

# A systemic review of glutathione S-transferase P1 Ile105Val polymorphism and colorectal cancer risk

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**Objectives:** To investigate the correlation between glutathione S-transferase P1 (GSTP1) Ile105Val polymorphism and colorectal cancer (CRC) risk.

**Methods:** Studies were identified to investigate the association between GSTP1 Ile105Val polymorphism and CRC risk. Systematic computerized searches of the PubMed, Chinese National Knowledge Infrastructure, WANFANG and SinoMed were performed. Summary odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (95% CI) were used to measure GSTP1 Ile105Val polymorphisms and CRC risk.

**Results:** A total of 23 retrospective studies were included in the meta-analysis. During all studies including 6,981 cases and 8,977 controls, sample sizes ranged from 146 to 2,144. Overall, the pooled results revealed that Ile105Val polymorphism was not associated with CRC risk and confused results were found in subgroup analyses. Further meta-analyses were conducted after excluding low-quality studies. GSTP1 Ile105Val is associated with increased risk of CRC limited in studies with matched control. There was no significant heterogeneity in all genetic comparisons, but heterogeneity existed in subgroup analyses of heterozygous and dominant comparisons. The meta-regression analyses indicated that matched controls were the significant factor influencing between-study heterogeneity in all possible influential factors including published year, ethnicity, source of control, sample size, Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) in control and matched controls. Sensitivity analysis revealed the pooled ORs were not changed before and after removal of each single study in all genetic comparisons, indicating the robustness of the results.

**Conclusions:** GSTP1 Ile105Val might be associated with increased risk of CRC. However, more high-quality case-control studies should be performed to confirm the authenticity of our conclusion.

**Keywords:** Colorectal neoplasm; glutathione S-transferase P1 (GSTP1); polymorphisms

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## Introduction

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is one of the commonest human malignant diseases and the leading causes of cancer-related death in western countries, accounting for approximately 9% of all cancer incidence and mortality (1). Although early diagnosis and timely operation may benefit patients and result in a relative complete healing, about 25% of newly diagnosed patients were metastatic CRC, for whose 5-year survival is 11% (2). Thus, the reliable genetic tests are already used to detect high-penetrance alleles of genes, such as APC and DNA mismatch repair genes,

in order to screen CRC high-risk groups. Study based on the analysis of phenotype in twins has improved that genetic factors were attributed to about 35% of CRC development (3), however, the high-penetrance genes only account for 5% of all CRCs (4). Epidemiological studies have demonstrated that numerous low-penetrance alleles contributing to CRC risk. There is also evidence that susceptibility to CRC is mediated by alterations in the detoxifying enzyme system (5), since CRC is a complicated disease which is determined by multiple exposures of endogenous and dietary carcinogens. The glutathione S-transferases (GST) supergene family of phase II

metabolic enzymes, play an important role in detoxifying carcinogens in cellular defense system. Glutathione S-transferase P1 (GSTP1), which is expressed in normal colon epithelial tissue and overexpressed in tumor colon and rectum (6,7), plays a major role in GST family. Polymorphism of a transversion of adenine to guanine substitution at base pair 313 which leads to substitution of isoleucine (Ile) with valine (Val) at codon 105 has been improved to affect activity of GSTP1 (8). It is supposed that individuals with GSTP1 of low enzymatic activity could be associated with increased risk of CRC. However, the relation between GSTP1 Ile105Val and CRC susceptibility is still controversial (9-12). The difficulty of searching the relation between GSTP1 Ile105Val and CRC susceptibility could be due to the modest effect of single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP), small sample studies are lack of power and fail to verify the association. Nevertheless, meta-analysis, which is a statistical method to combine data together for more powerful estimation of true effect, could clarify inconclusive results in genetic association studies. Yong Gao and colleagues have evaluated the predictive GSTP1 Ile105Val and CRC risk but fail to provide a clear conclusion (13). In the last few years, a number of high-quality large-sample studies were conducted to investigate the relevance of GSTP1 Ile105Val with CRC risk. So we conducted a new meta-analysis, combining results from previously published articles to draw a more precise conclusion of the relation between GSTP1 Ile105Val and CRC susceptibility.

## Materials and methods

To ensure the precise of our meta-analysis, we reported it on the basis of the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses (PRISMA) statement (shown in *Table S1*) (<http://www.prisma-statement.org>).

### Publication search

Systematic computerized searches of the PubMed, Chinese National Knowledge Infrastructure, WANFANG and SinoMed (up to July 4, 2013) were performed. Following search terms were utilized: "colorectal neoplasms", "polymorphism, single nucleotide", "Genetic Predisposition to Disease", "Glutathione S-Transferase pi" and "rs1695". The search was limited to human studies. All eligible studies were retrieved, and their bibliographies were checked for other relevant publications.

### Inclusion and exclusion criteria

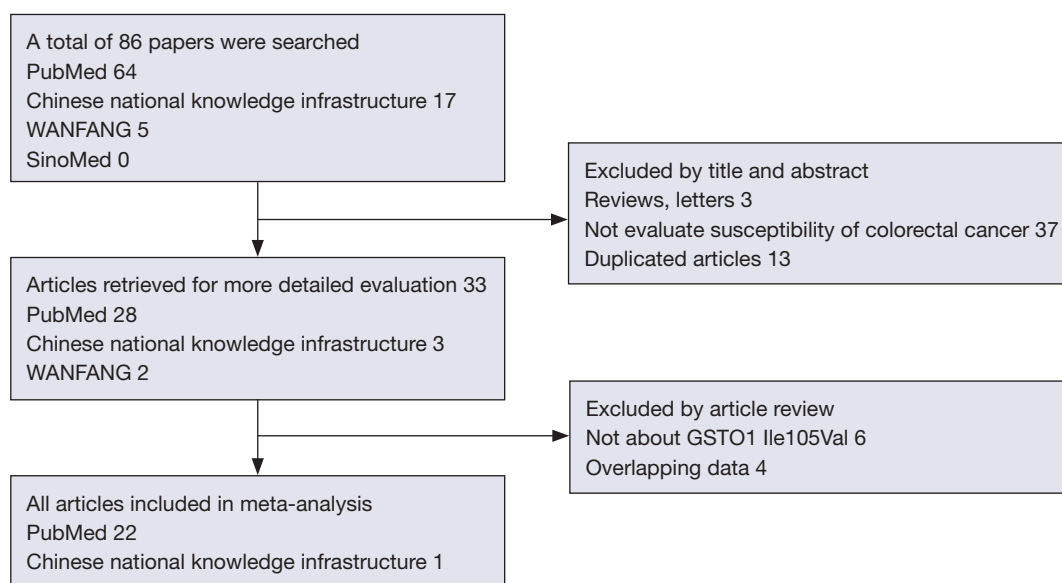
The included studies have to meet the following criteria: (I) the case-control study focused on the relationship between GSTP1 Ile105Val and risk of CRC; (II) providing adequate data for pooled analyses, including total number of CRC cases and controls, as same as the number of cases and controls for each genotypes; (III) studies with full text articles. Exclusion criteria included: (I) reviews, tutorials and letters; (II) not case-control studies; (III) animal studies; (IV) insufficient data were reported as number of cases and controls without genotype data; (V) duplicate data. When the same patient population was used in several publications, only the most recent, largest or complete study was included in the meta-analysis.

### Data extraction

Information was carefully extracted from all eligible studies. The following data were collected from each study: first author's name, year of publication, country, ethnicity of participants, sources of controls [family-based case-control (FCC), hospital-based case-control (HCC) or population-based case-control (PCC)], number of cases and controls, genotyping methods, genotypes, goodness-in-fitness of Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) and matched control. HCC study was defined as controls from hospitalization patient, PCC was from healthy people, and FCC was from patients' family. Matched control study was defines as controls matched by at least three variables: age, gender and region. Data extraction was done independently by three of the authors (Qi-Bin Song, Wei-Guo Hu). Disagreement was resolved by discussion between the three authors.

### Quality score assessment

The quality of articles was independently assessed by the same three reviewers (Qi-Bin Song, Wei-Guo Hu). The quality score assessment was adopted from predefined criteria established by meta-analysis of molecular association studies (14-16). The criteria included representativeness of cases, sources of controls, genotyping examination, HWE and association assessment (see in *Table S2*). Scores ranged from the lowest zero to highest eleven. Studies with the score more than 5 were suggested as "moderate or high quality" ones, while those lower than 5 (include 5) were considered as "low quality" ones.



**Figure 1** The flow diagram of study selection.

### Statistical methods

We assessed HWE in the controls for each study using chi-square test at first, and P value <0.05 was considered as a significant disequilibrium (17). Odds ratio (OR) and corresponding 95% confidence interval (95% CI) were employed to assess the strength of associations between GSTP1 Ile105Val and risk of CRC. The wild type Ile/Ile was considered as a reference. The genetic comparisons included homozygous model (Val/Val *vs.* Ile/Ile), heterozygous model (Ile/Val *vs.* Ile/Ile), dominant model (Val/Val + Ile/Val *vs.* Ile/Ile) and recessive model (Val/Val *vs.* Ile/Val + Ile/Ile). We also conducted subgroup analyses by ethnicity, source of control (HCC, PCC or FCC), sample size (<1,000 or >1,000) and matched control (Yes/No).

Heterogeneity was checked by a chi-square-based Q-test (18,19) and  $I^2$  statistic (18). Heterogeneity was considered significantly when the P value of Q-test was less than 0.1. The following thresholds were used for  $I^2$  statistic:  $I^2 = 0-25\%$ , no heterogeneity;  $I^2 = 25-50\%$ , moderate heterogeneity;  $I^2 = 50-75\%$ , large heterogeneity;  $I^2 = 75-100\%$ , extreme heterogeneity. If significant heterogeneity was found ( $P < 0.10$  or  $I^2 > 50\%$ ), the random-effects model (the DerSimonian and Laird method) (20) instead of the fixed-effects model (the Mantel-Haenszel method) (21) was used for further analysis. A Galbraith plot was used to assess the extent of heterogeneity between studies from meta-analyses (22). To investigate the possible sources of

the heterogeneity, we performed meta-regression analyses based on following aspects: published year, ethnicity, source of control (HCC, PCC or FCC), study sample size (<1,000 or >1,000), HWE in control (Yes/No) and matched control (Yes/No). For purpose of examining the influence of single study on the pooled OR and assessing stability of the results, sensitivity analysis was performed to repeat analyses by omitting one study at a time.

Funnel plots were used to explore the presence of publication bias. The degree of funnel plot asymmetry was assessed by Begg's (23) and Egger's test (24). The trim-and-fill method was implemented to evaluate number of potentially missing studies and assess the effect of publication bias on meta-analysis (25). All P values are two-tailed with a significant level at 0.05. All the statistical tests used in our meta-analysis were performed with STATA version 10.0 (Stata Corporation, College Station, TX, USA).

### Results

#### Characteristics of the included studies

After exclusion of duplicate and irrelevant studies (Figure 1), 23 studies including 6,981 cases and 8,977 controls comparing the GSTP1 Ile105Val and susceptibility of CRC were identified according to the inclusion criteria in the meta-analysis. Four studies showed mixed ethnicity. Four articles were based on large sample size (>1,000). In these

studies, 18 were PCC, 4 were HCC and 1 was FCC. The detailed information of these articles was listed in *Table 1*.

### Overall meta-analysis and further subgroup analysis

A total of 23 case-control studies with 6,981 cases and 8,977 controls were included in the analyses. *Table 2* listed the main results of the pooled analysis. Overall, the results of meta-analyses suggested that GSTP1 Ile105Val was not related to risk of CRC (Val/Val *vs.* Ile/Ile, OR =0.94, 95% CI =0.83-1.05; Ile/Val *vs.* Ile/Ile, OR =1.06, 95% CI =0.99-1.13; Val/Val + Ile/Val *vs.* Ile/Ile dominant model, OR =1.03, 95% CI =0.97-1.10; Val/Val *vs.* Ile/Val + Ile/Ile recessive model, OR =0.91, 95% CI =0.81-1.01), without between-study heterogeneity. In subgroup analyses, the variant allele Val was associated with susceptibility of CRC in matched articles (Ile/Val *vs.* Ile/Ile: OR =1.11, 95% CI =1.02-1.21; Val/Val + Ile/Val *vs.* Ile/Ile: OR =1.09, 95% CI =1.00-1.18). It was confused that Val/Val was correlated with decreased CRC risk of non-matched articles in heterozygous model and recessive model. This might be in correlated with bias caused by low-quality studies. So we removed the low-quality studies (quality score  $\leq 5$ ) and conducted new meta-analyses.

The specific results were listed in *Table 3*. As shown in *Table 3*, no associations were observed in the homozygous model (OR =0.945, 95% CI =0.839-1.065), as well as in other three models (heterozygous model: OR =1.050, 95% CI =0.979-1.127; dominant model: OR =1.027, 95% CI =0.961-1.099; recessive model: OR =0.918, 95% CI =0.819-1.029). Subgroup analyses were conducted according to ethnicity, source of control, sample size and matched control. Different ethnicities were classified as Caucasians, Asians and mixed races. There were no statistically significant findings among Caucasians, Asians and mixed races in all genetic comparisons. In the subgroup analyses based on source of control, sample size and matched control, the variant allele Val was not related with susceptibility of CRC in all subgroups except in matched control studies. In the studies with matched controls, the variant allele Val had significantly relationship with increased risk of CRC (heterozygous model: OR =1.109, 95% CI =1.017-1.209, *Figure 2A*; dominant model: OR =1.086, 95% CI =1.001-1.179, *Figure 2B*).

### Heterogeneity analysis

The genotype data in the 19 studies were homogenous in all genetic comparisons (homozygous model:  $I^2 =20.8\%$ ,

$P_{\text{heterogeneity}} =0.201$ ; heterozygous model:  $I^2 =22.7\%$ ,  $P_{\text{heterogeneity}} =0.180$ ; dominant model:  $I^2 =31.5\%$ ,  $P_{\text{heterogeneity}} =0.094$ ; recessive model:  $I^2 =12.5\%$ ,  $P_{\text{heterogeneity}} =0.302$ ). However, the heterogeneity remained in subgroup analyses. So we conducted Galbraith plot analyses of included studies to assess the potential sources of heterogeneity. Martinez C (44) was the contributor of heterogeneity in the homozygous model and recessive model, while Koh WP (30) and Vlaykova T (31) were the sources of heterogeneity in the heterozygous model and dominant model (see in *Figure S1A* and *B*). The meta-regression analyses were further used to explore the sources of heterogeneity across the included studies, we assessed all genetic comparisons by published year, ethnicity, source of control, sample size, HWE in control and matched control. We performed an empty meta-regression to estimate the baseline value of  $\tau^2$ , and the univariate model was conducted by the above aspects. In the univariate analysis, the results suggested matched controls were attributed to heterogeneity and reduced the  $\tau^2$  value from 0.0043 to 0 in the heterozygous comparison and from 0.0088 to 0.0027 in the dominant comparison.

### Sensitivity analysis

Sensitivity analyses were performed under random-effects model to examine the influence of single study on the pooled value and assess stability of the results. In the Val/Val *vs.* Ile/Ile model, the most influencing study seemed to be the study conducted by Kury S (12), the OR was 0.945 (95% CI =0.839-1.065) and 0.911 (95% CI =0.781-1.063) before and after removing the study. Koh WP (30) had a critical influence on the results in heterozygous comparison and dominant comparison. The OR was 1.050 (95% CI =0.979-1.127) and 1.077 (95% CI =0.998-1.162), and 1.027 (95% CI =0.961-1.099) and 1.047 (95% CI =0.968-1.133) before and after removing the study in heterozygous and dominant comparison, respectively. The most influencing study in the recessive study was conducted by Kiss I (33), the OR was 0.893 (95% CI =0.787-1.013) after removing it (see in *Figure S2*). Removal of a single study did not impact on the pooled results in all genetic comparisons, the sensitivity analyses supported the robustness of the current meta-analyses.

### Publication bias

The funnel plot, Begg's test and Egger's test were used to explore the publication bias. The funnel plots were

**Table 1** The characteristics of included studies

Year	Author	Country	Ethnicity	Genotyping method	Case		Control		Quality score	Matched control	Source of controls	Size	Hwe	
					Ile/Ile	Val/Val	Ile/Ile	Val/Val						
2010	Hlavata I (26)	Czech	Caucasian	TaqMan assay	223	229	224	226	45	7	Y	HCC	<1,000	Y
2012	Ebrahimkhani S (27)	Iran	Caucasian	PCR	54	39	53	42	5	4	N	HCC	<1,000	Y
2012	Wang J (28)	USA	Mixed	TaqMan assay	127	137	171	144	43	6.5	Y	FCC	<1,000	Y
2011	Wang J (29)	India	Asian	PCR-RFLP	141	132	160	107	24	6	Y	PCC	<1,000	Y
2011	Koh WP (30)	Singapore	Asian	TaqMan assay	343	122	771	345	51	7	N	PCC	>1,000	Y
2005	Ates NA (11)	Turkey	Caucasian	PCR	73	81	90	74	40	5	N	PCC	<1,000	N
2007	Vlaykova T (31)	Bulgaria	Caucasian	PCR-RFLP	55	18	68	49	9	7	N	PCC	<1,000	Y
2007	Skjelbred CF (32)	Norway	Caucasian	PCR	51	50	119	140	40	6	N	PCC	<1,000	Y
1999	Welfare M (9)	UK	Caucasian	PCR	92	89	80	76	21	8	Y	PCC	<1,000	Y
2005	Sun XF (10)	Sweden	Caucasian	PCR-RFLP	59	51	127	101	27	6	N	PCC	<1,000	Y
2004	Kiss I (33)	Hungary	Caucasian	PCR-RFLP	200	212	214	212	74	9	Y	PCC	<1,000	Y
2010	Yeh CC (34)	China	Asian	PCR-RFLP	500	200	511	196	25	8	Y	PCC	>1,000	Y
2012	Khabaz MN (35)	Jordan	Caucasian	PCR-RFLP	43	45	24	31	1	3	N	HCC	<1,000	N
2009	Epplein M (36)	USA	Mixed	TaqMan assay	113	59	188	110	41	9	Y	PCC	<1,000	N
2006	Fu Quan Hang (37)	China	Asian	PCR-RFLP	180	115	279	136	23	7	N	PCC	<1,000	Y
1998	Harris MJ (38)	Australia	Caucasian	PCR	37	40	80	101	18	6	N	PCC	<1,000	Y
1999	Katoh T (39)	Japan	Asian	PCR-RFLP	70	33	93	24	5	5	N	PCC	<1,000	N
2001	Loktionov A (40)	UK	Caucasian	PCR-RFLP	87	95	139	168	38	6	N	PCC	<1,000	Y
2002	Sachse C (41)	UK	Caucasian	TaqMan assay	193	240	260	256	77	8	Y	PCC	>1,000	Y
2004	van der Logt EM (42)	Netherlands	Caucasian	PCR-RFLP	156	176	174	186	55	6	N	PCC	<1,000	Y
2005	Landi S (43)	Spain	Caucasian	Oligonucleotide micro-assay and APEX	184	162	148	131	37	8	Y	HCC	<1,000	Y
2006	Martinez C (44)	Spain	Caucasian	PCR-RFLP	73	66	160	135	34	6	N	PCC	<1,000	Y
2008	Kury S (12)	France	Caucasian	TaqMan assay	464	447	541	462	118	8	Y	PCC	>1,000	Y

Abbreviations: FCC, family-based case-control; HCC, hospital-based case-control; PCC, population-based case-control.

<b>Table 2</b> Meta-analysis of GSTP1 Ile105Val in association with CRC risk					
	No. of study	P for heterogeneity	Effect of analysis	OR	Significance test
<b>Val/Val vs. Ile/Ile</b>					
Total	23	0.30	Fixed	0.936 (0.834-1.052)	0.266
Ethnicity					
Caucasians	17	0.322	Fixed	0.961 (0.843-1.095)	0.547
Mixed	2	0.102	Fixed	0.914 (0.623-1.343)	0.648
Asians	4	0.3404	Fixed	0.801 (0.568-1.129)	0.205
Source of control					
HCC	4	0.765	Fixed	0.859 (0.619-1.192)	0.363
FCC	1	/	/	1.190 (0.727-1.948)	0.49
PCC	18	0.158	Fixed	0.934 (0.821-1.061)	0.293
Sample size					
<1,000	19	0.225	Fixed	0.918 (0.796-1.058)	0.239
>1,000	4	0.43	Fixed	0.974 (0.796-1.191)	0.796
Matched control					
Yes	10	0.346	Fixed	1.007 (0.873-1.161)	0.927
No	13	0.372	Fixed	0.811 (0.633-0.993)	0.042
<b>Ile/Val vs. Ile/Ile</b>					
Total	23	0.162	Fixed	1.059 (0.989-1.134)	0.1
Ethnicity					
Caucasians	17	0.446	Fixed	1.066 (0.982-1.156)	0.128
Mixed	2	0.166	Fixed	1.104 (0.859-1.419)	0.44
Asians	4	0.018	Random	1.103 (0.830-1.467)	0.498
Source of control					
HCC	4	0.929	Fixed	0.982 (0.818-1.180)	0.848
FCC	1	/	/	1.281 (0.923-1.778)	0.139
PCC	18	0.074	Random	1.058 (0.958-1.168)	0.268
Sample size					
<1,000	19	0.294	Fixed	1.064 (0.975-1.161)	0.162
>1,000	4	0.053	Random	1.045 (0.872-1.251)	0.633
Matched control					
Yes	10	0.731	Fixed	1.109 (1.017-1.209)	0.019
No	13	0.076	Random	0.989 (0.851-1.150)	0.886
<b>Val/Val + Ile/Val vs. Ile/Ile</b>					
Total	23	0.15	Fixed	1.032 (0.968-1.101)	0.337
Ethnicity					
Caucasians	17	0.459	Fixed	1.043 (0.965-1.127)	0.29
Mixed	2	0.073	Random	1.025 (0.669-1.569)	0.911
Asians	4	0.025	Random	1.054 (0.810-1.371)	0.696
Source of control					
HCC	4	0.938	Fixed	0.960 (0.806-1.144)	0.646
FCC	1	/	/	1.260 (0.926-1.716)	0.142
PCC	18	0.072	Random	1.024 (0.932-1.126)	0.616

**Table 2** (continued)

Table 2 (continued)

	No. of study	P for heterogeneity	Effect of analysis	OR	Significance test
Val/Val + Ile/Val vs. Ile/Ile					
Sample size					
<1,000	19	0.298	Fixed	1.033 (0.952-1.222)	0.435
>1,000	4	0.042	Random	1.021 (0.855-1.219)	0.821
Matched control					
Yes	10	0.463	Fixed	1.086 (1.001-1.179)	0.048
No	13	0.179	Fixed	0.949 (0.853-1.054)	0.329
Val/Val vs. Ile/Val + Ile/Ile					
Total	23	0.353	Fixed	0.905 (0.810-1.011)	0.078
Ethnicity					
Caucasians	17	0.29	Fixed	0.926 (0.818-1.047)	0.22
Mixed	2	0.198	Fixed	0.870 (0.602-1.258)	0.46
Asians	4	0.38	Fixed	0.792 (0.563-1.115)	0.182
Source of control					
HCC	4	0.73	Fixed	0.859 (0.627-1.176)	0.344
FCC	1	/	/	1.054 (0.662-1.680)	0.824
PCC	18	0.181	Fixed	0.903 (0.799-1.020)	0.102
Sample size					
<1,000	19	0.23	Fixed	0.895 (0.782-1.025)	0.108
>1,000	4	0.606	Fixed	0.926 (0.764-1.124)	0.437
Matched control					
Yes	10	0.485	Fixed	0.957 (0.836-1.096)	0.528
No	13	0.284	Fixed	0.809 (0.667-0.982)	0.032
Abbreviations: GSTP1, glutathione S-transferase P1; CRC, colorectal cancer; FCC, family-based case-control; HCC, hospital-based case-control; PCC, population-based case-control.					

symmetrical in general in heterozygous, dominant models and recessive model (see in *Figure S3A, B and C*). The Begg's test and Egger's test showed no evidence of publication bias in meta-analyses (heterozygous model: Begg's test  $P=0.124$ , Egger's test  $P=0.135$ ; dominant model: Begg's test  $P=0.142$ , Egger's test  $P=0.112$ ; recessive model: Begg's test  $P=0.184$ , Egger's test  $P=0.079$ ). However, Begg's and Egger's tests revealed that there might be some unpublished positive articles, especially some small sample size studies, were not included in the meta-analyses of homozygous models (Begg's test  $P=0.036$ , Egger's test  $P=0.032$ ). Then the trim-and-fill method was used to estimate the number of missing studies resulting from publication bias. In the homozygous model, there was no trimming study was performed and no difference between random-effects and fixed-effects model, indicating the results were not greatly influenced by publication bias

and our meta-analyses were statistically robust.

## Discussion

CRC is usually identified as a complex multi-factor, multi-variable disease, which is determined by exposures to carcinogens and individual genetic background (45). Previous studies have revealed cigarette smoking, diets high in red meat and fat are associated with increased risk of CRC (46,47). The metabolites of cigarette and high-fat foods, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), are complex carbon molecules known as strong carcinogens which form oxidation DNA adducts, induce gene mutation and lead to cell malignant transformation (48). It is supposed that susceptibility to CRC is mediated by genes involved in detoxifying enzyme system, especially genes with PAH metabolism. GSTP1, a major member of GST

<b>Table 3</b> Meta-analysis of GSTP1 Ile105Val in association with CRC risk after removal of low-quality studies					
	No. of study	P for heterogeneity	Effect of analysis	OR	Significance test
<b>Val/Val vs. Ile/Ile</b>					
Total	19	0.201	Fixed	0.945 (0.839-1.065)	0.357
Ethnicity					
Caucasians	14	0.172	Fixed	0.966 (0.844-1.105)	0.611
Mixed	2	0.102	Fixed	0.914 (0.623-1.343)	0.648
Asians	3	0.39	Fixed	0.845 (0.596-1.198)	0.344
Source of control					
HCC	2	0.362	Fixed	0.843 (0.592-1.176)	0.301
FCC	1	/	/	1.190 (0.727-1.948)	0.49
PCC	16	0.152	Fixed	0.947 (0.830-1.082)	0.421
Sample size					
<1,000	15	0.133	Fixed	0.930 (0.802-1.079)	0.34
>1,000	4	0.43	Fixed	0.974 (0.796-1.191)	0.796
Matched control					
Yes	10	0.346	Fixed	1.007 (0.873-1.161)	0.927
No	9	0.209	Fixed	0.814 (0.652-1.016)	0.069
<b>Ile/Val vs. Ile/Ile</b>					
Total	19	0.18	Fixed	1.050 (0.979-1.127)	0.175
Ethnicity					
Caucasians	14	0.368	Fixed	1.064 (0.978-1.159)	0.149
Mixed	2	0.166	Fixed	1.104 (0.859-1.419)	0.44
Asians	3	0.039	Random	1.015 (0.775-1.329)	0.915
Source of control					
HCC	2	0.912	Fixed	1.008 (0.825-1.233)	0.935
FCC	1	/	/	1.281 (0.923-1.778)	0.139
PCC	16	0.116	Fixed	1.045 (0.967-1.129)	0.268
Sample size					
<1,000	15	0.337	Fixed	1.049 (0.958-1.150)	0.32
>1,000	4	0.053	Random	1.045 (0.872-1.251)	0.633
Matched control					
Yes	10	0.731	Fixed	1.109 (1.017-1.209)	0.019
No	9	0.116	Fixed	0.944 (0.836-1.065)	0.349
<b>Val/Val + Ile/Val vs. Ile/Ile</b>					
Total	19	0.094	Fixed	1.027 (0.961-1.099)	0.427
Ethnicity					
Caucasians	14	0.308	Fixed	1.044 (0.963-1.131)	0.294
Mixed	2	0.073	Random	1.025 (0.669-1.569)	0.911
Asians	3	0.026	Random	0.997 (0.757-1.312)	0.981
Source of control					
HCC	2	0.153	Fixed	1.034 (0.961-1.114)	0.369
FCC	1	/	/	1.260 (0.926-1.716)	0.142
PCC	16	0.063	Fixed	1.023 (0.951-1.101)	0.535

**Table 3** (continued)



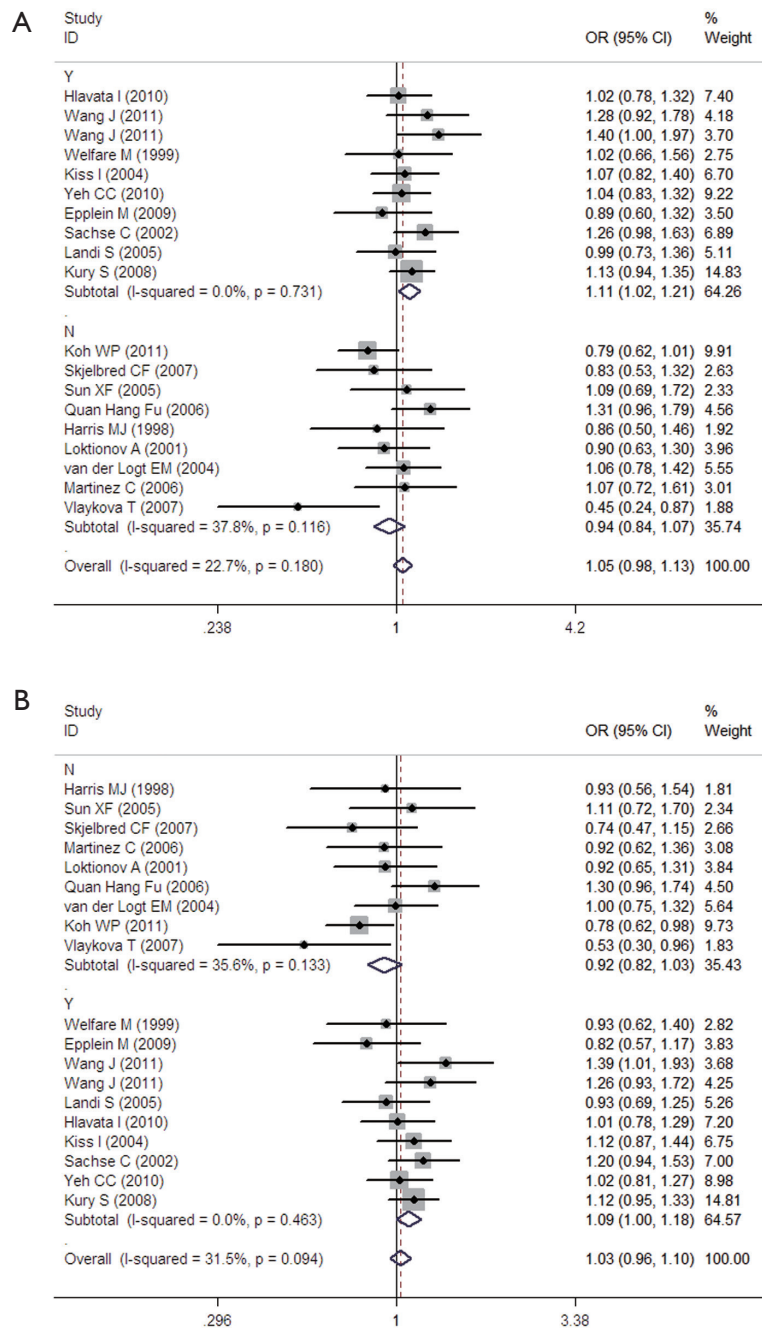
Table 3 (continued)

	No. of study	P for heterogeneity	Effect of analysis	OR	Significance test
Val/Val + Ile/Val vs. Ile/Ile					
Sample size					
<1,000	15	0.203	Fixed	1.025 (0.940-1.118)	0.571
>1,000	4	0.042	Random	1.021 (0.855-1.219)	0.821
Matched control					
Yes	10	0.463	Fixed	1.086 (1.001-1.179)	0.048
No	9	0.133	Fixed	0.920 (0.820-1.033)	0.159
Val/Val vs. Ile/Val + Ile/Ile					
Total	19	0.302	Fixed	0.918 (0.819-1.029)	0.143
Ethnicity					
Caucasians	14	0.182	Fixed	0.936 (0.823-1.063)	0.307
Mixed	2	0.198	Fixed	0.870 (0.602-1.258)	0.46
Asians	3	0.591	Fixed	0.841 (0.595-1.190)	0.182
Source of control					
HCC	2	0.359	Fixed	0.918 (0.809-1.043)	0.344
FCC	1	/	/	1.054 (0.662-1.680)	0.824
PCC	16	0.214	Fixed	0.922 (0.813-1.046)	0.209
Sample size					
<1,000	15	0.175	Fixed	0.914 (0.793-1.053)	0.213
>1,000	4	0.606	Fixed	0.926 (0.764-1.124)	0.437
Matched control					
Yes	10	0.485	Fixed	0.957 (0.836-1.096)	0.528
No	9	0.181	Fixed	0.830 (0.671-1.027)	0.087
Abbreviations: GSTP1, glutathione S-transferase P1; CRC, colorectal cancer; FCC, family-based case-control; HCC, hospital-based case-control; PCC, population-based case-control					

family, plays an important role in CRC susceptibility. Polymorphism of a transversion of adenine to guanine substitution at base pair 313 which leads to substitution of Ile with Val at codon 105 has been improved to affect activity of GSTP1 (8). Some studies have indicated the activity of variant Val allele to metabolite carcinogens is lower than that of Ile allele (49,50). Thus, it is indicated that individuals with GSTP1 Val allele of low enzymatic activity could be in relevance with increased risk of CRC. Harris examined prediction of GSTP1 Ile105Val in CRC risk in 1998 (38), since then, numerous studies attempted to explore the relation but failed to provide precise conclusion. Chen (51) and Gao (13) carried out meta-analyses and found out no connection of GSTP1 Ile105Val to CRC risk. In the last few years, a number of high-quality large-sample studies were conducted to investigate the relevance of GSTP1 Ile105Val to CRC. Based on the cumulative

evidence, we carried out an updating meta-analysis to draw a precise conclusion.

We conducted the meta-analysis including 23 case-control studies of 6,981 cases and 8,977 controls comparing the GSTP1 Ile105Val and susceptibility of CRC. When subgroup analyses were performed by ethnicity, source of control, sample size and matched control, significant association was observed between GSTP1 Ile105Val and CRC. However, it is confused that Val allele was related with decreased risk in unmatched controls under homozygous comparison and recessive comparison, but with increased risk in matched controls under heterozygous comparison and dominant comparison. This might be in correlated with bias caused by low-quality studies. So we removed the low-quality studies and conducted new meta-analyses. Further meta-analyses found GSTP1 Ile105Val polymorphism



**Figure 2** (A) The forest plots of subgroup analysis according to matched control showed OR with 95% CI for the GSTP1 Ile105Val with CRC risk using fixed-effects model under heterozygous comparison. Y means studies with matched controls, N means studies not with matched controls. Fixed-effects pooled OR =1.05, 95% CI =0.98-1.13, P=0.175;  $\chi^2=23.29$ ,  $P_{heterogeneity}=0.18$ ; (B) the forest plots of subgroup analysis according to matched control showed OR with 95% CI for the GSTP1 Ile105Val with CRC risk fixed-effects model under dominant comparison. Y means studies with matched controls, N means studies not with matched controls. Fixed-effects pooled OR =1.03, 95% CI =0.96-1.10, P=0.427;  $\chi^2=26.28$ ,  $P_{heterogeneity}=0.094$ . CRC, colorectal cancer.

was associated with increased CRC risk in matched controls under heterozygous comparison and dominant comparison. The meta-regression analyses were further conducted to explore sources of heterogeneity. In all possible influential factors including published year, ethnicity, source of control, sample size, HWE in control and matched control, results suggested matched controls were the significant factor influencing between-study heterogeneity. Further sensitivity analyses suggested the results were persistent and robust. Publication bias was found in homozygous comparisons. We carried out trim-and-fill method to estimate the number of missing studies resulting from publication bias. There was no trimming study was performed and no difference between random-effects and fixed-effects model. Taken together, we found that GSTP1 Ile108Val polymorphism might be related with increased risk of CRC, but it still requires a lot of high-quality case-control studies to confirm.

It is thought that the high dose should exert the more significant effect in a viewpoint of dose-response relationship. Interestingly, we found that GSTP1 Ile105Val heterozygotes instead of homozygotes had a significant increased risk of CRC. The variant heterozygotes may have damaged three dimensional structures and are limited with detoxifying function. Another possible interpretation was the heterozygotes may be in linkage disequilibrium with other loci in relevance with CRC risk. The similar findings were described by Ma and Liu (52,53). Ma and colleagues found a significant increased risk of breast cancer was related with variant *CDKN1B* C-79T heterozygotes, but not homozygotes. Meanwhile, Liu found *EPHX1* His139Arg heterozygotes, other than homozygotes, had a significant relation with CRC risk.

Despite the strength of our study that yielded enough power, that's a lot of room for improvement. At first, CRC is a complex disease, which is resulting from interactions among environmental factors and genetic factors. However, lacking the individual personal data and environmental data limited us to explore the interaction between other possible exposures and GSTP1 Ile105Val on susceptibility of CRC. Further studies should focus on the mechanism of CRC risk, especially gene-gene and gene-environment interactions. Additionally, the quality of included studies is uneven. The relation between GSTP1 Ile105Val polymorphism and CRC risk is contradictory at first. When excluding the low-quality studies, GSTP1 Ile105Val is associated with increased risk of CRC only limited in studies with matched control. Included studies with high-quality will provide

reliable data and draw a precise conclusion.

## Conclusions

In conclusion, the results from our meta-analysis provide a comprehensive description of relation between GSTP1 Ile105Val and CRC susceptibility. It is indicated that variant Val allele is associated with increased risk of CRC limited in matched control studies. However, more high-quality case-control studies should be performed to confirm the authenticity of the relation between GSTP1 Ile105Val and CRC susceptibility. Since other factors, such as environmental carcinogens and genetic background, also have impact on CRC susceptibility, gene-gene and gene-environment interactions should be carried on research in order to make clear the mechanism of CRC risk.

## Acknowledgements

*Disclosure:* The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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## Supplementary

Table S1 The preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses (PRISMA)			
Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Reported on page #
<b>Title</b>			
Title	1	Identify the report as a systematic review, meta-analysis, or both	1
<b>Abstract</b>			
Structured summary	2	Provide a structured summary including, as applicable: background; objectives; data sources; study eligibility criteria, participants, and interventions; study appraisal and synthesis methods; results; limitations; conclusions and implications of key findings; systematic review registration number	2
<b>Introduction</b>			
Rationale	3	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known	4-5
Objectives	4	Provide an explicit statement of questions being addressed with reference to participants, interventions, comparisons, outcomes, and study design (PICOS)	5
<b>Methods</b>			
Protocol and registration	5	Indicate if a review protocol exists, if and where it can be accessed (e.g., web address), and, if available, provide registration information including registration number	N/A
Eligibility criteria	6	Specify study characteristics (e.g., PICOS, length of follow-up) and report characteristics (e.g., years considered, language, publication status) used as criteria for eligibility, giving rationale	5-7
Information sources	7	Describe all information sources (e.g., databases with dates of coverage, contact with study authors to identify additional studies) in the search and date last searched	5-6
Search	8	Present full electronic search strategy for at least one database, including any limits used, such that it could be repeated	5-6
Study selection	9	State the process for selecting studies (i.e., screening, eligibility, included in systematic review, and, if applicable, included in the meta-analysis)	9
Data collection process	10	Describe method of data extraction from reports (e.g., piloted forms, independently, in duplicate) and any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators	6-7
Data items	11	List and define all variables for which data were sought (e.g., PICOS, funding sources) and any assumptions and simplifications made	6-7
Risk of bias in individual studies	12	Describe methods used for assessing risk of bias of individual studies (including specification of whether this was done at the study or outcome level), and how this information is to be used in any data synthesis	8
Summary measures	13	State the principal summary measures (e.g., risk ratio, difference in means)	7
Synthesis of results	14	Describe the methods of handling data and combining results of studies, if done, including measures of consistency (e.g., $I^2$ ) for each meta-analysis	8
Risk of bias across studies	15	Specify any assessment of risk of bias that may affect the cumulative evidence (e.g., publication bias, selective reporting within studies)	8
Additional analyses	16	Describe methods of additional analyses (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression), if done, indicating which were pre-specified	8

Table S1 (continued)

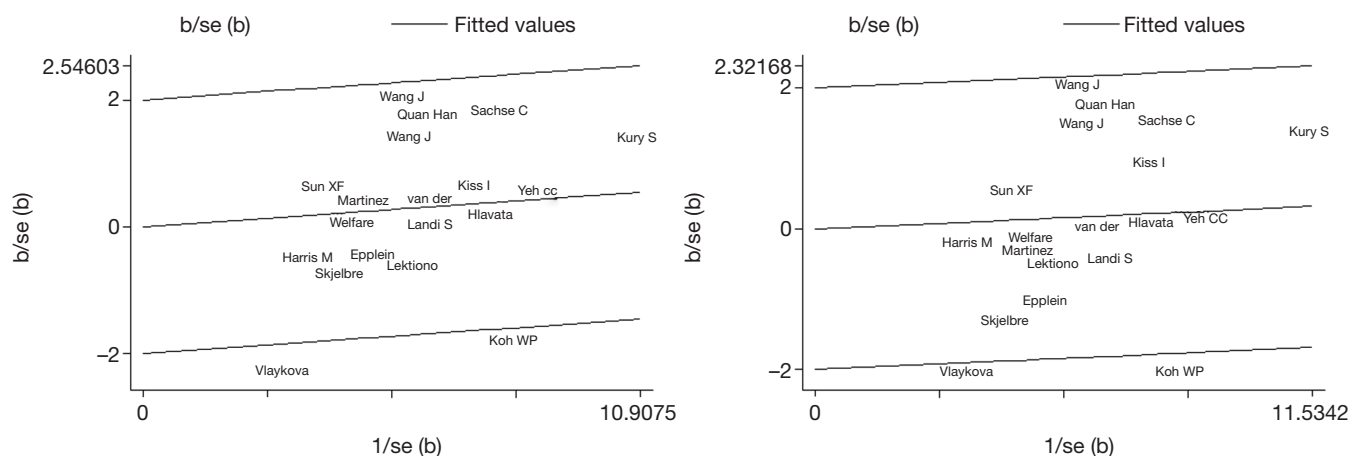
**Table S1** (continued)

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Reported on page #
<b>Results</b>			
Study selection	17	Give numbers of studies screened, assessed for eligibility, and included in the review, with reasons for exclusions at each stage, ideally with a flow diagram	9
Study characteristics	18	For each study, present characteristics for which data were extracted (e.g., study size, PICOS, follow-up period) and provide the citations	9
Risk of bias within studies	19	Present data on risk of bias of each study and, if available, any outcome level assessment (see item 12)	10-11
Results of individual studies	20	For all outcomes considered (benefits or harms), present, for each study: (I) simple summary data for each intervention group (II) effect estimates and confidence intervals, ideally with a forest plot	11
Synthesis of results	21	Present results of each meta-analysis done, including confidence intervals and measures of consistency	9-10
Risk of bias across studies	22	Present results of any assessment of risk of bias across studies (see item 15)	12
Additional analysis	23	Give results of additional analyses, if done [e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression (see item 16)]	11
<b>Discussion</b>			
Summary of evidence	24	Summarize the main findings including the strength of evidence for each main outcome; consider their relevance to key groups (e.g., healthcare providers, users, and policy makers)	13-16
Limitations	25	Discuss limitations at study and outcome level (e.g., risk of bias), and at review-level (e.g., incomplete retrieval of identified research, reporting bias)	15
Conclusions	26	Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence, and implications for future research	16
<b>Funding</b>			
Funding	27	Describe sources of funding for the systematic review and other support (e.g., supply of data); role of funders for the systematic review	2

**Table S2** Scale for quality assessment of genetic association studies of CRC risk

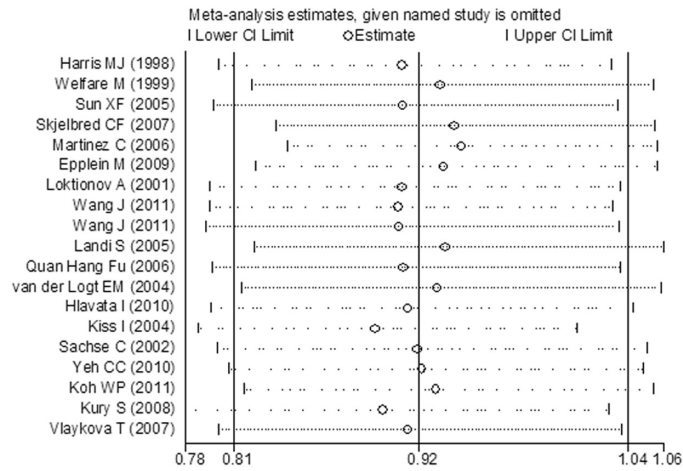
	Score
<b>Representativeness of cases</b>	
Selected from any population cancer registry	2
Selected from any gastroenterology or surgery service	1
Selected without clearly defined sampling frame or with extensive inclusion and exclusion criteria	0
<b>Sources of controls</b>	
Population- or neighbor-based	3
Blood donor	2
Hospital-based	1
Family-based	0.5
Not described	0
<b>Genotyping examination</b>	
Genotyping done under "blinded" condition	1
Unblinded or not mentioned	0
<b>Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium</b>	
Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium in control group	1
Hardy-Weinberg disequilibrium in control group	0
<b>Association assessment</b>	
Appropriate statistic used with adjusted three or more confounders	4
Appropriate statistic used with adjusted two confounders	3
Appropriate statistic used with adjusted one confounders	2
Appropriate statistic used without adjusted confounders	1
Inappropriate statistic used	0

CRC, colorectal cancer.

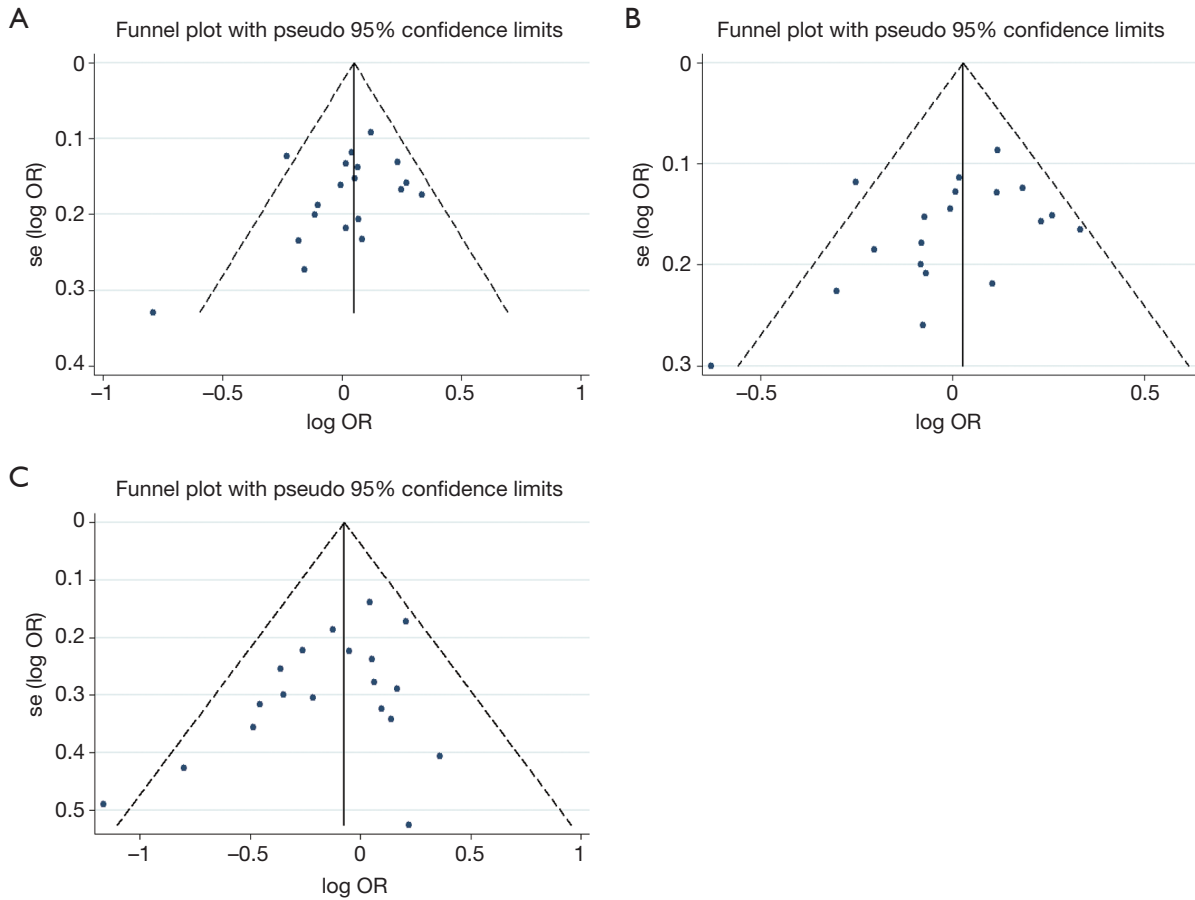


**Figure S1** (A) Galbraith plot analysis of heterozygous model; (B) galbraith plot analysis of dominant model.





**Figure S2** The sensitivity analysis of recessive model.



**Figure S3** (A) The funnel plot of heterozygous model; (B) the funnel plot of dominant model; (C) the funnel plot of recessive model.