1 SUBMITTED 14 JUL 21 REVISIONS REQ. 10 OCT 21; REVISIONS RECD. 12 DEC 21 2 3 ACCEPTED 12 JAN 22 4 **ONLINE-FIRST: FEBRUARY 2022** DOI: https://doi.org/10.18295/squmj.2.2022.016 5 6 The association of Human Leukocyte Antigens Complex with Type 1 Diabetes 7 in Omanis 8 Mohammed Al-Balushi, Samiya Al-Badi, Saif Al-Yaarubi, Hamad Al-9 Riyami, ⁴ Azza Al-Shidhani, ³ Shaima Al-Hinai, ³ Ali Alshirawi, ⁵ Sidgi Hasson, ¹ 10 Elias Said, Ali Al-Jabri, *Aliya Al Ansari² 11 Departments of ¹Microbiology & Immunology, ³Child Health, ⁴Genetics, ⁵Medicine, College of 12 Medicine, ²Department of Biology, College of Science, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, 13 Oman. 14 *Corresponding Author's e-mail: alansari@squ.edu.om 15 16 **Abstract** 17 Background: Identifying the human leukocyte antigens (HLA) high risk alleles, genotypes and 18 haplotypes in different populations is beneficial for understanding their roles in type 1 diabetes 19 20 (T1D) pathogenesis and intervention practices. *Objective:* The aim of this study was to identify T1D associated HLA gene alleles in the Omani population. *Methods:* Our case-control study 21 included 73 diabetic seropositive children (mean age 9.08±3.27 years) and 110 healthy controls. 22 HLA-A, -B, -C, -DRB1, and -DOB1 genes were genotyped using sequence specific primer 23 polymerase chain reaction (SSP-PCR). **Results:** Two HLA class I alleles (B*08, B*58) and three 24 25 class II alleles (DOB1*02, DRB1*03 and DRB1*04) were associated with T1D susceptibility, 26 while one class I (B*51) and three class II (DQB1*05, DQB1*06, and DRB1*16) alleles were 27 associated with T1D protection. HLA- DRB1*03 and DQB1*02 alleles showed the strongest risk association among all alleles. Six DRB1 residues (E⁹, S¹¹, S¹³, Y³⁰, V⁷⁰ and K⁷¹) were significantly 28 associated with T1D susceptibility. Heterozygous genotypes, HLA-DRB1*03/*04 and 29

DQB1*02/*03 were significantly associated with T1D susceptibility (P=4.29E-07, OR=63.2 and

- 31 P=0.02, OR=3.6, respectively). Furthermore, we detected a significant combined action of
- 32 DRB1*03-DQB1*02 haplotype in T1D risk (P=1.76E-05, OR=15), and DRB1*16-DQB1*05
- haplotype in protection (*P*=3.12E-2, OR=0.48). *Conclusion:* Known HLA class II gene alleles are
- 34 associated with T1D in Omani children.
- 35 Keywords: Type 1 diabetes; human leukocytes antigens; zygosity; alleles; residues; haplotypes,
- 36 case-control study; Oman

38

Advances in Knowledge

- HLA class II alleles (*DQB1*02*, *DRB1*03* and *DRB1*04*) are the major genetic risk factors for T1D in Omanis.
- Combined action in *DRB1*16-DQB1*05* haplotype is associated with T1D protection.
- Combined action in *DRB1*03-DQB1*02* haplotype is associated with T1D risk.

43 Application to Patient Care

• The associated gene alleles can be used for disease prediction and intervention.

44 45

46

Introduction

- 47 Type 1 diabetes (T1D) is a common incurable chronic autoimmune disease of childhood, with an
- 48 estimated incidence increase of 9.5% globally. It is a complex disease that develops from
- 49 collective contribution from genetic, epigenetic, and environmental factors.²

50

- Both the cellular and humoral adaptive immune mechanisms are implicated in T1D. The destruction
- of β-cells driven by self-reactive CD8+ and CD4+ T cells leads to total insulin deficiency.³
- Autoantibodies to pancreatic islet β -cell autoantigens are detected prior to disease development
- and are used as biomarkers for β-cells dysfunction and T1D progression.⁴

55

- Determining the associated environmental triggers, autoimmune-mechanisms and predisposing
- 57 genetic background hold potentials for interventions through prediction, prevention or slowing
- down the rate of disease progression.

- T1D estimated heritability is high (0.53 to 0.92) and familial and population based genetic studies
- 61 identified more than 60 genes, responsible for about 80% of the disease heritability. Most of the

T1D genetic predisposition (60%) is attributed to the human leukocytes antigen (HLA) class I and class II genes, in the major histocompatibility complex (MHC) region, which encode for proteins that present antigenic peptides for CD8+ and CD4+ T cells, respectively.⁶

Markedly, 45% of the genetic predisposition is attributed to HLA class II genes⁷, thus, it is considered as a major genetic risk determinant for T1D. The strongest T1D risk is associated with the *DRB1*, *DQA1*, *DQB1* gene alleles and there is a cumulative supporting evidence for the role of *DRB1* and *DQB1* genes in combination as a haplotype.⁸ In European, more than 95% of T1D cases have DR3 (*HLA-DRB1*0301-DQB1*0201*) or DR4 (*HLA-DRB1*04-DQB1*0302*). ⁷ The same HLA susceptibility and protection gene alleles and haplotypes were reported in Arabs.⁹

With the current knowledge about autoantigens, genetic risk alleles and biomarkers, disease interventions are more informed and can be considered at three stages: prior to the development of autoimmunity (primary prevention), after autoimmunity is recognized (secondary prevention) or after diagnosis, if significant numbers of β -cells are left (tertiary prevention).

In a study conducted over two years on Omani children with T1D (9 months -14 years), reported incidence rates of 2.45 and 2.62 per 100, 1000 P-Y in 1993 and 1994, respectively. The reported gender-specific incidence rates among boys and girls were 3.23 and 1.99 per 100,000 P-Y in 1993 and 2.91 and 1.95 per 100,000 P-Y in 1994, respectively. During the two years, they found higher age-specific incidence rates in the 10–14year old group children compared to the younger age group. Furthermore, a retrospective (June 2006 to May 2013) analysis of 144 T1D Omani children reported that the disease is highly prevalent in the family history of these patients (22%). 11

In Oman, the incidence of T1D is comparatively less than other Arabs, and also, ketoacidosis reported to be less in the Omani cases¹¹. Although the Omani population is genetically related to Mediterranean and West-Asian populations^{12,13}, the high frequency of *HLA-DR2* and *-DQ1* alleles (*DRB1*15* and *DRB1*16*, and *DQB1*05* and *DQB1*06*, respectively) were suggested as genetic protection factor against T1D in the Omani population.¹⁴ However, it remains to be elucidated whether this is true or attributed to low frequency of risk alleles.

To identify the potential HLA gene alleles associated with T1D risk and/or protection in Omanis, we genotyped T1D patients, attending the pediatric clinic at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital (SQUH) in Muscat for HLA class I (*A*, *B* and *C*) and class II (*DRB1* and *DQB1*) alleles and

95 compared them to healthy Omani controls.

96 97

Materials and methods

98 Statement on Ethics

- The study was approved by the Ethics Research Committee in the College of Medicine and Health Science. A written informed consent was obtained from all participants guardians enrolled in the
- study to use their blood sample for research purpose.

102

103

Cases and Controls

One hundred Omani diabetic patients attending the pediatric clinic at SQUH were included based on their medical records (mean age 9.31±3.27 years, 47% male and 53% female). All patients did not have another autoimmune disease or syndrome and the diagnosis of T1D was confirmed by the presence of diabetes autoantibodies to islet cell (ICA) and glutamic acid decarboxylase (GADA). Family history of T1D and T2D in cases was recorded.

109

Peripheral venous blood samples (5 ml) were collected in EDTA – anticoagulated vacutainer tubes and stored at -20 °C. HLA data for 110 healthy potential bone marrow stem cell donors (mean age 10.77±3.36 years, 51% male and 49% female) from the national HLA database was used as the healthy population control.

114

DNA was extracted from whole blood samples using QIAamp® DNA Medi Kit according to the manufacturer's instructions (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany). DNA concentration and purity was measured using Nano Drop spectrophotometer (ND 2000; Thermo Scientific, Germany). The extracted DNA (20-35 ng/μl) was HLA genotyped for *HLA-A*, -*B*, -*C*, -*DRB1*, and -*DQB1* loci using a commercial sequence specific primer polymerase chain reaction (SSP-PCR) following the manufacturer's protocol (Olerup SSP). The generated genotypes data are at low resolution.

Agarose gel (1.3 %) electrophoresis was used to detect the amplified PCR product. The gel was 122 visualized using the gel documentation system INGENIUS 3 (Syngene) with GeneSys software. 123 124 The appearance of the internal control bands in all lanes indicated successful amplification of the studied DNA. Negative control wells were checked for contamination. HLA genotypes for each 125 locus were identified using the Olerup SSP score software (version 5.00.72.5T). 126 127 **Statistical analysis** 128 Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium tests were conducted for each locus using the Basic statistics tool 129 (One locus summary) available at HLA-net (https://hla-net.eu/tools/basic-statistics). Alleles at 130 each locus were considered in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium if the observed and expected 131 (estimated) frequencies did not differ significantly (P > 0.05). 132 133 Tests for allele associations, zygosity, as well as tests for, independence, difference in association, 134 combined action, interaction, and linkage disequilibrium were conducted using PyHLA.¹⁵ 135 136 The comparison of allele frequencies was performed using Fisher's exact test. The P value for each 137 test was corrected for multiple comparisons by FDR. Adjusted P values less than 0.05 was 138 considered statistically significant. The strength of the association between HLA antigens and T1D 139 was determined by odds ratio (OR). An OR ≥ 1.5 was associated with susceptibility or ≤ 0.5 with 140 141 resistance. 142 In addition, tests for pockets with significant residues association were conducted using SKDM 143 human leukocyte antigen tool.¹⁶ 144 145 146 Results Out of the initially screened 100 T1D patients, 73 (73%, mean age 9.08±3.27 years, 41.1% male 147 and 58.9% female) were included in the study because they were seropositive for GADA and/or 148 ICA autoantibodies. Twenty-six patients (26%) were seronegative (mean age 9.77±3.25 years, 149 150 61.5% male and 38.5% female), out of which three patients (two males and one female) were heterozygous for mutations in different genes (KLF11, WFS1 and HNF1A). About 23% of the 151 152 seropositive cases have family history of T1D and 59% of T2D. About 19% of the seronegative

153 cases have family history of T1D and 54% of T2D. One patient was excluded as no antibodies test 154 results were reported. 155 All tested loci were in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium in cases but not in controls (Supplementary 156 data). However, as our single center project is considered as a preliminary study, we did conduct 157 the association tests to detect any potential associations. 158 159 HLA Class I and II Loci are Associated with Risk and Protection of T1D 160 Association test results indicated that the risk and protection of T1D in seropositive cases are 161 associated with alleles belonging to the HLA class I (HLA-B) and class II, (HLA-DRB1 and HLA-162 DQB1) genes [Table 1]. 163 164 The strongest significant susceptibility alleles are the HLA-DRB1*03 (P=9.19E-11, OR= 5) and 165 DQB1*02 (P=9.76E-08, OR=3.5). We also observed that the seropositive cases for GADA 166 (98.6%), ICAs (23.3%) or both autoantibodies (21.9%) have more *DRB1*03* or *DRB1*04* alleles 167 168 (95.8%), than the seronegative cases (65.2%) and healthy controls (39%). However, the presence of risk alleles did not correlate with higher GADA autoantibody levels and the presence of 169 170 protection alleles did not correlate with lower levels. 171 172 Seronegative cases also, showed significant risk association with HLA-DRB1*03 and -DQB1*02 alleles but to a lesser extent (P=1.74E-3, OR= 5.6 and P=1.20E-2, OR= 4.4). 173 174 The most significant resistance alleles are HLA-DQB1*06 (P=6.40E-05, OR=0.05) and HLA-175 176 *DQB1*05* (*P*=9.59E-05, OR=0.4). 177 Zygosity at HLA Class II Loci is Associated with Risk and Protection of TID 178 The zygosity tests were performed to investigate homozygous, heterozygous, and zygosity 179 180 associations based on the genotype frequency differences in cases and controls. The results 181 indicated that HLA-DRB1*03 and DQB1*02 zygosity is associated with disease susceptibility

(P=2.3E-05, OR=8.2 and P=6.6E-07, OR=9.4, respectively), i.e., significantly higher frequency

- of risk allele homozygous genotypes than risk allele absent genotypes in cases compared to in
- controls [Table 2].

- Notably, heterozygous genotypes, *DRB1*03/04* and *DQB1*02/03* are associated with significant
- 187 T1D risk (P=4.294e-07, OR= 63.2; P=0.02, OR =3.6, respectively).

188

- However, heterozygosity, i.e., higher frequency of risk alleles (B*08, B*58, DRB1*03 DQB1*02
- and *DRB1*04*) heterozygous genotypes than risk allele absent genotypes in cases compared to in
- controls, is associated with disease protection (P=0.03, OR=0.46; P=1.0E-12, OR=0.08; P=3.5E-
- 192 06, OR=0.17; and *P*=0.01, OR=0.33, respectively).

193

- T1D protection is associated with zygosity of protective alleles, *DRB1*16* (*P*=1.3E-3, OR=0.10)
- and DQB1*05 (P=4.5E-05, OR= 0.11) and susceptibility is associated with DQB1*06
- 196 heterozygosity (*P*=4.14E-04, OR=10.77).

197

198

Pocket residues of HLA Class II DRB1 chain are Associated with increased risk of T1D

- As the HLA genotypes dictate the affinity to the presented peptides, the T1D associated HLA
- alleles are implicated in the selective presentation of self-peptides. Therefore, we investigated the
- 201 potentially associated residues in the HLA chains using the pocket test. The results showed that
- six residues (Glu-9, E^9 ; Ser-11, S^{11} ; Ser-13, S^{13} ; Tyr-30, Y^{30} ; Val-70, V^{70} ; and Lys-71, K^{71}) in
- pockets 4, 6, 7 and 9 of HLA class II DRB1 chain are significantly associated with T1D
- susceptibility [Table 3] [Figure 1].

205

- 206 The zygosity analysis for five associated residues showed that only the heterozygotes are
- associated with T1D susceptibility ($E^9 P=1.547E-7$, 6.04; $S^{11} P=3.13E-12$, 10.43, $S^{13} P=3.13E-12$,
- 208 10.43, V^{70} P=7.357E-13, 11.68, and K^{71} P=3.13E-12, 10.43). In contrast, residue Y^{30} homozygotes
- 209 (P=1.199E-7, 33.65), heterozygotes (P=0.02305, 6.7) and zygosity (P=8.753E-6, 5.02) are all
- associated with T1D susceptibility.

212 Interactions between T1D associated alleles

- 213 Since T1D association with HLA alleles reported at the haplotypic context as well as the genotypic
- context, we also analyzed the associated allele interactions. Two haplotypes found to be associated
- 215 with risk (*HLA-B*08-DRB1*03*, *P*8=1.57E-08, OR=12.71 and *HLA-DRB1*03-DQ*02*,
- 216 P8=1.66E-12, OR=14.99) [Table 4] [Figure 2]. However, the interaction analysis indicated that
- 217 *DRB1*03* association with T1D is independent of B*08 (*P*5=8.23E-04, *P*6=1.95E-09), while B*08
- association is dependent (P3=0.64, P4=1) and that both alleles have a combined effect in disease
- 219 (P8=1.57E -08) [Table 4]. Also, our data indicated that a combined -dependent effect of the HLA-
- 220 DRB1*03-DQ*02 haplotype results in T1D susceptibility, while a combined -dependent effect of
- 221 the *DRB1*16-DQB1*05* haplotype results in protection [Table 4] [Figure 2].

222

223

Discussion

- The risk and protection to T1D in Omani are associated with alleles belonging to the HLA-B, HLA-
- 225 DRB1 and HLA-DQB1 genes [Table 1], which were reported in other populations.⁸ This was
- expected as the Omani population is genetically related to Arab, Mediterranean and West-Asian
- 227 populations. 12,13,17

228

- The HLA class I alleles associated with T1D susceptibility are B*08 (P=1.82E-02, OR= 2.51),
- 230 B*58, P=2.86E-02, OR=2.47) and with protection is B*51 (P=1.82E-02, OR=0.41). These
- associated were reported in previous studies. 18 B*08 association with autoimmune diseases was
- 232 attributed to its presence in linkage disequilibrium (LD) with *DRB1*03*, ¹⁸ which we observed in
- both cases and controls [Table 4]. Furthermore, results indicated that B*08 association is
- dependent on DRB1*03. Also, B*58 is part of a significantly associated haplotype in North Indians
- and Han Chinese and results from both populations suggested that the association is not attributed
- to the allele itself. 19,20

- As predicted by a past study, T1D protection in Omanis was found to be associated with HLA-
- DR2 (*DRB1*16*) and DQ1 (*DQB1*05* and *DQB1*06*) alleles. ¹⁴ The highest significant resistance
- alleles are *HLA-DQB1*06* (*P*=6.40E-05, OR=0.05) and *HLA-DQB1*05* (*P*=9.59E-05, OR=0.4).
- However, despite the high frequency of the *DRB1*16* allele in the Omanis compared to other
- populations²¹, its significant association with protection is relatively weaker (P=0.02, OR=0.5).

- This is likely due to the presence of different alleles (DRB1*16:01:01, 16:02:01 and 16*64,
- personal communication) in the Omani population and not all are not protective.

- Notably, about 96% of the seropositive cases have either *DRB1*03* or *DRB1*04* allele but the
- presence of these alleles did not associate with higher GADA autoantibody levels. Also, no
- association was detected between GADA autoantibody levels and risk or protection genotypes.

249

- The zygosity test showed that the HLA-DRB1*03 and DQB1*02 zygosity are associated with risk,
- while heterozygosity is associated with protection (P=1.0E-12, OR=0.08 and P=3.5E-06,
- OR=0.17, respectively), indicating that the risk associated with both alleles is recessive, as
- suggested by others. Also, we detected that heterozygous genotypes, *DRB1*03/04* (*P*=4.294e-07,
- OR= 63.2) and DQB1*02/03 (P=0.02, OR =3.6), are associated with significant T1D risk.

255

- In contrast, the protection associated with heterozygosity of the same risk associated alleles may
- be attributed to the presence of protection alleles in the genotypes. Twenty-seven of the HLA-
- 258 DRB1*03 heterozygous cases (44) have one of the HLA-DR2 protection associated alleles (five
- cases with *DRB1*15* and 22 with *DRB1*16*) and thirty of the *HLA-DQB1*02* heterozygous cases
- 260 (39) have one of the HLA-DQ1 protection associated alleles (29 cases with DQB1*05 and one
- 261 with *DQB1*06*).

262

- Also, the zygosity test showed that the protection associated with *DQB1*05* and *DRB1*16* are
- significant in homozygosity, suggesting that the protection associated with both alleles is
- recessive.

- The side chains of self-peptide residues interaction with the binding groove pockets, stabilize the
- peptide—HLA-class II complex and therefore they are known as the anchor residues. The binding
- 269 grooves of HLA class II chains are characterized by the properties of the P1, P4, P6 and P9 pockets
- 270 that specificity the anchor residues. ²²T1D associated residues 9, 11, 13 and 30 are located in the
- β-sheet floor and their side chains are in the peptide-binding groove, while residues 70 and 71 are
- in the α -helix but their side chains are close to residue 13 [Figure 1]. DRB1 S¹³ is in pocket 4, K⁷¹
- in pockets 4 and 7, V^{70} in pocket 4, S^{11} in pocket 6, E^9 in pockets 6 and 9 and Y^{30} in pocket 6. As

- S¹³, V⁷⁰ and K⁷¹ were associated with the strongest disease risk based on the P values and OR values, they might be the major contributors from pocket 4.
- S^{13} and K^{71} association with T1D susceptibility was reported by others^{23,24} and they were
- implicated in joint susceptibility to both T1D and autoimmune thyroid disease. 25 S 11 , S 13 and K 71
- 279 residues were also associated with risk to rheumatoid arthritis. 26 This suggests common disease
- 280 mechanisms that operate irrespective of the presented self-peptides.
- 282 Transgenic mice expressing TID human class II susceptibility alleles, showed that MHC class II
- 283 molecules present specific autoantigenic peptides, such as GAD65 peptides²⁷, which can
- potentially activate autoreactive CD4+ T cells that is known to assist in targeting β cells by
- 285 cytotoxic CD8+ and autoantibody producing B cells.

281

286

293

- Interaction tests suggested that the association of *HLA-DRB1*03* and *-DQB1*02* haplotype with
- T1D risk is resulting from a combined -dependent effect [Table 4]. Notably, 78% of cases with
- 289 this haplotype were GADA positive, as reported by others.²⁸ This suggested that both susceptibility
- 290 HLA alleles and anti GAD are risk factors for T1DM. However, we did not detect an association
- between risk alleles and higher GADA levels. This may indicate that GADA autoantibody level,
- 292 which is implicated in the destructive process in the islets, is not genetically driven.
- Also, the analysis indicated that the association with T1D is resulting from a combined -dependent
- effect of the *DRB1*16-DQB1*05* haplotype [Table 4]. This haplotype thought to have a protective
- role, but its rare occurrence in Caucasians and east -Asians, could not prove its effect in T1D
- resistance. Furthermore, we also believe that DRB1*16-DQB1*05 haplotype in Omanis could
- 298 potentially protect autoantibody seropositive first-degree relatives from T1D, like the HLA-
- 299 DRB1*15:01-DQB1*06:02 haplotype in other populations.⁶
- 301 Although other T1D associated haplotypes were reported in the Omani population, such as
- 302 DRB1*04-DQB1*03 (7.7%), DRB1*07-DQB1*02 (6.4%) and DRB1*15-DQB1*06 (1%) 12, we
- did not detect significant LD in the investigated group of cases and controls, which is likely due
- 304 to small sample size.

305	Notably, the frequency of seronegative cases (26%) is higher than what was reported from other
306	ethnic groups (20%). ²⁹ However, a relatively weaker association of T1D with <i>HLA-DRB1</i> and -
307	DQB1 alleles in seronegative cases, may reflect the fact that some of the cases may be positive for
308	other autoantibodies associated with T1D that where not tested for in this study or they may show
309	positive on repeat testing, as reported by Hameed et al ³⁰
310	
311	A major limitation of the study was the sample size, because it was based on a single center.
312	Therefore, we recommend conducting a larger size multi-center study to at least double the cases
313	sample sizes and increase the controls to cases ratio (at least 3:1) to reach acceptable power (≥80%)
314	for verifying our preliminary study results. In addition, sequencing of the associated risk and
315	protection allele should be considered.
316	
317	Conclusion
318	The majority of the seropositive T1D cases (71%) have family history of T1D and/or T2D. Despite
319	the study small sample size, we identified DQB1*02, DRB1*03 and DRB1*04 as potential risk
320	alleles in GADA and/or ICA seropositive T1D in Omani children. In addition, we detected an
321	association of the DRB1*16-DQB1*05 haplotype with T1D protection in a combined -dependent
322	manner.
323	
324	Acknowledgement
325	We would like to thank all patients and their parents. We also aknowledge the support from Dr Irfan
326	Ullah from the Pediatric Department at SQUH, and Ms Faiza Al-Yahyai and Ms Faiza Al-Ghanami and
327	Ms Iman Al-Hadhili from the Genetic lab. Special thanks to Dr Felix Fan and Dr Abdelhamid
328	Abdesselam for their assistance in utilizing pyHLA.
329	
330	Conflict of interest
331	The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.
332	
333	Funding
334	This work was supported by TRC fund, Oman (RClMEDlMICR114101).
335	

Authors' contributions

- 337 MA-B, AA-J, SH and ES developed the proposal. MA-B, SA-B, AA-S, SA-H and AA collected
- the data. MA-B and HA-R ordered the required materials. MA-B and SA-B conducted the
- laboratory work. SA-Y reviewed the clinical and family histories. SA-B and AA-A analysed the
- data. AA-A drafted the manuscript. MA-B and SA-Y revised the manuscript. All authors
- approved the final version of the manuscript.

342343

336

References

- 1. Mobasseri M, Shirmohammadi M, Amiri T, Vahed N, Fard HH. Prevalence and incidence
- of type 1 diabetes in the world: a systematic review and meta-analysis. 2020; 10:98-115.
- doi: https://doi.org/10.34172/hpp.2020.18.
- 347 2. Stankov K, Benc D, Draskovic D. Genetic and Epigenetic Factors in Etiology of Diabetes
- Mellitus Type 1. Pediatrics. 2013; 132:1112-1122. doi: https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2013-
- 349 1652.
- 350 3. Wållberg M, Cooke A. Immune mechanisms in type 1 diabetes. Trends Immunol. 2013;
- 34:583-591. doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.it.2013.08.005.
- 4. Jacobsen LM, Newby BN, Perry DJ, Posgai AL, Haller MJ, Brusko TM. Immune
- Mechanisms and Pathways Targeted in Type 1 Diabetes. Curr Diab Rep. 2018; 18. doi:
- 354 https://doi.org/10.1007/s11892-018-1066-5.
- Lam H V., Nguyen DT, Nguyen CD. Sibling method increases risk assessment estimates
- for type 1 diabetes. PLoS One. 2017; 12:1-9. doi:
- 357 https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0176341.
- 358 6. Pugliese A. Autoreactive T cells in type 1 diabetes. J Clin Invest. 2017; 127:2881-2891.
- doi: https://doi.org/10.1172/JCI94549.
- 7. Dib SA, Gomes MB. Etiopathogenesis of type 1 diabetes mellitus: prognostic factors for
- the evolution of residual β cell function. Diabetol Metab Syndr. 2009; 1:1-8. doi:
- 362 https://doi.org/10.1186/1758-5996-1-25.
- Noble JA. Immunogenetics of type 1 diabetes: A comprehensive review. J Autoimmun.
- 364 2015; 64:101-112. doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaut.2015.07.014.
- 365 9. Zayed H. Genetic Epidemiology of Type 1 Diabetes in the 22 Arab Countries. Curr Diab
- Rep. 2016; 16. doi: https://doi.org/10.1007/s11892-016-0736-4.

- 367 10. Soliman AT, Al-Salmi IS, Asfour MG. Epidemiology of childhood insulin-dependent
- diabetes mellitus in the Sultanate of Oman. Diabet Med. 1996; 13:582-586. doi:
- https://doi.org/10.1002/(SICI)1096-9136(199606)13:6<582::AID-DIA114>3.0.CO;2-E.
- 370 11. Al-Yaarubi S, Ullah I, Sharef SW, et al. Demographic and clinical characteristics of type 1
- diabetes mellitus in omani children single center experience. Oman Med J. 2014;
- 372 29:119-122. doi: https://doi.org/10.5001/omj.2014.29 [doi].
- 373 12. Albalushi KR. HLA Class II (DRB1 and DQB1) Polymorphism in Omanis. J Transplant
- Technol Res. 2014; 4. doi: https://doi.org/10.4172/2161-0991.1000134.
- 375 13. Al Salmi I, Metry A, Al Ismaili F, et al. Epidemiology of human leukocyte antigens
- among omani population. Saudi J Kidney Dis Transplant. 2017; 28:1021. doi:
- 377 https://doi.org/10.4103/1319-2442.215135.
- 378 14. White AG, Leheny W, Kuchipudi P, et al. Histocompatibility antigens in Omanis:
- Comparison with other Gulf populations and implications for disease association. Ann
- 380 Saudi Med. 1999; 19:193-196. doi: https://doi.org/10.5144/0256-4947.1999.193.
- 381 15. Fan Y, Song YQ. PyHLA: Tests for the association between HLA alleles and diseases.
- BMC Bioinformatics. 2017; 18:1-5. doi: https://doi.org/10.1186/s12859-017-1496-0.
- 383 16. Kanterakis S, Magira E, Rosenman KD, Rossman M, Talsania K, Monos DS. SKDM
- human leukocyte antigen (HLA) tool: A comprehensive HLA and disease associations
- analysis software. Hum ImKanterakis, S, Magira, E, Rosenman, K D, Rossman, M,
- Talsania, K, Monos, D S (2008) SKDM Hum Leukoc antigen tool A Compr HLA Dis
- Assoc Anal software Hum Immunol 69(8), 522–525 https://doi.o. 2008; 69:522-525. doi:
- 388 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.humimm.2008.05.011.
- 389 17. Jahromi M, Al-Ozairi E. Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) and Islet Autoantibodies Are
- Tools to Characterize Type 1 Diabetes in Arab Countries: Emphasis on Kuwait. Dis
- 391 Markers. 2019; 2019. doi: https://doi.org/10.1155/2019/9786078.
- 392 18. Sia C, Weinem M. The Role of HLA Class I Gene Variation in Autoimmune Diabetes.
- Rev Diabet Stud. 2005; 2:97-97. doi: https://doi.org/10.1900/rds.2005.2.97.
- 394 19. Zhang J, Zhao L, Wang B, et al. HLA-A*33-DR3 and A*33-DR9 haplotypes enhance the
- risk of type 1 diabetes in Han Chinese. J Diabetes Investig. 2016; 7:514-521. doi:
- 396 https://doi.org/10.1111/jdi.12462.
- 397 20. Kumar N, Mehra NK, Kanga U, et al. Diverse human leukocyte antigen association of

- type 1 diabetes in north India. J Diabetes. 2019:1-10. doi: https://doi.org/10.1111/1753-
- 399 0407.12898.
- 400 21. Gomes KFB, Santos AS, Semzezem C, et al. The influence of population stratification on
- genetic markers associated with type 1 diabetes. Sci Rep. 2017; 7:1-10. doi:
- 402 https://doi.org/10.1038/srep43513.
- 403 22. Jones EY, Fugger L, Strominger JL, Siebold C. MHC class II proteins and disease: A
- structural perspective. Nat Rev Immunol. 2006; 6:271-282. doi:
- 405 https://doi.org/10.1038/nri1805.
- 406 23. Hu X, Deutsch AJ, Lenz TL, et al. Additive and interaction effects at three amino acid
- positions in HLA-DQ and HLA-DR molecules drive type 1 diabetes risk, Nat Genet.
- 408 2015; 47:898-905. doi: https://doi.org/10.1038/ng.3353.
- 409 24. Redondo MJ, Steck AK, Pugliese A. Genetics of type 1 diabetes. Pediatr Diabetes. 2018;
- 410 19:346-353. doi: https://doi.org/10.1111/pedi.12597.
- 411 25. Menconi F, Monti MC, Greenberg DA, et al. Molecular amino acid signatures in the MHC
- class II peptide-binding pocket predispose to autoimmune thyroiditis in humans and in
- 413 mice. Proc Natl Acad Sci. 2008; 105:14034-14039. doi: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-
- 414 62703-197-4-9.
- 415 26. Raychaudhuri S, Sandor C, Stahl EA, et al. Five amino acids in three HLA proteins
- explain most of the association between MHC and seropositive rheumatoid arthritis. Nat
- 417 Genet. 2012; 44:291-296. doi: https://doi.org/10.1038/ng.1076.
- 418 27. James EA, Mallone R, Kent SC, Dilorenzo TP. T-cell epitopes and neo-epitopes in type 1
- diabetes: A comprehensive update and reappraisal. Diabetes. 2020; 69:1311-1335. doi:
- 420 https://doi.org/10.2337/dbi19-0022.
- 421 28. Krischer JP, Liu X, Lernmark Å, et al. The influence of type 1 diabetes genetic
- susceptibility regions, age, sex, and family history on the progression from multiple
- autoantibodies to type 1 diabetes: A teddy study report. Diabetes. 2017; 66:3122-3129.
- doi: https://doi.org/10.2337/db17-0261.
- 425 29. Wang J, Miao D, Babu S, et al. Prevalence of autoantibody-negative diabetes is not rare at
- all ages and increases with older age and obesity. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2007; 92:88-
- 427 92. doi: https://doi.org/10.1210/jc.2006-1494.
- 428 30. Hameed S, Ellard S, Woodhead HJ, et al. Persistently autoantibody negative (PAN) type 1

diabetes mellitus in children. Pediatr Diabetes. 2011; 12:142-149. doi: https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1399-5448.2010.00681.x.

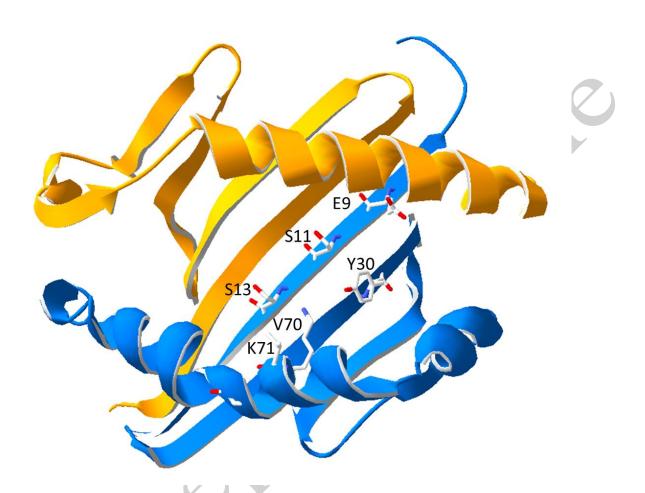


Figure 1. Ribbon model of an HLA-DR molecule peptide-binding groove, showing the position and the side-chain of significantly associated residues. The model was based on 3pdo entry from Protein Data Bank and the figure was prepared using Swiss-PdbViewer (http://spdbv.vital-it.ch/).

	HLA-B		HLA-DRB1		HLA-DQB1			
Susce ptibili ty	B*08 1.82E-02	1.57E-08	DRB1*03 9.19E-11	1.66E-12	DQB1*02 9.76E-08			

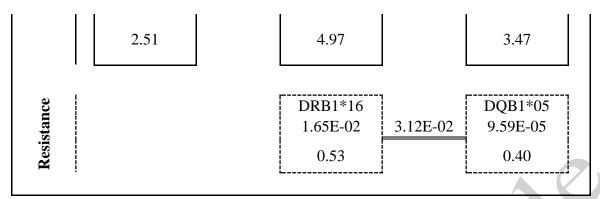


Figure 2. A representation of detected combined actions between T1D susceptibility and resistance alleles of HLA genes.

Top corrected P values and bottom odds ratios. The lines connecting gene alleles represent combined actions with P values on top.

Table 1. Distribution of significantly associated HLA alleles in T1D cases and controls

Allele	Cases %	Ctrl %	P value	OR	L95	U95	Adjusted P
Susceptibility							
DRB1*03	49.32	16.36	2.30E-11	4.97	3.07	8.06	9.19E-11
DQB1*02	59.59	29.82	2.44E-08	3.47	2.24	5.39	9.76E-08
DRB1*04	19.86	8.18	1.40E-03	2.78	1.48	5.23	2.70E-03
B*08	19.18	8.64	4.00E-03	2.51	1.34	4.69	1.82E-02
B*58	14.38	6.36	1.72E-02	2.47	1.21	5.04	2.86E-02
Resistance							
DQB1*06	0.68	11.47	3.20E-05	0.05	0.01	0.40	6.40E-05
DQB1*05	26.03	46.79	7.19E-05	0.40	0.25	0.63	9.59E-05
DRB1*16	20.55	32.73	1.24E-02	0.53	0.33	0.87	1.65E-02
B*51	8.90	19.09	7.30E-03	0.41	0.21	0.80	1.82E-02
DRB1*15	3. 42	8.64	5.38E-02	0.38	0.14	1.03	5.38E-02

Association test was performed using PyHLA program

Table 2. Zygosity test results for the associated HLA alleles

Allele	Hom_P	Hom_OR	Het_P	Het_OR	Zyg_P	Zyg_OR
DRB1*03	0.43	0.63	1.05E-12	0.07	2.27E-05	8.22
DQB1*02	0.32	1.60	3.51E-06	0.17	6.59E-07	9.41

DRB1*04	1.00	1.21	0.01	0.35	0.18	3.50
B*08	0.37	2.56	0.04	0.46	0.06	5. 61
B*58	0.63	0.6	0.01	0.33	0.62	1.81
DQB1*06	1.00	1.86	4.14E-04	10.77	0.25	0.17
DQB1*05	0.00	0.19	0.14	1.66	4.51E-05	0.11
DRB1*16	0.00	0.10	1.00	1.01	0.00	0.10
B*51	0.45	0.47	0.22	1.67	0.07	0.27

Abbreviations: Hom, homozygous test (homozygous compared to absent); Het, heterozygous test (heterozygous compared to absent); Zyg, zygosity test (homozygous compared to heterozygous); OR, odds ratio. Zygosity test was performed using PyHLA program.

Table 3. Significant residue associations in the HLA-DRB1 pockets

					Odds
Position	Amino acid	Association	P value	Corrected P	Ratio
Pocket 4 [13,71,78,70,74	,26]				
13	S	+	2.19E-13	1.69E-11	11.46
71	K	+	2.19E-13	1.69E-11	11.46
70	V	+	3.41E-13	2.63E-11	11.31
Pocket 6 [9,11,30]					
9	E	+	1.98E-7	1.37E-5	5.43
11	S	+	1.04E-12	7.20E-11	10.43
30	Y	+	6.92E-05	4.77E-03	12.29
Pocket 7 [28,61,71,47,67]				
71	K	+	2.19E-13	1.51E-11	11.46
Pocket 9 [9,60,57,37,38]					
9	E	+	1.98E-7	1.37E-5	5.43

Residue association test was performed using SKDM program

Table 4. Significant interaction tests including independent association, Difference, action, and linkage disequilibrium (LD)

												Comb	ined				
Alle	eles	A i	indepen	dent of	В	В	indepen	dent of A		Differ	rence	acti	on	LD in	cases	LD in	controls
Allele A	Allele B	P3	OR3	P4	OR4	P5	OR5	P6	OR6	<i>P</i> 7	OR7	<i>P</i> 8	OR8	P9	OR9	P10	OR10
Susceptibil	ity																
B*08	DRB1*03	0.64	1.29	1	0.81	8.23E-	15.67	1.95E-	9.86	0.00	0.08	1.57E-	12.71	0.02	6.4	0.01	4.03
						04		09				08					
DQB1*02	DRB1*03	0.59	2.22	0.25	1.91	3.43E-	7.83	0.10	6.76	0.24	0.28	1.66E-	14.99	1.76E-	25.61	1.32E-	22.13
						06						12		05		08	
Resistance	Resistance																
DQB1*05	DRB1*16	0.61	0.52	0.02	0.33	0.50	1.45	1	0.92	0.56	0.36	0.03	0.48	1.76E-	47.24	8.83E-	29.94
														10		11	

456 If both P3 and P4 are significant, then A is associated with T1D independently of B.

457 If P5 and P6 are significant, then B is associated with T1D independently of A.

458 If both P3 and P5 are significant, then A and B show interaction in T1D.

459 If P7 is significant, then Difference between A and B is associated with T1D.

460 If P8 is significant, then A and B have combined action.

461 If P9 is significant, then A and B are in LD in cases.

462 If P10 is significant, then A and B are in LD in controls.

463 Interaction tests was performed using PyHLA program