Association between \textit{IL2/IL21} and \textit{SH2B3} polymorphisms and risk of celiac disease: a meta-analysis

C.C. Guo\textsuperscript{1}, W.H. Huang\textsuperscript{1}, N. Zhang\textsuperscript{1}, F. Dong\textsuperscript{1}, L.P. Jing\textsuperscript{1}, Y. Liu\textsuperscript{1}, X.G. Ye\textsuperscript{1}, D. Xiao\textsuperscript{1}, M.L. Ou\textsuperscript{1}, B.H. Zhang\textsuperscript{1}, M. Wang\textsuperscript{1}, W.K. Liang\textsuperscript{1}, G. Yang\textsuperscript{2,3} and C.X. Jing\textsuperscript{1,3}

\textsuperscript{1}Department of Epidemiology, School of Medicine, Jinan University, Guangzhou, Guangdong, China
\textsuperscript{2}Department of Parasitology, School of Medicine, Jinan University, Guangzhou, Guangdong, China
\textsuperscript{3}Key Laboratory of Environmental Exposure and Health in Guangzhou, Jinan University, Guangzhou, Guangdong, China

Corresponding authors: C.X. Jing / G. Yang
E-mail: jcxphd@gmail.com / guangyangphd@gmail.com

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\textbf{ABSTRACT.} Celiac disease (CD) is a common autoimmune disorder characterized by heightened immunological response to ingested gluten. Certain gene polymorphisms of \textit{IL2/IL21} (rs6822844 and rs6840978) and \textit{SH2B3} (rs3184504) may influence susceptibility to CD, although the effects remain unclear. We performed a meta-analysis of the associations between rs6822844, rs6840978, and rs3184504 polymorphisms and CD risk. PubMed, EMBASE, and the China National Knowledge Infrastructure were searched. ORs and 95\%CIs of each single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) were estimated using the fixed-effect model if $I^2 < 50\%$ in the test of heterogeneity; otherwise, the random-effect model was used. Our meta-analysis included 12,986 CD cases and 28,733 controls from 16 independent samples, and the analysis of each SNP contained a subset of the total. We found that the minor allele T of both rs6822844 (T vs G, OR
rs6822844 (T vs C, OR = 0.72, 95%CI = 0.67-0.78, P < 0.001) and rs6840978 (T vs C, OR = 0.76, 95%CI = 0.71-0.83, P < 0.001) in *IL2/IL21* significantly decreased the risk of CD. However, the minor allele A of rs3184504 (A vs G, OR = 1.18, 95%CI = 1.12-1.24, P < 0.001) in *SH2B3* significantly increased CD susceptibility. The estimated lambda values were 0.49, 0.50, and 0.53 for rs6822844, rs6840978, and rs3184504, respectively, suggesting that a co-dominant model of genotype effect was most appropriate for the three SNPs. Our results support associations between the three SNPs and CD and provide a strong argument for further research.

**Key words:** *IL2/IL21; SH2B3; Single nucleotide polymorphisms; Celiac disease; Meta-analysis*