

ACE I/D Polymorphism as a Potential Risk Factor for Congenital Heart Disease among North Indians: Insights from a Tertiary Cardiac Centre Study

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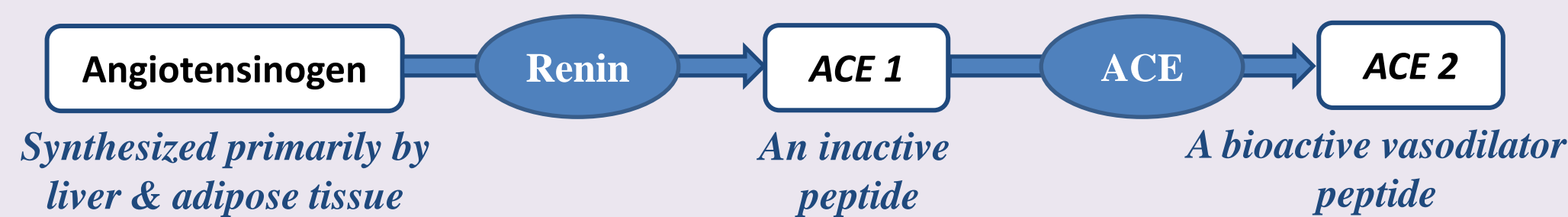
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INTRODUCTION

- ✓ Congenital heart diseases (CHDs) account for ~28% of all birth defects, affecting 1 in 100 live-births & resulting ~0.3 M cases annually in India.^[1]
- ✓ Renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system (RAAS) is crucial in the pathogenesis of cardiovascular disorders & hypertension, with angiotensin-converting enzyme insertion/deletion (ACE I/D) polymorphism being a key genetic factor.^[2]

Figure 1: The Renin-Angiotensin System



- ✓ ACE I/D, located at 16th intron on chr17q23 of ACE 1, induces alternative splicing of 287 bp Alu elements.
- ✓ So far, only three studies from China, Saudi Arabia, & Egypt have investigated the link between ACE I/D & CHD, but none found a conclusive relationship.^[3]

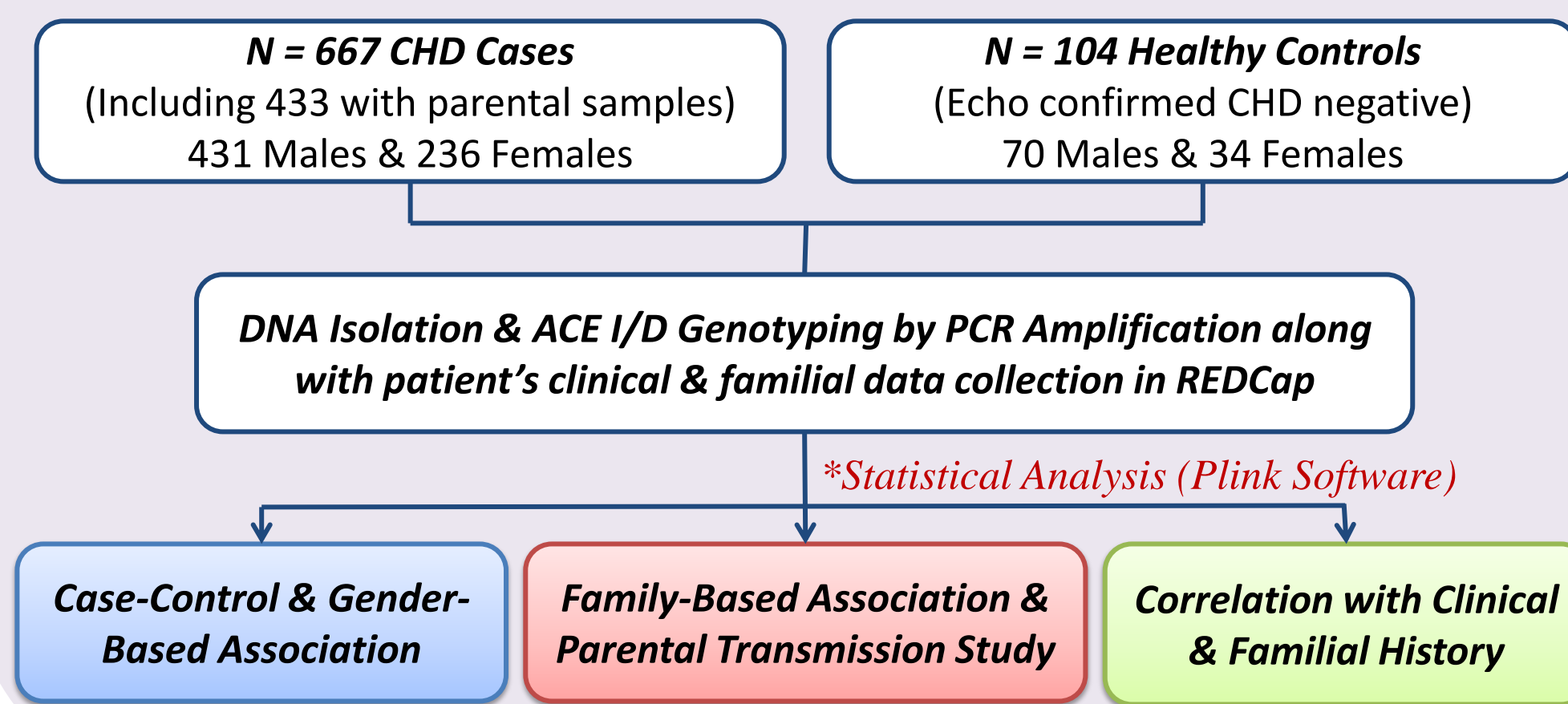
OBJECTIVE

To elucidate the genetic influence of ACE I/D polymorphism on CHD

METHODOLOGY

- ✓ Study Design: Case-Control and Family Based Association Study
- ✓ Study Participants: Patients who underwent cardiac treatment at Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital- a Totally free of cost tertiary cardiac care centre
- ✓ IEC Approved with Written Informed Consent
- ✓ Exclusion: Patients showing extra-cardiac anomalies, syndromic features, or any other neurodevelopmental and chronic disorders

Figure 2: Study design



* Statistical Tests: χ^2 test, *parentTDT* and Parent-of-origin (POO) test

Table 4: Association of ACE I/D with Clinical, Familial & Environmental Factors

Factors (% Proportion)	P value compared within cases; OR (95 % CIs)			
	Genotypic	Allelic	Dominant	Recessive
CHD + PAH (12.4 %)	0.050	0.810	0.260	0.100*
Anemia in Patient (43.7 %)	0.130*	0.120*	0.05 ; 1.71 (1.04-2.79)	0.670
Early Diagnosis (67.9 %)	0.280	0.240	0.720	0.120*
Fast Heart Beat (54.4 %)	0.070*	0.600	0.098*	0.360
Pneumonia (31.4 %)	0.270	0.310	0.130*	0.980
Primi-Gravida (29.5 %)	0.083*	0.280	0.05 ; 0.71 (0.49-0.98)	0.760
Anemic Pregnancy (24.5 %)	0.170	0.097*	0.060*	0.450
Paternal Tobacco (3.2 %)	0.090*	0.091*	0.550	0.03 ; 2.59 (1.07-6.27)
Near Cell Tower (31.9 %)	0.280	0.104*	0.240	0.152

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Figure 3: Genotyping of ACE I/D Polymorphism

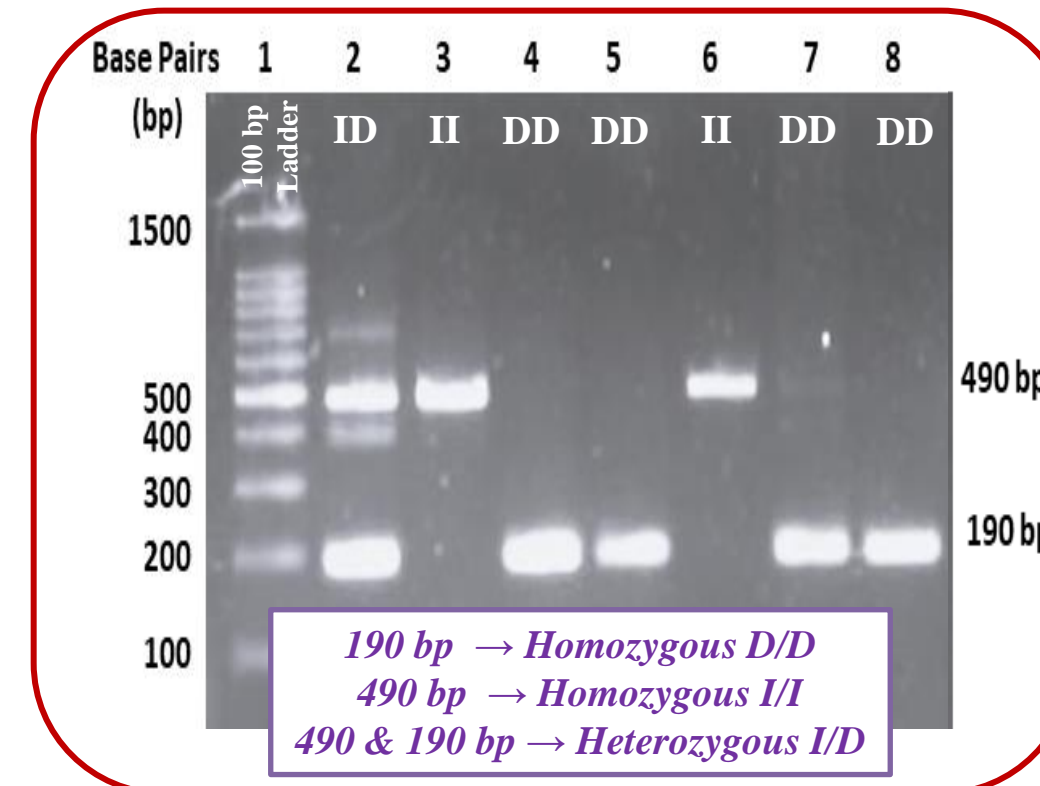


Table 1: Frequency Distribution

Genotype	Cases			Controls
	All	Male	Female	
DD	0.23	0.22	0.25	0.26
ID	0.47	0.47	0.48	0.36
II	0.30	0.31	0.27	0.38

Polymorphism was in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium ($p > 0.001$)

Table 2: Case-Control & Gender-Based Association

Categories	P value w.r.t. controls in different models; OR (95 % CIs)			
	Genotypic	Allelic	Dominant	Recessive
CHD Cases (n = 667)	0.070*	0.430	0.070*	0.520
Acyanotic CHD (n = 446)	0.120*	0.510	0.120*	0.540
Cyanotic CHD (n = 221)	0.064*	0.370	0.059*	0.570
Acyn Vs Cyn CHD	0.780	0.680	0.520	0.990
CHD-Subphenotypic Association				
ASD (n = 87)	0.340	0.270	0.160	0.800
VSD (n = 292)	0.150*	0.510	0.140*	0.580
AV Canal (n = 17)	0.770	0.550	0.470	0.770
Single Ventricle (n = 15)	0.630	0.550	0.380	0.950
TOF (n = 148)	0.024	0.250	0.022 ; 1.86 (1.1-3.2)	0.590
TGA (n = 12)	0.470	0.230	0.360	0.810
TAPVC (n = 32)	0.140*	0.03 ; 0.50 (0.4-0.9)	0.075*	0.110*
Misc. CHD (n = 64)	0.018	0.890	0.110*	0.120*
CHD + Stenosis (n = 268)	0.026	0.290	0.028 ; 1.81 (1.1-3.1)	0.510
CHD + PAH (n = 83)	0.790	0.460	0.620	0.530
Gender-Based Association				
Males	0.120*	0.630	0.150*	0.420
Females	0.057*	0.230	0.036 ; 1.68 (1.0-2.7)	0.79
Males Vs Females	0.530	0.270	0.280	0.490

ASD: Atrial septal defect; AV Canal: Atrio-ventricular canal; CHD: Congenital heart disease; CIs: Confidence intervals; Misc.: Miscellaneous; OR: Odd ratio; PAH: Pulmonary artery hypertension; TAPVC: Total anomalous pulmonary venous connection; TGA: Transposition of great arteries; TOF: Tetralogy of fallot; VSD: Ventricular septal defect

Significant P values ($p \leq 0.05$) are in bold font. * Trend of association ($0.05 < p \leq 0.15$)^[4]

Table 3: Family-Based Association & Parental Transmission Study

Categories	P value (<i>parentTDT</i>)	P value (Parent-of-origin Analysis)		
		Paternal	Maternal	POO
CHD Cases	0.260	0.530	0.022	0.037
Cyanotic CHD	0.400	0.880	0.300	0.530
Acyanotic CHD	0.420	0.390	0.039	0.039
ASD	0.096*	0.350	0.160	0.730
VSD	0.690	0.056*	0.170	0.021
TOF	1.000	0.860	0.860	0.800
TAPVC	0.046	0.160	0.160	1.000
TGA+ SV+ AV Canal+ Misc. CHD	0.330	0.680	0.300	0.580

CONCLUSION

- ✓ This is the first study from India and possibly the only study globally that reports a significant association between ACE I/D and CHD.
- ✓ DD genotype increases the risk of CHD in females and is linked to prognosis of anemia, stenosis & PAH, while II genotype increases CHD risk in offspring of tobacco consuming father by 2.5-fold.
- ✓ Cyanotic cases exhibited a higher prevalence of ACE I/D mutations, with TOF showing the strongest association ($p = 0.024$).
- ✓ POO showed maternal transmission of D allele in CHD & paternal transmission in VSD.

REFERENCES

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