *1A1* and *1A7* haplotypes *in vivo*.

Since plural *UGT* isoforms are often involved in the glucuronidation of "one" compound, co-occurrence of the functionally less active haplotypes in the entire *UGT1A* gene complex needs careful consideration in studies on the association of genetic polymorphisms with pharmacokinetic parameters and both clinical and epidemiological data.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

In this review, we described the influence of genetic polymorphisms/haplotypes on drug metabolism and drug response. However, it should be noted that the genetic polymorphisms/haplotypes are just one of the important factors that contribute to the ethnic and interindividual differences in drug response. For example, the contribution of genetic polymorphisms/haplotypes (mainly *CYP2C9* and *VKORC1* encoding a target enzyme of warfarin) were estimated to be 25 to 44% to the anti-coagulant warfarin dose requirements in 4 different Asian populations [Lee *et al.*, 2006b; Obayashi *et al.*, 2006]. Other non-genetic factors such as age, gender, co-medications, and diagnosis are also important determinants for the dosage. Epigenetic factors may also be important to determine the expression levels of drug metabolizing enzymes. As for *CYP3A4*, Hirota *et al.* [2004] reported

skewed expression of CYP3A4 mRNA between two alleles, and the allelic expression ratio (less expressed mRNA/more expressed mRNA) varied from 0.3 to 1. This allelic expression ratio correlated well with CYP3A4 mRNA levels as well as testosterone 6 β -hydroxylation activity. In addition, DNA methylation was also suggested to influence the CYP3As' expression in HepG2 cells [Dannenberg and Edenberg 2006].

Although depending on the genes, expression of CYPs and UGT1As were also regulated by nuclear receptors such as PXR/SXR and VDR as discussed in the CYP3A4 section [Drocourt *et al.*, 2002; Handschin and Meyer, 2003]. Since many xenobiotics are ligands for PXR/SXR [Handschin and Meyer 2003], co-medications, supplements and/or food ingredients are thought to be the influencing factors for PXR/SXR activation, thereby enhancing target gene expression. Since vitamin D also enhances the expression of CYP3A4 and CYP2C9 through binding to VDR [Drocourt *et al.*, 2002], it is possible that supplements and/or food ingredients could change the expression of these genes. Therefore, these environmental factors may also affect the enzymatic activity and thus the drug response.

However, under certain combinations of enzyme and drug, genetic polymorphisms could explain interindividual or interethnic diversities of pharmacokinetic and/or pharmacodynamic parameters. For example, pharmacogenetic studies in Caucasians have shown close associations of *UGT1A1**28 with reduced glucuronidation of SN-38 and incidence of severe neutropenia [Marsh and McLeod, 2004; Ando and Hasegawa, 2005]. Accordingly, the Food and Drug Administration in the United States has approved an amendment of the label for Camptosar (irinotecan HCl), to which was added a warning to consider a reduction in the starting dose of irinotecan for *28 homozygous patients (NDA 20-571). However, in East Asians, the influence of *UGT1A1**6 on irinotecan toxicities could be also substantial as suggested by *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies [Gagne *et al.*, 2002; Jinno *et al.*, 2003a; Sai *et al.*, 2004; Han *et al.*, 2006]. Thus, ethnic profiles of polymorphisms and haplotypes should be determined prior to clinical applications of genetic polymorphisms. Detailed haplotype data for drug metabolizing enzymes, transporters and receptors would be useful for further pharmacogenetic studies.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AUC = Area under the plasma concentration-time curve
 CYP = Cytochrome P450

EM = Extensive metabolizer
 htSNP = Haplotype-tagging SNPs
 IVS = Intervening sequence
 LD = Linkage disequilibrium
 PM = Poor metabolizer
 PXR/SXR = Pregnane/steroid X receptor
 SNP = Single nucleotide polymorphism
 UGT = Uridinediphosphoglucuronate glucuronosyltransferase
 VDR = Vitamin D receptor
 XREM = Xenobiotic-responsive enhancer module

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