



Research paper

Association between genetic variants in oxidative stress-related genes and osteoporotic bone fracture. The Hortega follow-up study



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ABSTRACT

The most widely accepted etiopathogenesis hypothesis of the origin of osteoporosis and its complications is that they are a consequence of bone aging and other environmental factors, together with a genetic predisposition. Evidence suggests that oxidative stress is crucial in bone pathologies associated with aging. The aim of this study was to determine whether genetic variants in oxidative stress-related genes modified the risk of osteoporotic fracture. We analysed 221 patients and 354 controls from the HORTEGA sample after 12–14 years of follow up. We studied the genotypic and allelic distribution of 53 SNPs in 24 genes involved in oxidative stress. The results showed that being a carrier of the variant allele of the SNP rs4077561 within *TXNRD1* was the principal genetic risk factor associated with osteoporotic fracture and that variant allele of the rs1805754 *M6PR*, rs4964779 *TXNRD1*, rs406113 *GPX6*, rs2281082 *TXN2* and rs974334 *GPX6* polymorphisms are important genetic risk factors for fracture. This study provides information on the genetic factors associated with oxidative stress which are involved in the risk of osteoporotic fracture and reinforces the hypothesis that genetic factors are crucial in the etiopathogenesis of osteoporosis and its complications.

1. Introduction

Osteoporosis, the most common bone disorder worldwide (OMIM: 166710), is characterized by low bone mineral density (BMD), reduced bone mass and alteration of the bone microarchitecture, leading to enhanced bone fragility and an increased risk of bone fracture (Kanis 1997; Yang et al. 2020). Osteoporosis is a silent, progressive systemic

bone disease with dramatic clinical, social, and economic consequences. The principal clinical consequence of osteoporosis is bone fracture. Age is an independent risk factor for bone fracture, with older subjects having a fracture risk up to 10 times higher than younger subjects. Bone fractures are associated with a worse quality of life and increased disability, morbidity and mortality (Adachi et al. 2010; Kanis 2002; Sheer et al. 2020).

Abbreviations: BMD, Bone mineral density; GWAS, Genome-wide association studies; ROS, Reactive oxygen species; FoxO, Forkhead box, class O; WHO, World Health Organization; PIXL, Peripheral instantaneous X-ray imaging; SNPs, Single nucleotide polymorphisms; ANOVA, One-way analysis of variance; ORs, Odd ratios; 95% CI, 95% confidence intervals; CART, Classification and regression tree approach; Txn, Thioredoxin; TxnR1, Txn reductase 1; Txn2, Thioredoxin 2; GPxs, Glutathione peroxidases; M6pr, Mannose-6-phosphate receptor.

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The most widely accepted etiopathogenic hypothesis of the aetiology of osteoporosis and osteoporotic bone fracture is the synergic action of environmental and genetic factors. Twin and family studies have shown that genetic variants could explain 50–80 % of the risk of osteoporosis. In addition, a family history of osteoporosis had been associated with an increased risk of bone fracture. In this scenario, Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) have been crucial providing information about the genetic architecture of osteoporosis and bone fracture predisposition (Trajanoska and Rivadeneira 2019; Stewart and Ralston 2000; Rivadeneira and Mäkitie 2016). With respect to environmental factors, osteoporosis and fracture may be secondary to the bone aging process in combination with reductions in sex hormone levels, other metabolic alterations, nutritional deficiencies and adverse medication effects (Kanis 1997; Yang et al. 2020; Kanis 2002).

The increase in fracture risk associated with bone aging is a very complex process which involves systemic, local and genetic factors (Corrado et al. 2020; Khosla et al., 2018; Feehan et al., 2019). An increase in reactive oxygen species (ROS) is an important factor in the aging of tissues, including bone (Corrado et al. 2020). Several reports have suggested that ROS and oxidative stress could play a crucial role in bone alterations associated with senescence (Corrado et al. 2020; Almeida et al. 2007; Essers et al. 2005). The relationship between high levels of ROS and low BMD has been reported in various studies (Sharma et al. 2015; Zhou et al. 2016; Bonaccorsi et al. 2018; Domazetovic et al.

2017). High levels of ROS promote the activation of Forkhead box, class O (FoxO) transcription factor, which is involved in the activation of the cell defence mechanisms against oxidative stress (Essers et al. 2005), but it has also been observed that the increase in FoxO was also associated with a concomitant reduced β -catenin expression (Manolagas and Almeida 2007). β -catenin plays a crucial role in the Wnt pathway and, therefore, in osteoblast differentiation (Bennett et al. 2005; Riancho et al. 2011). Bone loss and the increased risk of fracture associated with high levels of ROS and oxidative stress have been attributed to the fact that high levels of ROS cause a reduction in the activation of the β -catenin-Wnt pathway (Corrado et al. 2020; Manolagas and Almeida 2007). Therefore, the aim of this study was to determine whether polymorphisms in genes implicated in oxidative stress modify the risk of osteoporotic fracture.

2. Subjects and methods

2.1. Subjects

The Hortega Study is a population-based survey of adult residents from the East Valladolid Health Department (Rio Hortega University Hospital, Spain) that investigated cross-sectional and prospective associations between genetic, metabolomic and environmental risk factors and chronic diseases. The multi-stage complex sampling yielded a

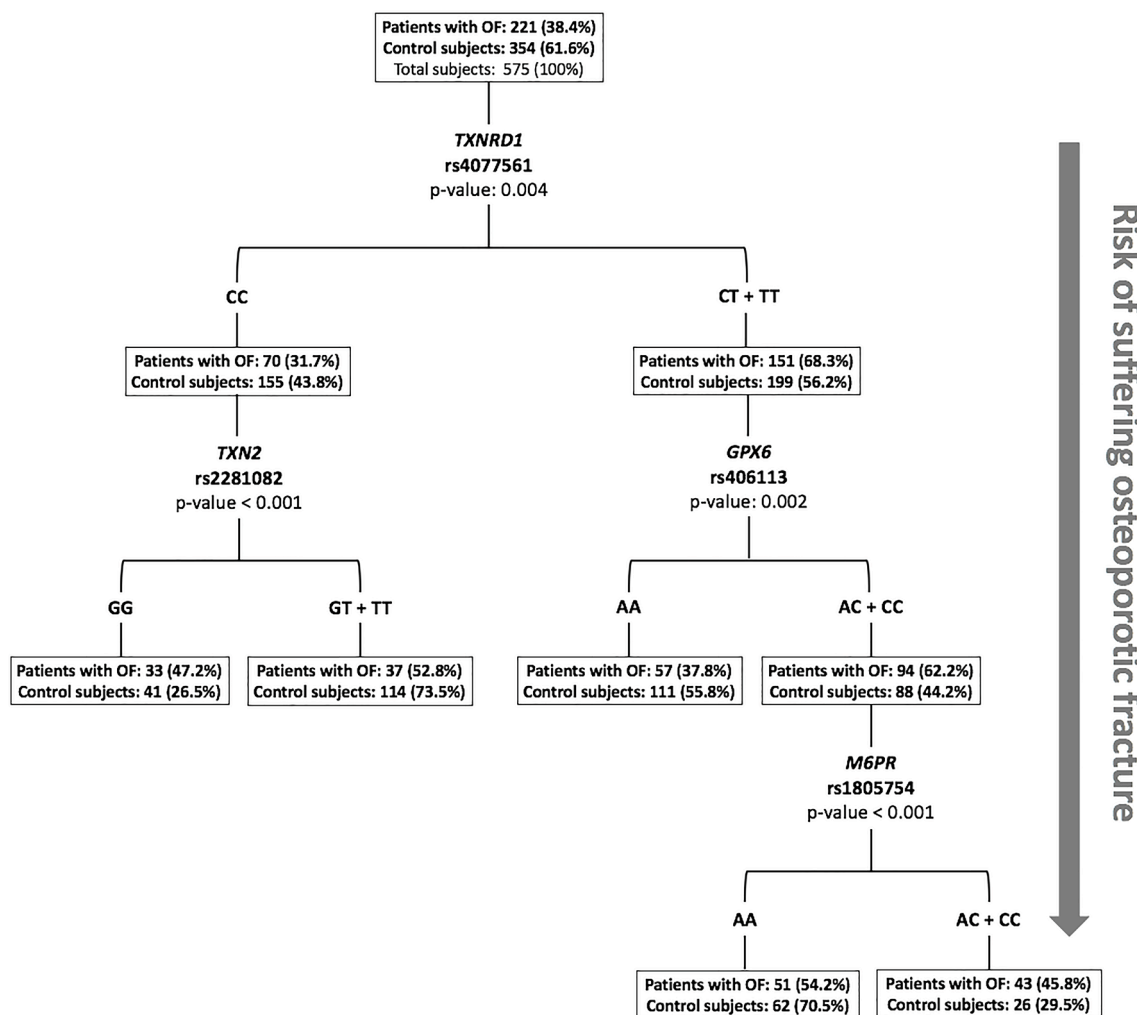


Fig. 1. Classification and regression tree (CART) analysis to assess the association between the variant allele of the polymorphisms included in the study and the risk of osteoporotic fracture. The procedure examined all possible independent variables (polymorphisms) and selected the one most closely associated with the risk of osteoporotic fracture, generating different groups (or nodes). OF: osteoporotic fracture.

representative sample of 1502 subjects. The follow up of the Ortega Study participants started in 2001–2003 (baseline examination visit and collection of biological specimens) and added information on mortality and incident health endpoints in November 2015 (Tellez-Plaza et al. 2019; Mansego et al. 2008; Morales-Suárez-Varela et al. 2011; de Marco et al. 2019; Usategui-Martín et al. 2020).

To analyse the influence of genetic factors on the risk of osteoporotic fracture we selected subjects from the Ortega Study, as previously described (Usategui-Martín et al. 2020). In brief, of the 1502 baseline participants, we excluded 137 subjects due to lack of demographic, anthropometric or clinical data, resulting in a study population of 1365. After analysis of subjects aged ≥ 50 years ($N = 702$), we excluded 49 participants missing follow-up information, 15 with a personal history of bone fractures at baseline and 63 participants without bone X-ray, resulting in a study population of 575 subjects. Subjects with bone fracture ($N = 221$) were considered cases and those without ($N = 354$) controls (Supplementary Fig. 1).

From each subject we collected demographic, anthropometric, and clinical characteristics including age, sex, height, weight, body mass index (BMI), smoking, alcohol consumption, menopause, corticosteroid use, family history of osteoporotic fracture and calcaneal bone densitometry. BMI was calculated by dividing weight in kilograms by height in metres squared. Obesity, hypertension, and type 2 diabetes mellitus were diagnosed according to World Health Organization (WHO) criteria (<http://www.who.int>). Calcaneal bone densitometry was performed on the right calcaneus using the peripheral instantaneous X-ray imaging (PIXI) DXA system (General Electric Lunar Pixi, Boston, MA, USA). Vertebral fractures were determined according to the Genant classification (Genant et al. 1993). Non-vertebral fractures were obtained from the medical record. Osteoporotic fractures were determined after a follow up of 12–14 years.

The experimental protocol was in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki (2008) of the World Medical Association, and was approved by the University Hospital of Valladolid Ethics Committee and was in compliance with Spanish data protection laws (LO 15/1999) and specifications (RD 1720/2007). All subjects who agreed to participate gave written informed consent.

2.2. DNA isolation and polymorphism genotyping

Genomic DNA from peripheral blood leukocytes was isolated by standard commercial procedures (Chemagic Magnetic Separator, Chemagen, Baesweiler, Germany). DNA was quantified and diluted to a final concentration of 100 ng/ μ L. Genotyping was performed using the SNPlex oligonucleotide ligation assay (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA) following the manufacturer's recommendations. The selection of single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) was conducted by SYSNP (Hirschhorn and Daly 2005; Lorente-Galdos et al. 2012) and computer-based searches of the following databases: PubMed, Web of Science, Scopus, and Embase electronic databases using the terms such as “bone metabolism”, “reactive oxygen species”, “bone”, “SNPs”, “polymorphisms”, “genetic variants”. SNPs were selected according to the following considerations: functional known or potentially functional effect, location in promoter regions, $MAF > 0.1$ in Caucasian subjects, localization and distribution along the gene (including upstream and downstream regions) and low described linkage disequilibrium between candidate SNPs. NCBI and HapMap databases were used to collect information about SNPs and determine the gene and pathway involved in each polymorphism included. We selected 53 polymorphisms for genotyping in 24 genes involved in oxidative stress pathway (Table 1). 15 genes were classified as antioxidant genes (*CAT*, *GCLC*, *GCLM*, *GPX6*, *GSR*, *GSS*, *M6PR*, *MSRB2*, *OGG1*, *SOD1*, *SOD2*, *SOD3*, *TXN*, *TXN2* and *TXNRD1*) and 9 genes as reactive species generators (*CYBB*, *NCF2*, *NCF4*, *NOS2A*, *NOX1*, *NOX3*, *NOX4*, *NOX5* and *XDH*). We included genetic variants with potential influence in the gene expression and function, we also included the most relevant polymorphisms described

Table 1
Summary of the 53 selected polymorphisms in 24 genes.

Gene	Chr	SNP id	Alleles	Feature
<i>CAT</i>	11	rs1049982	C/T	5'UTR
		rs511895	A/G	Intronic
		rs7104301	A/G	Downstream
<i>CYBB</i>	X	rs5964125	A/G	Intronic
		rs5964151	G/T	3'UTR
<i>GCLC</i>	6	rs1014852	A/T	Intronic
		rs11415624	T/A	3'UTR
		rs3736729	A/C	Intronic
<i>GCLM</i>	1	rs7515191	A/G	Intronic
<i>GPX6</i>	6	rs406113	A/C	Missense
		rs974334	C/G	Intronic
<i>GSR</i>	8	rs1002149	G/T	Promoter
		rs2911678	A/T	Intronic
		rs2273684	G/T	Intronic
<i>GSS</i>	20	rs1805754	A/C	Promoter
<i>M6PR</i>	12	rs11013291	C/T	Intronic
<i>MSRB2</i>	10	rs2274064	C/T	Missense
		rs2296164	C/T	Intronic
<i>NCF2</i>	1	rs2072712	C/T	Synonymous
<i>NCF4</i>	22	rs2779248	C/T	Synonymous
<i>NOS2A</i>	17	rs2779248	C/T	Upstream
<i>NOX1</i>	X	rs4827881	A/C	Upstream
		rs5921682	A/G	Upstream
<i>NOX3</i>	6	rs3749930	G/T	Missense
<i>NOX4</i>	11	rs490934	C/G	Intronic
<i>NOX5</i>	15	rs34990910	A/G	Intronic
		rs2036343	A/C	Promoter
<i>OGG1</i>	3	rs1052133	C/G	Missense
<i>SOD1</i>	21	rs17881274	C/T	Upstream
<i>SOD2</i>	6	rs2842980	A/T	Downstream
		rs2855116	G/T	Intronic
<i>SOD3</i>	4	rs2284659	G/T	Promoter
<i>TXN</i>	22	rs4135168	A/G	Intronic
		rs4135179	A/G	Intronic
		rs4135225	C/T	Intronic
<i>TXN2</i>	22	rs2281082	G/T	Intronic
<i>TXNRD1</i>	12	rs4964778	C/G	Intronic
		rs4964779	C/T	Intronic
		rs5018287	A/G	Intronic
		rs10861201	A/C	Intronic
		rs4077561	C/T	Promoter
		rs4964287	C/T	Synonymous
		rs17011368	C/T	Missense
		rs206801	C/T	Intronic
		rs206812	A/G	Promoter
		rs207454	A/C	Intronic
<i>XDH</i>	2	rs10175754	C/T	Intronic
		rs1346644	C/G	Intronic
		rs1429374	A/G	Intronic
		rs17011353	C/T	Intronic
		rs17323225	C/T	Missense
		rs1884725	A/G	Synonymous
		rs2073316	A/G	Intronic
		rs761926	C/G	Intronic

in the literature associated to oxidative stress genes (Forsberg et al., 2001; Rodrigues et al. 2014).

2.3. Statistical analysis

Quantitative variables were expressed as mean \pm standard deviation (SD) and qualitative variables as absolute (n) and relative (%) frequencies. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to determine differences between quantitative variables, and the chi-square test to compare qualitative variables. The healthy subject group was tested for conformity to the Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium using the chi-square test for each polymorphism. Odds ratios (ORs) and 95 % confidence intervals (95 % CI) were estimated for each polymorphic variant using unconditional logistic regression models to evaluate the association with osteoporotic fracture risk: p-values were adjusted by sex, age, BMI, BMD, menopause, hypertension and family history of osteoporotic fracture. Given the high number of significance test to detect association between

polymorphic variant and experimental groups, Benjamini-Hochberg corrections was carried out.

The classification and regression tree approach (CART) was used to assess potential interactions between polymorphisms significantly associated with osteoporotic fracture, demographic, anthropometric and clinical characteristics and the risk of osteoporotic fracture (Breiman et al., 1984). CART analysis is a binary recursive partitioning method which produces a graphical structure that resembles a decision tree. This enables identification of subgroups of subjects with a higher risk of osteoporotic fracture. A set of patients containing the entire sample is classified into groups by a dependent factor (in this case: patients and control subjects). The procedure examines all possible independent factors (or variables) and selects the one that is most closely associated with respect to the dependent variable and creates two new groups (nodes). The partition process is repeated in each node and stops when there is no association between the dependent variable and independent variables, or the sample size of the group is small ($N < 100$). Bonferroni adjustment was applied in the CART analysis.

We made a power analysis related to the chi-square test (contingency table) and OR to study the association between polymorphisms and bone fracture (yes/no). The results showed a power = 1 with degree freedom: 2; effect size moderate: 0.5; level of significance: 0.05 and sample size: 500. The results also showed a power = 0.99947 with degree freedom: 2; effect size small: 0.23; level of significance: 0.05 and sample size: 500. The analysis to detect the power of the statistical significance of OR with level of significance: 0.05, event probability: 0.40, genotypic basal probability: 0.20 and sample size: 500 showed OR = 1.88 (power = 0.80), OR = 2.43 (power = 0.97) and OR = 3.1 (power = 0.99).

The statistical analyses were performed using SPSS software. The Benjamini-Hochberg adjustment was carried out with the R-stats package. P values < 0.05 were considered as statistically significant.

3. Results

A total of 221 patients with osteoporotic fracture and 354 control subjects were analysed after a 12–14 year follow up. Table 2 summarizes the demographic, anthropometric and clinical characteristics of study subjects. The only significant difference was that the family history of osteoporotic fracture was higher in patients with fractures than in controls (Table 2).

Table 3 shows the genotypic frequencies of polymorphisms significantly associated with the risk of osteoporotic fracture. The genotype

Table 2
Demographic, anthropometric and clinical characteristics of study subjects.

	Control subjects	Patients with OF
Age (years old), mean \pm SD	61.88 \pm 16.32	61.37 \pm 17.88
Female sex, n (%)	189 (53.4 %)	107 (48.4 %)
Height (cm), mean \pm SD	164.53 \pm 9.16	164.19 \pm 9.50
Weight (kg), mean \pm SD	71.35 \pm 13.54	70.96 \pm 12.78
BMI (kg/m ²), mean \pm SD	26.32 \pm 4.30	26.29 \pm 4.12
Obesity, n (%)	84 (24.9 %)	59 (28.2 %)
Overweight, n (%)	123 (36.5 %)	79 (37.8 %)
Central obesity, n (%)	82 (24.0 %)	59 (27.4 %)
Hypertension, n (%)	143 (40.4 %)	83 (37.6 %)
Diabetes mellitus, n (%)	27 (7.6 %)	14 (6.3 %)
Smoking, n (%)	81 (23.2 %)	58 (26.5 %)
Alcohol, n (%)	67 (19.0 %)	54 (24.4 %)
Postmenopausal, n (%)	165 (46.61 %)	89 (40.27 %)
Corticosteroids, n (%)	38 (10.79 %)	29 (13.1 %)
Family history of OF, n (%)	1 (0.3 %)	10 (4.5 %)*
BMD (g/cm ²), mean \pm SD	0.55 \pm 0.11	0.53 \pm 0.11
BMD (t-score), mean \pm SD	-0.17 \pm 1.10	-0.19 \pm 1 0.38

*: p-value < 0.05 between control subjects and patients with osteoporotic fracture.

OF: osteoporotic fracture.

BMI: body mass index.

BMD: bone mineral density.

distribution of these polymorphisms in the control sample were in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. The variant genotypes of the rs1805754 *M6PR*, rs4964779 *TXNRD1*, rs4077561 *TXNRD1*, rs406113 *GPX6* and rs974334 *GPX6* polymorphisms were associated with an increased risk of osteoporotic fracture (Table 3). In addition, the variant genotype of the rs2281082 *TXN2* polymorphism was associated with a reduced risk of osteoporotic fracture (Table 3). Codominance analysis confirmed that being a carrier of the variant genotype of the polymorphisms described above was associated with the risk of osteoporotic fracture (Table 3). Table 4 shows the allelic frequencies of the polymorphisms in genes involved in oxidative stress that were significantly associated with the risk of osteoporotic fracture. The C allele of rs1805754 *M6PR*, the C allele of rs4964779 *TXNRD1*, the T allele of rs4077561 *TXNRD1*, the C allele of rs406113 *GPX6* and the G allele of rs974334 *GPX6* were associated with an increased risk of osteoporotic fracture (Table 4). In addition, the T allele of the rs2281082 *TXN2* polymorphism was associated with a reduced risk of osteoporotic fracture (Table 4). The results after Benjamini-Hochberg adjustment did not significantly differ from those reported above (Supplementary Table 1). The frequencies of polymorphisms that were not associated with the risk of osteoporotic fracture are summarized in Supplementary Table 2.

CART analysis showed that being a carrier of the variant genotype (CT + TT) of the rs4077561 *TXNRD1* polymorphism was the principal genetic risk factor for osteoporotic fracture. In carriers of the variant genotype of the rs4077561 *TXNRD1* polymorphism, subjects with the variant genotype (AC + CC) of the rs406113 *GPX6* polymorphism showed the highest risk of osteoporotic fracture. Variant genotypes of the rs2281082 *TXN2* and rs1805754 *M6PR* polymorphisms were also important genetic risk factors for fracture. Thus, the CT + TT of the rs4077561 *TXNRD1*, AC + CC of the rs406113 *GPX6* and the AC + CC of the rs1805754 *M6PR* polymorphisms are the combination of genotypes with an increased risk of suffering osteoporotic fracture. CART analysis showed no associations between demographic, anthropometric and clinical characteristics, and the risk of osteoporotic fracture (Fig. 1).

4. Discussion

The most widely accepted hypothesis on the origin of osteoporosis and its complications is that they are a consequence of aging and other environmental factors together with a genetic predisposition (Yang et al. 2020; Kanis 2002; Mitek et al. 2019). Our results confirm the crucial role of genetic factors, as the family history of osteoporotic fracture was significantly higher in patients than in control subjects. Evidence suggests that ROS and oxidative stress may be crucial in bone alterations associated with aging, such as osteoporosis and bone fracture (Sharma et al. 2015; Zhou et al. 2016; Bonaccorsi et al. 2018; Domazetovic et al. 2017) and it has also been reported that genetic variability plays an important role in the oxidative stress response to aging (Dato et al. 2013). Therefore, we studied whether genetic variants in genes involved in oxidative stress modify the risk of bone fracture. Our results showed that the variant allele of the rs1805754 *M6PR*, rs4964779 *TXNRD1*, rs4077561 *TXNRD1*, rs406113 *GPX6*, rs2281082 *TXN2* and rs974334 *GPX6* polymorphisms were associated with osteoporotic fracture. The results are in line with our previous report which suggested that the polymorphisms in genes involved in pathways associated with aging may be a crucial factor in the risk of osteoporotic fracture (Usategui-Martín et al. 2020).

The thioredoxin (Txn) pathway is the most important cell antioxidant system and regulates the cells redox status, which plays a crucial role in antioxidant defence (Lu and Holmgren 2014; Pannala and Dash 2015). The Txn endogenous regulator is Txn reductase 1 (TxnR1), a selenoprotein that reduces Txn and other compounds, thereby detoxifying cells from oxidative injuries (Arnér 2009; Turanov et al. 2010). It has been reported that Txn and TxnR1 are crucial to neuroprotection, inflammation regulation, antiapoptosis processes and the immune function (Holmgren and Jun, 2010). In has been suggested that *TXNRD1*

Table 3

Genotypic frequencies of polymorphisms in genes involved in oxidative stress significantly associated with the risk of osteoporotic fracture.

Gene	SNP	Genotype	Control subjects	Patients with OF	p-value	OR (95 % CI)
			(n (%))	(n (%))		
<i>M6PR</i>	rs1805754	AA	254 (71.8 %)	117 (52.9 %)	–	1.00
		AC	87 (24.6 %)	80 (36.2 %)	<0.001	1.99 (1.37–2.90)
		CC	13 (3.7 %)	24 (10.9 %)	<0.001	3.99 (1.97–8.14)
<i>TXNRD1</i>	rs4964779	AA	254 (71.8 %)	117 (52.9 %)	–	1.00
		AC + CC	100 (28.2 %)	104 (47.1 %)	<0.001	2.25 (1.58–3.20)
		AA + AC	341 (96.3 %)	197 (89.1 %)	–	1.00
		CC	13 (3.7 %)	24 (10.9 %)	0.001	3.19 (1.59–6.41)
		TT	285 (81.4 %)	148 (69.8 %)	–	1.00
	rs4077561	TC	45 (12.9 %)	39 (18.4 %)	0.034	1.66 (1.04–2.67)
		CC	20 (5.7 %)	25 (11.8 %)	0.006	2.40 (1.29–4.47)
		TT	285 (81.4 %)	148 (69.8 %)	–	1.00
		TC + CC	65 (18.6 %)	64 (30.2 %)	0.002	1.89 (1.27–2.82)
		TT + TC	330 (94.3 %)	187 (88.2 %)	–	1.00
		CC	20 (5.7 %)	25 (11.8 %)	0.12	2.20 (1.19–4.07)
<i>TXN2</i>	rs2281082	CC	155 (43.8 %)	70 (31.7 %)	–	1.00
		CT	158 (44.6 %)	111 (50.2 %)	0.020	1.55 (1.07–2.25)
		TT	41 (11.6 %)	40 (18.1 %)	0.004	2.16 (1.28–3.63)
		CC	155 (43.8 %)	70 (31.7 %)	–	1.00
		CT + TT	199 (56.2 %)	151 (68.3 %)	0.004	1.68 (1.18–2.39)
	rs406113	CC + CT	313 (88.4 %)	181 (81.9 %)	–	1.00
		TT	41 (11.6 %)	40 (18.1 %)	0.030	1.68 (1.05–2.70)
		GG	104 (29.4 %)	101 (45.9 %)	–	1.00
		GT	157 (44.4 %)	92 (41.8 %)	0.008	0.60 (0.41–0.87)
		TT	93 (26.3 %)	27 (12.3 %)	<0.001	0.29 (0.18–0.49)
<i>GPX6</i>	rs406113	GG	104 (29.4 %)	101 (45.9 %)	–	1.00
		GT + TT	250 (70.6 %)	119 (54.1 %)	<0.001	0.49 (0.34–0.69)
		GG + GT	261 (73.7%)	193 (87.7 %)	–	1.00
		TT	93 (26.3 %)	27 (12.3 %)	<0.001	0.39 (0.24–0.62)
		AA	191 (54.0 %)	88 (39.8 %)	–	1.00
	rs974334	AC	129 (36.4 %)	92 (41.6 %)	0.020	1.54 (1.07–2.23)
		CC	34 (9.6 %)	41 (18.6 %)	<0.001	2.61 (1.55–4.40)
		AA	191 (54.0 %)	88 (39.8 %)	–	1.00
		AC + CC	163 (46.0 %)	133 (60.2 %)	0.001	1.77 (1.25–2.49)
		AA + AC	320 (90.4 %)	180 (81.4 %)	–	1.00
		CC	34 (9.6 %)	41 (18.6 %)	0.002	2.14 (1.31–3.49)
rs974334	CC	271 (77.0 %)	139 (64.7 %)	–	1.00	
	CG	75 (21.3 %)	61 (29.0 %)	0.022	1.58 (1.06–2.35)	
	GG	6 (1.7 %)	10 (4.8 %)	0.025	3.24 (1.15–9.12)	
	CC	271 (77.0 %)	139 (64.7 %)	–	1.00	
	CG + GG	81 (23.0 %)	71 (33.8 %)	0.006	1.70 (1.17–2.49)	
rs974334	CC + CG	346 (98.3 %)	200 (95.2 %)	–	1.00	
	GG	6 (1.7 %)	10 (4.8 %)	0.043	2.88 (1.13–8.05)	

OF: osteoporotic fracture.

OR: odds ratios.

CI: confident interval.

gene variability could modify the antioxidants associated with aging (Soerensen et al. 2012; Dato et al. 2014; Dato et al. 2015). We found that the principal genetic risk factor for osteoporotic fracture is being a carrier of the variant genotype of the rs4077561 polymorphism, which is a genetic variant located in the promoter region of the *TXNRD1* gene. Our hypothesis is that the variant genotype of this gene promoter polymorphism could modify *TXNRD1* expression, altering the antioxidant response associated with bone aging and favouring the risk of osteoporotic fracture. In addition, the results showed the rs4964779 *TXNRD1* polymorphism was associated with bone fracture, reinforcing the hypothesis that *TXNRD1* gene variability may be crucial in the predisposition to osteoporotic fracture. Genetic variants in *TXNRD1*

have been associated with cardiovascular disease, heart failure, stroke, Alzheimer disease, arthritis, cancer and other diseases associated with aging (Soerensen et al. 2012; Dato et al. 2014; Dato et al. 2015), but this is the first time they have been associated with the risk of bone fracture. Thioredoxin 2 (Txn2) is another redox protein of the Txn pathway that is essential for the control of ROS homeostasis, apoptosis and cell viability (Cunningham et al. 2015; Pérez et al. 2008; Holzerova et al. 2016). The Txn2 protein is located in the matrix mitochondria and is encoded by the *TXN2* nuclear gene (Spyrou et al. 1997). It has been reported that genetic alterations in *TXN2* are associated with impaired mitochondrial function and increased oxidative stress (Pérez et al. 2008; Holzerova et al. 2016). We found an association between the variant genotype of

Table 4

Allelic frequencies of polymorphisms in genes involved in oxidative stress significantly associated with the risk of osteoporotic fracture.

Gene	SNP	Allele	Control subjects	Patients with OF	p-value	OR (95 % CI)
			n (%)	n (%)		
<i>M6PR</i>	rs1805754	A	595 (84.0 %)	314 (71.0 %)	–	1.00
		C	113 (16.0 %)	128 (29.0 %)	<0.001	2.14 (1.61–2.86)
<i>TXNRD1</i>	rs4964779	T	615 (87.9 %)	335 (79.0 %)	–	1.00
		C	85 (12.1 %)	89 (21.0 %)	<0.001	1.92 (1.38–2.66)
	rs4077561	C	468 (66.1 %)	251 (56.8 %)	–	1.00
		T	240 (33.9 %)	191 (43.2 %)	0.002	1.48 (1.16–1.89)
<i>TXN2</i>	rs2281082	G	365 (51.6 %)	294 (66.2 %)	–	1.00
		T	343 (48.4 %)	146 (33.2 %)	<0.001	0.49 (0.41–0.67)
<i>GPX6</i>	rs406113	A	511 (72.2 %)	268 (60.6 %)	–	1.00
		C	197 (27.8 %)	174 (39.4 %)	<0.001	1.68 (1.30–2.16)
		G	617 (87.6 %)	339 (80.7 %)	–	1.00
	rs974334	C	617 (87.6 %)	339 (80.7 %)	–	1.00
		G	87 (12.4 %)	81 (19.3 %)	0.002	1.69 (1.21–2.35)

OF: osteoporotic fracture.

OR: odds ratios.

CI: confident interval.

the rs2281082 *TXN2* polymorphism and a reduced risk of osteoporotic fracture, suggesting the G allele resulted in increased risk of bone fracture. The rs2281082 *TXN2* polymorphism has also been studied in other conditions associated with aging (Rodrigues et al. 2014; Harris et al. 2007; Seibold et al. 2011) but this is the first time a significant association has been found. Our results confirm that genetic variants in genes involved in the Txn pathway could be crucial to the risk of osteoporotic fracture.

Glutathione peroxidases (GPxs) are crucial in protecting against oxidative stress and eight GPxs family members with antioxidant capacity in different physiological and pathological situations have been identified (McLean et al. 2005; Kryukov et al. 2003; Ramming et al. 2014; Mehmeti et al. 2017; Chen et al. 2020). In addition, it has been suggested that the inactivation of GPxs is associated with the induction of oxidative stress (Miyamoto et al. 2003). We found that the second principal genetic risk factor for bone fracture is being a carrier of the C allele of the rs406113 *GPX6* polymorphism. This is a missense variant in the first exon of the *GPX6* gene that involves the Phe13Leu variation of the signal peptide region of the GPx6 protein. The rs406113 *GPX6* polymorphism could be located in an exon splicing site, this fact has only predicted in silico, therefore the real effect of the SNP should be assessed in specific experiments. Even so, the polymorphism may have regulatory gene expression implications (Xu and Taylor 2009; Rupérez et al. 2014). We hypothesize that it could modify GPx6 protein synthesis and thereby modify the response to oxidative stress, increasing the risk of osteoporotic fracture. We also found that the rs974334 *GPX6* gene variant was associated with the risk of bone fracture, reinforcing the idea that *GPX6* polymorphisms could play an important role in the predisposition to osteoporotic fracture. Polymorphisms in the *GPX6* gene have been studied in congenital heart diseases, obesity and cancer (Chowdhury et al. 2012; Rodrigues et al. 2014; Rupérez et al. 2014; Kuchenbaecker et al. 2015; Costa-Urrutia et al. 2020) but, to the best of our knowledge, this is the first time that *GPX6* genetic variants have been associated with the risk of bone fracture. Oxidative stress and ROS damage play an important role in cell death induced by lysosome dysfunction and may be associated with alterations in the autophagy degradation pathway, inhibition of the lysosome enzyme function and lysosome membrane damage. Oxidative stress may cause lysosomal damage directly or by causing secondary damage through the increase in damaged macromolecules and organelles (Pivtoraiko et al. 2009; Antunes et al., 2001). Mannose-6-phosphate receptor (M6pr) is crucial in lysosome function as it is involved in the transport of lysosomal hydrolases from the Golgi apparatus to the lysosomes. M6pr is a transmembrane glycoprotein which is encoded by the *M6PR* gene (Porter et al. 2013). We analysed whether genetic variants in the *M6PR* gene modified the risk of osteoporotic fracture and found that the C allele of the rs1805754 polymorphism increased the risk. The rs1805754 genetic variant is located in

the promoter region of the *M6PR* gene, and therefore could modify the gene expression. We found that the C allele of the rs1805754 polymorphism could alter *M6PR* gene transcription and therefore modify the lysosomal function in conditions of oxidative stress, increasing the risk of fracture.

The study had some limitations. First, it might have been interesting to analyze the influence of these genetic variants on central bone mineral density (vertebral and hip) but we only recorded calcaneal bone densitometry. Secondly, the size of the sample was limited, although the statistical power analysis showed that the sample size was sufficient for our objective. Thirdly, the associations reported in our results should be taken with caution due to the high number of comparisons made: our study lays the foundation for future research to define the role of these polymorphisms. The main strengths of the study are the cohort of subjects drawn from a study with 12–14 years of follow up, and the similarity of patients and control subjects, which is important in determining the influence of genetic factors.

In summary, we found an association between polymorphisms in genes involved in oxidative stress and the risk of bone fracture, reinforcing the hypothesis that genetic factors are crucial in the etiopathogenesis of osteoporosis and its complications. We also provide information, for the first time, on the importance that genetic variants in genes encoding antioxidant proteins have in the risk of osteoporotic fracture. Future studies are required to define the role of these polymorphisms in the risk of osteoporotic fracture including studies in other series of patients will be necessary to validate our findings.

Author contribution

RUM and JLPC performed the statistical analysis, analysed and interpreted results and wrote the manuscript. JMV performed the statistical analysis. FLH, ABGG and FJC obtained genetic data, contributed to analysis and interpretation and reviewed the manuscript. LBF, JAO, JCME obtained population data, made critical revisions of the manuscript and contributed to the discussion. RUM, JLPC, FJC and JCME designed the study

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Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gene.2021.146036>.

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