

Differential association of HLA with three subtypes of type 1 diabetes: fulminant, slowly progressive and acute-onset

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Abstract

Aim/hypothesis We sought to clarify similarities and differences in the contribution of HLA to genetic susceptibility to three subtypes of type 1 diabetes: acute-onset, fulminant and slowly progressive.

Methods We genotyped 545 Japanese patients with type 1 diabetes (338 acute-onset, 80 fulminant, 127 slowly progressive) and 396 control participants at *HLA-DRB1*, *-DQB1*, *-A*, *-B* and *-C*, and at 101 candidate single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in an 8.5 Mb region of the extended HLA.

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Results *DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401*, *DRB1*0802-DQB1*0302* and *DRB1*0901-DQB1*0303* were associated with acute-onset type 1 diabetes, with the *DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401/DRB1*0802-DQB1*0302* genotype achieving the highest odds ratio of 42.7. *DRB1*1501-DQB1*0602* and *DRB1*1502-DQB1*0601* were negatively associated with acute-onset type 1 diabetes. A similar tendency was observed for slowly progressive type 1 diabetes. In contrast, only *DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401* was associated with fulminant type 1 diabetes, with the *DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401/DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401* genotype showing the highest odds ratio of 11.2. *DRB1*0802-DQB1*0302*, *DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401/DRB1*0802-DQB1*0302* and *DRB1*1501-DQB1*0602* were not associated with fulminant type 1 diabetes. The association of class I alleles and a panel of SNPs in an extended HLA region with fulminant type 1 diabetes was also different from that seen for the acute-onset and slowly progressive forms. The presence of both one and two susceptible haplotypes conferred susceptibility to slowly progressive type 1 diabetes, whereas the presence of two susceptible haplotypes was required to confer susceptibility to acute-onset and fulminant type 1 diabetes.

Conclusions/interpretation These data suggest that HLA associations with fulminant type 1 diabetes are qualitatively different from those with other subtypes of type 1 diabetes, whereas the HLA contribution to slowly progressive type 1 diabetes is qualitatively similar to, but quantitatively different from, that in acute-onset type 1 diabetes.

Keywords Fulminant type 1 diabetes · Genetics · HLA · Single nucleotide polymorphism · Slowly progressive type 1 diabetes · Susceptibility · Type 1 diabetes

Abbreviations

LADA Latent autoimmune diabetes in adults
 SNP Single nucleotide polymorphism
 UTR Untranslated region

Introduction

Type 1 diabetes is a clinically and aetiologically heterogeneous disorder. In addition to typical acute-onset type 1 diabetes, at least two subtypes have been described: fulminant and slowly progressive. Fulminant type 1 diabetes, which is characterised by an extremely acute onset of diabetes and absence of islet-related autoantibodies [1], accounts for up to 20% of type 1 diabetes in Japan [2] and 7% in Korea [3]. Slowly progressive type 1 diabetes, in contrast, is characterised by positivity for islet-related autoantibodies, but a long non-insulin-dependent stage, lasting usually for years, with gradual loss of beta cells

leading ultimately to an insulin-dependent stage [4]. Although all three subtypes share the same clinical characteristic of insulin dependence in the final stage, the time course of beta cell destruction is markedly different, which may well be based on differences in the aetiology, including genetic susceptibility, among the three subtypes of the disease [2, 4].

The contribution of HLA, in particular class II DR and DQ genes, to susceptibility to autoimmune type 1 diabetes has been well described [5]. The HLA alleles contributing to fulminant type 1 diabetes appear to be different from those in autoimmune type 1 diabetes. In an initial report [1], high frequencies of class II HLA alleles known to provide resistance to type 1 diabetes were described. Subsequent studies with serological typing of class II HLA in patients recruited through a nationwide survey showed a higher frequency of DR4-DQ4 as well as DR2-DQ1 haplotypes in fulminant type 1 diabetes than in autoimmune type 1 diabetes [6]. Slowly progressive type 1 diabetes was also reported to be associated with class II HLA [4].

Despite the contribution of HLA to each subtype of type 1 diabetes, no extensive studies comparing HLA alleles and genotypes in the three subtypes of type 1 diabetes have been performed, probably because the low frequency of type 1 diabetes in Japan makes it difficult to collect substantial numbers of samples for all three subtypes at any given institute. To overcome this, the Committee on Type 1 Diabetes of the Japan Diabetes Society has been performing nationwide studies and collecting samples from patients with fulminant as well as the typical acute-onset and slowly progressive subtypes of type 1 diabetes. Taking advantage of these samples, we studied the associations of a panel of single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) markers in the HLA region as well as class I and class II alleles of HLA with all three subtypes of type 1 diabetes. Our aim was to clarify the similarities and differences in the contribution of HLA to genetic susceptibility to the three subtypes.

Methods

Participants We studied 545 Japanese patients with type 1 diabetes (338 typical acute-onset, 80 fulminant and 127 slowly progressive type 1 diabetes) and 396 healthy control participants. Patients with fulminant type 1 diabetes were recruited through the Japan Diabetes Society as described previously [6]. Samples from patients with acute-onset and slowly progressive type 1 diabetes were collected from the hospitals of the committee members. The patients were ketosis-prone and positive for at least one of the islet-related autoantibodies, i.e. GAD antibodies, islet cell antibodies, insulin autoantibodies and/or IA-2 antibodies.

The duration of hyperglycaemic symptoms before the start of insulin therapy was less than 3 months for typical acute-onset type 1 diabetes and more than 12 months for slowly progressive type 1 diabetes. This study was approved by the appropriate ethics committees and informed consent was obtained from all participants.

Genotyping of class II and class I HLA Class II *DRB1* and *DQB1* were genotyped by the PCR sequence-specific primer and PCR sequence-specific oligonucleotide methods (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA). The most probable *DRB1-DQB1* haplotypes were deduced from known linkage disequilibria. Class I A, B and C alleles were genotyped by PCR sequence-specific oligonucleotide method (Wakunaga Pharmaceutical, Hiroshima, Japan).

Genotyping of SNPs in HLA region A total of 101 SNPs in 76 candidate genes in an 8.5 Mb region of the HLA was selected. Selection of candidate genes and SNPs was based on the following criteria: candidate genes reported in the literature and identified on PubMed using the following keywords: type 1 diabetes, insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, gene, human. In addition, genes related to immunological function and those expressed in the pancreas were also included. When multiple SNPs were identified in the same gene, SNPs were prioritised as follows: (1) SNPs reported to have a significant association with the disease; (2) SNPs in coding sequences; (3) SNPs in promoter, 5' and 3' untranslated regions; and (4) SNPs in introns. Within the same category, priority was given to SNPs uploaded in JSNP (<http://snp.ims.u-tokyo.ac.jp/index.html>, accessed 4 March 2009) with minor allele frequencies >0.05 in Japanese.

Genotyping was performed by the PCR fluorescence correlation spectroscopy method at the SNP Typing Center in the Department of Human Genetics, Tokyo University, as

reported previously [7]. Initially, 16 samples commonly used at the Typing Center for pilot screening for polymorphisms were typed, with only SNPs confirmed to show polymorphism in at least one sample being used for further typing. Nine SNPs not polymorphic in the initial screening and 24 SNPs that showed either non-specific amplification due to homologous pseudogenes or low calling rates were omitted. The remaining 68 SNPs were used for typing of all samples.

Statistical analysis Statistical analysis was performed with StatView 5.0 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA). The significance of differences in the distribution of alleles was determined by the χ^2 test or Fisher's exact probability test. *p* values were corrected for the number of different alleles tested (denoted as *p_c*). Statistical significance was defined as *p*<0.05.

Results

Class II alleles and haplotypes Association of class II HLA alleles and haplotypes with all three subtypes of type 1 diabetes was observed (Table 1, Electronic supplementary material [ESM] Tables 1, 2 and 3). However, a marked difference in the alleles and haplotypes associated with the disease was observed among the three subtypes. As reported previously [8–11], the *DRB1*0405* and **0901* alleles (ESM Table 1), *DQB1*0401* and **0303* alleles (ESM Table 2), and *DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401*, *DRB1*0802-DQB1*0302* and *DRB1*0901-DQB1*0303* haplotypes (Table 1) were associated with acute-onset type 1 diabetes. The *DRB1*1501* and **1502* alleles (ESM Table 1), *DQB1*0601* and *DQB1*0602* alleles (ESM Table 2), and *DRB1*1501-DQB1*0602* and *DRB1*1502-DQB1*0601* haplotypes (Table 1) were negatively associated with acute-

Table 1 *DRB1-DQB1* haplotypes associated positively (susceptible) or negatively (protective) with disease in patients with acute-onset, fulminant and slowly progressive type 1 diabetes, and in control participants

<i>DRB1-DQB1</i>	Control (<i>n</i> =792)		Acute (<i>n</i> =676)		Fulminant (<i>n</i> =160)		SP (<i>n</i> =254)		A vs C		F vs C		SP vs C	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>p_c</i> value	OR	<i>p_c</i> value	OR	<i>p_c</i> value	OR
Susceptible														
<i>*0405*0401</i>	96	12.1	205	30.3	51	31.9	65	25.6	2.6×10^{-16}	3.2	1.2×10^{-7}	3.4	4.5×10^{-6}	2.5
<i>*0802*0302</i>	14	1.8	48	7.1	3	1.9	13	5.1	1.6×10^{-5}	4.3	NS	1.1	NS	3.0
<i>*0901*0303</i>	117	14.8	209	30.9	38	23.8	62	24.4	3.8×10^{-12}	2.6	NS	1.8	7.8×10^{-3}	1.9
Protective														
<i>*1501*0602</i>	59	7.4	6	0.9	11	6.9	7	2.8	4.9×10^{-8}	0.11	NS	0.92	NS	0.35
<i>*1502*0601</i>	80	10.1	21	3.1	8	5.0	4	1.6	4.6×10^{-6}	0.29	NS	0.47	2.7×10^{-4}	0.14

For complete list of haplotypes including those not associated with the disease, see ESM Table 3

A, acute-onset; C, control participants; F, fulminant; *p_c*, *p* values corrected for number of different haplotypes tested; SP, slowly progressive

onset type 1 diabetes. The alleles and haplotypes associated with slowly progressive type 1 diabetes were similar to those associated with acute-onset type 1 diabetes (Table 1, ESM Tables 1, 2 and 3). In contrast, the alleles and haplotypes associated with fulminant type 1 diabetes were different from those associated with other subtypes. The strong negative association of the *DRB1*1501* and **1502* alleles, the *DQB1*0602* alleles and the *DRB1*1501-DQB1*0602* and *DRB1*1502-DQB1*0601* haplotypes with acute-onset type 1 diabetes was not observed in fulminant type 1 diabetes. In fact, the frequency of a strongly protective haplotype, *DRB1*1501-DQB1*0602*, was significantly higher in fulminant type 1 diabetes than in acute-onset type 1 diabetes (6.9% vs 0.9%, $p_c=2.8 \times 10^{-5}$) and was similar to that in control participants (7.4%). The positive association of the *DRB1*0802-DQB1*0302* haplotype observed in acute-onset type 1 diabetes (OR 4.3, $p_c=1.6 \times 10^{-5}$) was not observed in fulminant type 1 diabetes (OR 1.1, NS) (Table 1).

Class II genotypes Homozygosity for *DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401* was associated with all three subtypes of type 1 diabetes. The frequency, however, was much higher in fulminant type 1 diabetes (12.5%, OR 11.2) than in the acute-onset (8.3%, OR 7.1) and slowly progressive (7.1%, OR 6.0) subtypes, although the difference between the groups was not statistically significant (Table 2). In contrast, the frequency of *DRB1*0901-DQB1*0303* homozygotes was higher in acute-onset (15.7%) than in fulminant (7.5%) and slowly progressive (7.9%) type 1 diabetes (Table 2). The *DR4/8* (*DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401/DRB1*0802-DQB1*0302*) genotype was significantly associated with acute-onset (OR 42.7, $p_c=5.6 \times 10^{-10}$) and slowly progressive (OR 16.2, $p_c=0.03$) type 1 diabetes, but not

with fulminant type 1 diabetes (Table 1); the frequency in fulminant type 1 diabetes was lower than in acute-onset type 1 diabetes (9.8% vs 1.3%, $p=0.01$).

On the basis of their association with acute-onset type 1 diabetes, haplotypes were classified as susceptible (S) (haplotypes *DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401*, *DRB1*0802-DQB1*0302* and *DRB1*0901-DQB1*0303*), protective (P) (haplotypes *DRB1*1501-DQB1*0602* and *DRB1*1502-DQB1*0601*) or neutral (N) (haplotypes other than susceptible and protective haplotypes). Within this classification, the presence of two susceptible haplotypes (S/S) was associated with acute-onset (OR 10.0, $p_c=2.6 \times 10^{-35}$) and fulminant type 1 diabetes (OR 5.7, $p_c=4.7 \times 10^{-8}$), but the presence of one susceptible haplotype (S/N, S/P) had no effect on susceptibility to the disease (Table 3). In contrast, the presence of both two (S/S) and of one (S/N) susceptible haplotype was associated with slowly progressive type 1 diabetes (OR 4.1, $p_c=8.5 \times 10^{-8}$; OR 2.4, $p_c=1.1 \times 10^{-4}$, respectively) (Table 3).

Protective haplotypes provided strong protection against acute-onset (OR 0.17, $p_c=2.0 \times 10^{-17}$) and slowly progressive type 1 diabetes (OR 0.19, $p_c=3.4 \times 10^{-7}$), but no such effect was observed for fulminant type 1 diabetes (OR 0.58, NS) (Table 3). Thus, the susceptibility and protection provided by HLA haplotypes differed among the three subtypes of type 1 diabetes. In acute-onset type 1 diabetes S/S provided susceptibility and P provided protection, while S/S provided susceptibility but with no protective haplotypes in fulminant type 1 diabetes; in the slowly progressive subtype, both S/S and S/N provided susceptibility and P provided protection.

Class I HLA alleles and genotypes As seen in ESM Tables 4, 5, and 6, the frequency of *B*5401* was

Table 2 *DRB1-DQB1* genotypes in patients with acute-onset, fulminant and slowly progressive type 1 diabetes, and in control participants

<i>DRB1-DQB1</i>	Control (<i>n</i> =396)		Acute (<i>n</i> =338)		Fulminant (<i>n</i> =80)		SP (<i>n</i> =127)		A vs C		F vs C		SP vs C	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	p_c value	OR	p_c value	OR	p_c value	OR
<i>DR4/4</i>	5	1.3	28	8.3	10	12.5	9	7.1	4.3×10^{-5}	7.1	1.4×10^{-6}	11.2	0.014	6.0
<i>DR9/9</i>	12	3.0	53	15.7	6	7.5	10	7.9	9.8×10^{-9}	6.0	NS	2.6	NS	2.7
<i>DR4/9</i>	15	3.8	46	13.6	11	13.8	12	9.4	1.4×10^{-5}	4.0	0.013	4.1	NS	2.7
<i>DR4/8</i>	1	0.3	33	9.8	1	1.3	5	3.9	5.6×10^{-10}	42.7	NS	5.0	0.034	16.2
<i>DR8/9</i>	3	0.8	9	2.7	1	1.3	1	0.8	NS	3.6	NS	1.7	NS	1.0
<i>DR4/X</i>	70	17.7	70	20.7	19	23.8	30	23.6	NS	1.2	NS	1.5	NS	1.4
<i>DR9/X</i>	75	18.9	48	14.2	14	17.5	29	22.8	NS	0.71	NS	0.91	NS	1.3
<i>DR8/X</i>	10	2.5	6	1.8	1	1.3	7	5.5	NS	0.70	NS	0.49	NS	2.3
<i>DRX/X</i>	205	51.8	45	13.3	17	21.3	24	18.9	1.9×10^{-28}	0.14	5.4×10^{-6}	0.25	2.2×10^{-10}	0.2

DR4: *DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401* haplotype; DR8: *DRB1*0802-DQB1*0302* haplotype; DR9: *DRB1*0901-DQB1*0303* haplotype; X: haplotypes other than *DR4*, *DR8* and *DR9*

A, acute-onset; C, control participants; F, fulminant; p_c , p values corrected for number of different haplotypes tested; SP, slowly progressive

Table 3 *DRB1-DQB1* genotypes in patients with acute-onset, fulminant and slowly progressive type 1 diabetes, and in control participants

<i>DRB1-DQB1</i>	Control (<i>n</i> =396)		Acute (<i>n</i> =338)		Fulminant (<i>n</i> =80)		SP (<i>n</i> =127)		A vs C		F vs C		SP vs C	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>p_c</i> value	OR	<i>p_c</i> value	OR	<i>p_c</i> value	OR
S/S	36	9.1	169	50.0	29	36.3	37	29.1	2.6×10^{-35}	10.0	4.7×10^{-8}	5.7	8.5×10^{-8}	4.1
S/N	109	27.5	109	32.2	27	33.8	61	48.0	NS	1.3	NS	1.3	1.1×10^{-4}	2.4
S/P	46	11.6	15	4.4	7	8.8	5	3.9	2.7×10^{-3}	0.35	NS	0.73	NS	0.31
N/N	119	30.1	34	10.1	6	7.5	18	14.2	8.3×10^{-11}	0.26	1.7×10^{-4}	0.19	2.4×10^{-3}	0.38
N/P	78	19.7	10	3.0	10	12.5	6	4.7	1.2×10^{-12}	0.12	NS	0.58	3.8×10^{-4}	0.20
P/P	8	2.0	1	0.3	1	1.3	0	0.0	NS	0.14	NS	0.61	NS	–
Non-S/non-S	205	51.8	45	13.3	17	21.3	24	18.9	1.3×10^{-28}	0.14	3.6×10^{-6}	0.25	1.5×10^{-10}	0.22
P/X	132	33.3	26	7.7	18	22.5	11	8.7	2.0×10^{-17}	0.17	NS	0.58	3.4×10^{-7}	0.19

A, acute-onset; C, control participants; F, fulminant; P, protective haplotypes against acute-onset type 1 diabetes, *DRB1*1501-DQB1*0602* and *DRB1*1502-DQB1*0601*; *p_c*, *p* values corrected by multiplying by number of genotypes ($\times 6$); S, susceptible haplotypes for acute-onset type 1 diabetes, *DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401*, *DRB1*0802-DQB1*0302* and *DRB1*0901-DQB1*0303*; SP, slowly progressive; X, any haplotype (e.g. P/X= P/S+P/N+P/P)

significantly higher in acute-onset (OR 2.1, $p_c=2.9 \times 10^{-3}$) and slowly progressive diabetes (OR 2.6, $p_c=1.6 \times 10^{-2}$) than in control participants, but this was not the case for fulminant type 1 diabetes (OR 1.2, NS) (ESM Table 5). In contrast, the frequency of *B*4002* was significantly higher in fulminant (OR 2.9, $p_c=0.017$), but not in acute-onset (OR 1.4, NS) and slowly progressive (OR 0.94, NS) type 1 diabetes, as compared with that in control participants (ESM Table 5). The frequency of *C*0803* was significantly higher in fulminant (OR 9.6, $p_c=0.022$), but not in acute-onset and slowly progressive type 1 diabetes, than in control participants (ESM Table 6); it was also significantly higher in fulminant than in acute-onset type 1 diabetes ($p_c=0.03$). The frequency of *C*0801* was significantly higher in acute-onset, but not in fulminant and slowly progressive type 1 diabetes, than in control participants (ESM Table 6). The frequencies of *B*5201* (ESM Table 5) and *C*1202* (ESM Table 6) were significantly lower in acute-onset (OR 0.35, $p_c=5.1 \times 10^{-3}$; OR 0.37, $p_c=4.4 \times 10^{-3}$, respectively), but not in fulminant and slowly progressive type 1 diabetes, than in control participants.

Since most class I alleles showing association with type 1 diabetes were reported to be on haplotypes containing disease-susceptible class II HLA in the Japanese population [12], the participants were stratified by *DRB1-DQB1* to investigate whether or not these associations were secondary to linkage disequilibrium with *DRB1-DQB1* haplotypes. Class I alleles associated with acute-onset type 1 diabetes were in strong linkage disequilibrium with class II *DRB1-DQB1* haplotypes conferring susceptibility or resistance to acute-onset type 1 diabetes. The frequency of *B*5401* was much higher in patients with *DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401* than in those without (46.5% vs 15.9%, $p=6.8 \times 10^{-7}$), and the association of *B*5401* with the disease was observed only

in patients with *DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401* (acute-onset: OR 4.0, $p=3.7 \times 10^{-8}$), but not in those without it (OR 0.86, NS) (ESM Table 7). Similarly, *B*4006* and *C*0801* were in linkage disequilibrium with *DRB1*0901-DQB1*0303* (37.3% vs 12.0%, $p=8.7 \times 10^{-6}$ and 40.2% vs 17.4%, $p=1.1 \times 10^{-4}$ in patients with and without *DRB1*0901-DQB1*0303*, respectively); their association with the disease was observed in patients with, but not in patients without *DRB1*0901-DQB1*0303* (ESM Table 7). *B*5201* and *C*1202*, which were negatively associated with the disease, were in linkage disequilibrium with *DRB1*1502-DQB1*0601* (40.0% vs 5.2%, $p=2.3 \times 10^{-4}$ and 43.7% vs 5.1%, $p=3.6 \times 10^{-5}$ in patients with and without *DRB1*1502-DQB1*0601*, respectively). In contrast, the association of *B*4002* with fulminant type 1 diabetes was observed regardless of the presence or absence of *DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401* and *DRB1*0901-DQB1*0303* (ESM Table 7).

Association with SNPs in HLA region As seen in Table 4 and ESM Fig. 1, a SNP located in class II *DQB1* (rs1049107) was associated with all three subtypes, confirming that association with class II HLA is observed in all three subtypes of type 1 diabetes. A SNP located in *TNF* (rs1800610) was also associated with all three subtypes.

In addition to the peaks observed in all three subtypes, several peaks limited to one or two subtypes were observed. Several SNPs showed an association with fulminant, but not with acute-onset and slowly progressive type 1 diabetes. Among these were: (1) rs2071800, located in the coding region of *DQA2*; (2) rs2071552 and rs3763364 located in the 5' untranslated region (UTR) and promoter region respectively of *TAP2*; and (3) rs2294689 located in the coding region of *TTRAP*.

Table 4 Association of SNPs typed in the HLA region with acute, fulminant and slowly progressive type 1 diabetes

SNP ID	dbSNP ID (rs no.)	Gene symbol	Location	OR (95% CI)			<i>p</i> value		
				Acute	Fulminant	SP	Acute	Fulminant	SP
001	2294689	<i>TTRAP</i>	CDS	1.28 (0.99–1.65)	1.96 (1.31–2.92)	1.45 (1.04–2.02)	NS	0.0009	0.03
002	2275906	<i>SLC17A4</i>	CDS	1.00 (0.59–1.71)	0.65 (0.25–1.73)	0.79 (0.38–1.67)	NS	NS	NS
003	1572982	<i>HFE</i>	Intron	0.99 (0.68–1.43)	1.28 (0.75–2.20)	1.08 (0.67–1.73)	NS	NS	NS
004	3736781	<i>BTN1A1</i>	CDS	1.12 (0.85–1.48)	0.66 (0.41–1.05)	0.98 (0.68–1.40)	NS	NS	NS
005	3734576	<i>PRSS16</i>	3'UTR	0.76 (0.42–1.38)	0.75 (0.28–2.01)	1.00 (0.48–2.07)	NS	NS	NS
006	2294481	<i>D6S2223</i>	Intron	1.12 (0.87–1.44)	1.05 (0.71–1.56)	1.23 (0.88–1.71)	NS	NS	NS
007	1480646	<i>ZNF192</i>	Promoter	1.03 (0.73–1.45)	1.23 (0.74–2.05)	0.91 (0.58–1.45)	NS	NS	NS
008	2269553	<i>TRIM27</i>	Intron	1.31 (1.02–1.69)	1.13 (0.76–1.68)	1.59 (1.15–2.22)	0.03	NS	0.006
009	29230	<i>GABBR1</i>	CDS	0.74 (0.54–1.02)	0.72 (0.43–1.19)	0.99 (0.67–1.46)	NS	NS	NS
010	2252711	<i>MOG</i>	Intron	1.03 (0.76–1.40)	0.77 (0.47–1.28)	1.42 (0.98–2.08)	NS	NS	NS
011	1736922	<i>HLA-F</i>	Intron	1.46 (1.13–1.88)	1.15 (0.77–1.72)	0.90 (0.64–1.27)	0.004	NS	NS
012	378971	<i>HCG9</i>	CDS	0.69 (0.53–0.90)	0.94 (0.63–1.40)	0.93 (0.66–1.30)	0.005	NS	NS
013	2074479	<i>RNF39</i>	CDS	0.96 (0.71–1.29)	1.59 (1.03–2.45)	1.01 (0.69–1.47)	NS	0.04	NS
014	2074474	<i>TRIM39</i>	CDS	1.16 (0.89–1.49)	1.05 (0.70–1.57)	1.44 (1.03–2.00)	NS	NS	0.03
015	3757388	<i>IRF5</i>	Promoter	0.12 (0.01–2.40)	1.22 (0.13–11.80)	0.72 (0.07–6.99)	NS	NS	NS
016	1265054	<i>C6orf15</i>	CDS	0.69 (0.53–0.90)	0.79 (0.53–1.19)	0.74 (0.52–1.03)	0.005	NS	NS
017	2073721	<i>TCF19</i>	CDS	1.01 (0.78–1.31)	1.04 (0.69–1.56)	1.29 (0.92–1.80)	NS	NS	NS
018	2523946	<i>HCG9</i>	Promoter	0.79 (0.60–1.03)	0.75 (0.49–1.14)	1.08 (0.77–1.52)	NS	NS	NS
019	1049853	<i>HLA-C</i>	3'UTR	1.90 (1.28–2.83)	2.10 (1.20–3.68)	1.61 (0.97–2.67)	0.001	0.008	NS
020	3819300 ^a	<i>HLA-B</i>	CDS	0.56 (0.38–0.82)	0.64 (0.35–1.17)	0.95 (0.61–1.50)	0.003	NS	NS
021	709052	<i>HLA-B</i>	CDS	0.66 (0.49–0.90)	0.47 (0.27–0.82)	0.86 (0.58–1.27)	0.009	0.007	NS
022	1050747	<i>HLA-B</i>	CDS	0.73 (0.51–1.04)	1.10 (0.65–1.86)	0.59 (0.35–0.97)	NS	NS	0.04
023	2534674	<i>MICB</i>	Promoter	1.38 (1.06–1.79)	1.05 (0.70–1.58)	1.42 (1.02–1.98)	0.02	NS	0.04
024	2239527	<i>BAT1</i>	5'UTR	0.77 (0.59–1.01)	0.78 (0.51–1.18)	0.85 (0.60–1.20)	NS	NS	NS
025	2230365	<i>NFKBIL1</i>	CDS	1.01 (0.76–1.35)	1.31 (0.85–2.03)	0.88 (0.60–1.29)	NS	NS	NS
026	2239704	<i>LTA</i>	5'UTR	1.02 (0.79–1.31)	0.82 (0.55–1.23)	0.95 (0.68–1.32)	NS	NS	NS
027	1800610	<i>TNF</i>	Intron	2.87 (2.16–3.82)	1.95 (1.27–2.99)	2.17 (1.51–3.11)	1.0×10^{-13} *	0.002	2.0×10^5 *
028	2256974	<i>LST1</i>	Intron	0.80 (0.62–1.05)	0.72 (0.47–1.11)	0.87 (0.62–1.24)	NS	NS	NS
029	2736176	<i>BAT2</i>	Promoter	1.12 (0.87–1.44)	1.17 (0.79–1.74)	1.08 (0.78–1.50)	NS	NS	NS
030	1046089	<i>BAT2</i>	CDS	1.31 (1.00–1.71)	1.38 (0.92–2.08)	1.05 (0.74–1.50)	0.047	NS	NS
031	2242656	<i>BAT3</i>	Intron	1.04 (0.69–1.56)	1.31 (0.73–2.37)	1.53 (0.95–2.48)	NS	NS	NS
032	7992	<i>BAT4</i>	CDS	1.36 (1.05–1.76)	1.34 (0.89–2.00)	1.29 (0.92–1.80)	0.02	NS	NS
033	805282	<i>BAT5</i>	Intron	1.32 (1.02–1.71)	1.28 (0.86–1.91)	1.32 (0.95–1.85)	0.04	NS	NS
034	2075800	<i>HSPA1L</i>	CDS	0.96 (0.74–1.24)	0.91 (0.61–1.35)	0.92 (0.66–1.29)	NS	NS	NS
035	7887	<i>EHMT2</i>	CDS	0.69 (0.52–0.91)	0.56 (0.35–0.89)	0.93 (0.65–1.32)	0.01	0.01	NS
036	2072634	<i>CFB</i>	CDS	0.55 (0.33–0.90)	0.50 (0.21–1.22)	0.61 (0.31–1.18)	0.02	NS	NS
037	3749966	<i>C6orf10</i>	CDS	0.81 (0.59–1.11)	0.45 (0.25–0.83)	0.95 (0.64–1.42)	NS	0.009	NS
038	2076530	<i>BTNL2</i>	CDS	1.18 (0.92–1.53)	0.97 (0.65–1.46)	1.27 (0.91–1.77)	NS	NS	NS
039	14004	<i>HLA-DRA</i>	5'UTR	1.36 (1.04–1.77)	1.12 (0.74–1.69)	1.28 (0.91–1.80)	0.02	NS	NS
040	1049107	<i>HLA-DQB1</i>	CDS	0.20 (0.11–0.35)	0.19 (0.07–0.54)	0.27 (0.13–0.56)	6.7×10^{-10} *	5.6×10^{-4} *	1.7×10^{-4} *
041	2071800	<i>HLA-DQA2</i>	CDS	1.85 (1.01–3.41)	4.02 (1.95–8.29)	1.23 (0.53–2.82)	0.045	5.9×10^{-5} *	NS
042	3213484	<i>HLA-DQB2</i>	CDS	0.83 (0.62–1.10)	0.58 (0.35–0.95)	0.91 (0.63–1.32)	NS	0.03	NS
043	1049110	<i>HLA-DQB2</i>	CDS	0.85 (0.64–1.14)	0.56 (0.34–0.92)	0.91 (0.63–1.32)	NS	0.02	NS
044	2071554	<i>HLA-DOB</i>	CDS	0.34 (0.22–0.52)	0.66 (0.37–1.21)	0.28 (0.15–0.54)	4.2×10^{-6} *	NS	6.4×10^{-5} *
045	241441	<i>TAP2</i>	CDS	0.88 (0.68–1.14)	0.80 (0.53–1.20)	1.24 (0.88–1.74)	NS	NS	NS
046	2071552	<i>TAP2</i>	5'UTR	1.25 (0.97–1.61)	1.80 (1.21–2.67)	1.30 (0.93–1.81)	NS	0.004	NS
047	3763364	<i>TAP2</i>	Promoter	1.31 (1.00–1.71)	2.19 (1.46–3.28)	1.21 (0.86–1.71)	0.048	1.2×10^{-4} *	NS

Table 4 (continued)

SNP ID	dbSNP ID (rs no.)	Gene symbol	Location	OR (95% CI)			<i>p</i> value		
				Acute	Fulminant	SP	Acute	Fulminant	SP
048	2071543	<i>PSMB8</i>	CDS	0.70 (0.48–1.03)	1.32 (0.78–2.23)	0.64 (0.38–1.08)	NS	NS	NS
049	2071463	<i>PSMB8</i>	5'UTR	1.10 (0.85–1.43)	0.85 (0.56–1.29)	1.03 (0.73–1.45)	NS	NS	NS
050	1800453 ^b	<i>TAP1</i>	CDS	0.94 (0.62–1.41)	0.48 (0.21–1.08)	1.19 (0.72–1.97)	NS	NS	NS
051	2071536	<i>TAP1</i>	CDS	0.31 (0.18–0.56)	0.64 (0.29–1.39)	0.37 (0.17–0.80)	3.4×10^{-5} *	NS	0.009
052	17587	<i>PSMB9</i>	CDS	1.37 (1.02–1.84)	1.68 (1.08–2.60)	1.42 (0.97–2.07)	0.04	0.02	NS
053	1042337	<i>HLA-DMB</i>	CDS	1.05 (0.80–1.38)	1.04 (0.68–1.58)	1.08 (0.76–1.52)	NS	NS	NS
054	150359	<i>HLA-DMA</i>	Promoter	1.32 (1.02–1.70)	1.02 (0.68–1.51)	1.46 (1.05–2.03)	0.03	NS	0.03
055	516535	<i>BRD2</i>	CDS	1.30 (1.01–1.68)	1.01 (0.68–1.49)	1.44 (1.04–2.00)	0.04	NS	0.03
056	375256	<i>HLA-DOA</i>	CDS	1.16 (0.88–1.55)	1.02 (0.65–1.60)	0.88 (0.59–1.29)	NS	NS	NS
057	3097671	<i>HLA-DPB1</i>	Intron	0.56 (0.38–0.83)	0.68 (0.37–1.25)	0.48 (0.28–0.84)	0.003	NS	0.009
058	1799908	<i>COL11A2</i>	CDS	0.87 (0.64–1.17)	0.61 (0.36–1.02)	0.87 (0.59–1.29)	NS	NS	NS
059	2072915	<i>RXRβ</i>	3'UTR	0.88 (0.65–1.20)	0.67 (0.40–1.12)	0.87 (0.58–1.30)	NS	NS	NS
060	383711	<i>HSD17B8</i>	Intron	0.54 (0.42–0.70)	0.64 (0.43–0.96)	0.59 (0.42–0.83)	2.7×10^{-6} *	0.03	0.002
061	213208	<i>RING1</i>	Intron	0.68 (0.52–0.89)	0.81 (0.53–1.24)	0.64 (0.44–0.92)	0.005	NS	0.02
062	213199	<i>VPS52</i>	CDS	0.67 (0.51–0.89)	1.02 (0.67–1.55)	0.54 (0.36–0.80)	0.005	NS	0.002
063	466384 ^c	<i>WDR46</i>	CDS	0.94 (0.54–1.62)	0.40 (0.12–1.36)	0.65 (0.29–1.47)	NS	NS	NS
064	456261	<i>PFDN6</i>	Intron	0.66 (0.50–0.88)	0.95 (0.62–1.46)	0.57 (0.39–0.85)	0.004	NS	0.005
065	1059288	<i>TAPBP</i>	3'UTR	0.66 (0.50–0.87)	0.97 (0.64–1.47)	0.57 (0.39–0.83)	0.003	NS	0.003
066	2071888	<i>TAPBP</i>	CDS	0.65 (0.49–0.85)	0.93 (0.61–1.41)	0.57 (0.40–0.83)	0.002	NS	0.003
067	2073525	<i>DAXX</i>	Promoter	0.65 (0.49–0.85)	0.91 (0.60–1.37)	0.59 (0.41–0.86)	0.002	NS	0.005
068	2274730	<i>ZBTB9</i>	5'UTR	0.60 (0.45–0.81)	0.94 (0.60–1.48)	0.72 (0.50–1.06)	6.5×10^{-4} *	NS	NS

^a Now merged into rs2308655; ^b now merged into rs1135216; ^c now merged into rs14398

**p* values that remained significant after correction for number of SNPs genotyped ($\times 68$)

In contrast, SNPs located in the coding regions of *DOB* (rs2071554) and *TAP1* (rs2071536) were associated with acute-onset and slowly progressive, but not with fulminant type 1 diabetes. Similarly, an association was suggested between several SNPs located in the most centromeric region, e.g. rs3097671 in *DPB1* and rs383711 in *HSD17B8*, and both acute-onset and slowly progressive, but not fulminant type 1 diabetes. SNPs located in the region centromeric to *DPB1* (rs213208, rs213199, rs45261, rs1059288, rs2071888 and rs2073525) also showed a tendency for association with acute-onset and slowly progressive, but not fulminant type 1 diabetes.

To investigate whether or not these associations were secondary to linkage disequilibrium with susceptible and protective *DRB1-DQB1* haplotypes, the participants were stratified by *DRB1-DQB1*. A minor T allele of *DQA2*, which was strongly associated with fulminant type 1 diabetes (OR 4.02, $p=6 \times 10^{-5}$), was in strong linkage disequilibrium with *DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401* in control participants, with 19.1% frequency in participants with, as compared with 2.8% frequency in participants without *DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401* ($p=4.0 \times 10^{-5}$). The association of *DQA2*T*

with the disease was observed only in patients with *DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401* (OR 10.3, $p=1.6 \times 10^{-8}$), but not in patients without *DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401* (OR 0.63, NS).

In contrast, SNPs whose minor alleles showed a negative association with acute-onset and slowly progressive type 1 diabetes were in linkage disequilibrium with protective *DRB1-DQB1* haplotypes, i.e. either *DRB1*1501* (rs2071536 in *TAP1*, $p=1.8 \times 10^{-14}$) or *DRB1*1502* (rs383711: $p=5.6 \times 10^{-5}$, rs45261: $p=2.4 \times 10^{-6}$, rs1059288: $p=4.0 \times 10^{-6}$, rs2071888: $p=3.5 \times 10^{-6}$, rs2073525: $p=7.8 \times 10^{-6}$) or both (rs2071554 in *DOB*, $p=1.8 \times 10^{-10}$ for *DRB1*1501* and $p=2.3 \times 10^{-21}$ for *DRB1*1502*).

Discussion

The present study demonstrates that class II HLA is associated with all three subtypes of type 1 diabetes, but the alleles, haplotypes and genotypes associated with the disease are markedly different among the three subtypes. Basically, the alleles and haplotypes associated with acute-

onset and slowly progressive type 1 diabetes were similar, whereas those associated with fulminant type 1 diabetes were mostly different from those in the other two subtypes of type 1 diabetes, as shown by the lack, in fulminant type 1 diabetes, of (1) protection conferred by *DRB1*1501-DQB1*0602*, a highly protective haplotype against acute-onset type 1 diabetes, and (2) susceptibility conferred by the *DRB1*0802-DQB1*0302* and *DR4/8* genotype, which confers strong susceptibility to acute-onset type 1 diabetes.

*DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401* was associated with fulminant as well as acute-onset and slowly progressive type 1 diabetes, but the magnitude of the effect differed, particularly in the homozygous form, playing a key role in fulminant type 1 diabetes. The fact that neither *DRB1*1501-DQB1*0602* nor *DQB1*0302* affected susceptibility and only Asian-specific *DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401* conferred susceptibility in fulminant type 1 diabetes may explain the marked difference in incidence of fulminant type 1 diabetes among different ethnic groups. Fulminant type 1 diabetes has been reported in Asian populations, comprising up to 20% of adult-onset type 1 diabetes in Japan [2] and 7% of Korean type 1 diabetes [3]; in these populations *DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401* is a common haplotype. In contrast, fulminant type 1 diabetes appears to be extremely rare in white populations [2, 13], in whom the *DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401* haplotype is also very rare. This may also reflect the difference in aetiology between fulminant and other subtypes of type 1 diabetes, i.e. autoimmune aetiology in acute-onset and slowly progressive type 1 diabetes, and idiopathic aetiology in fulminant type 1 diabetes [1, 2]. Several lines of evidence suggest viral infection in genetically susceptible individuals as a cause of fulminant type 1 diabetes [2, 14–16]. *DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401* was reported to be associated with immunological responses against certain viruses [17].

Slowly progressive type 1 diabetes is similar, but not identical to latent autoimmune diabetes in adults (LADA) in white populations [18] and is defined by autoimmune aetiology as reflected by positivity for islet-related autoantibodies, but slower progression to an insulin-dependent stage than in acute-onset type 1 diabetes [4]. LADA is defined by positivity for islet-related autoantibodies as in the case of slowly progressive type 1 diabetes, but progression to an insulin-dependent stage is not a necessary part of its definition [18]. Slowly progressive type 1 diabetes is more likely to be a mild form of acute-onset type 1 diabetes [4]. Consistent with this, the class II alleles and haplotypes associated with slowly progressive type 1 diabetes in the present study were similar to those in acute-onset type 1 diabetes. The similarity of HLA alleles and haplotypes between acute-onset and slowly progressive type 1 diabetes suggests that the phenotypic difference between these two subtypes of type 1 diabetes may not be

due to differences in alleles and haplotypes of class II HLA. One possibility is a difference in presence of susceptible haplotypes between slowly progressive and acute-onset type 1 diabetes. As shown in Table 3, the presence of both two (S/S) and of one (S/N) susceptible haplotypes conferred susceptibility to slowly progressive type 1 diabetes, whereas for acute-onset type 1 diabetes only the former (S/S), but not the latter (S/N) conferred susceptibility, suggesting that differences in numbers of susceptible haplotypes affect the speed of disease progression, leading to the difference between acute-onset and slowly progressive forms of type 1 diabetes.

In addition to class II HLA, several loci, including class I HLA, showed some evidence of association with type 1 diabetes. Most alleles of class I HLA that were associated with acute-onset and slowly progressive type 1 diabetes (ESM Tables 4, 5, and 6) appeared to be secondary to linkage disequilibrium between these alleles and disease-related class II alleles, e.g. *B*5401* with *DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401*, *B*4006* and *C*0801* with *DRB1*0901-DQB1*0303*, and *B*5201* and *C*1202* with *DRB1*01502-DQB1*0601*. However, the class I alleles associated with fulminant type 1 diabetes were different from those associated with acute-onset type 1 diabetes in that *B*5401*, which was increased in acute-onset and slowly progressive type 1 diabetes, was not increased and instead *B*4002* was increased. *B*4002* was reported to be on haplotypes containing *DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401* and *DRB1*0901-DQB1*0303* in the Japanese population, although the haplotype frequencies are very low [12]. However, association of *B*4002* with fulminant type 1 diabetes cannot be explained by linkage disequilibrium with these class II haplotypes, because the association was observed regardless of the presence or absence of the *DRB1*0405-DQB1*0401* and *DRB1*0901-DQB1*0303* haplotypes (ESM Table 7), suggesting that genes outside class II HLA, including class I HLA, contribute to the difference between fulminant and other subtypes of type 1 diabetes.

To further clarify the contribution of genes outside class II HLA to the phenotypic difference between the three subtypes of type 1 diabetes, we genotyped SNPs in an 8.5 Mb region of the extended HLA that ranged from a locus 1.5 Mb telomeric to *HFE* to a locus 0.5 Mb centromeric to *DPB1*. In addition to the association observed in all three subtypes, an association limited to one or two subtypes was also observed, which may contribute to the phenotypic differences between the three disease subtypes. Among these were SNPs in *TAP2* and *DQA2*, which were associated with fulminant, but not with acute-onset or slowly progressive type 1 diabetes, with minor alleles conferring disease susceptibility. In contrast, a SNP in *DOB* was associated with acute-onset and slowly progressive, but not with fulminant, type 1 diabetes, with the minor allele being protective against the disease, as previously reported

for acute-onset type 1 diabetes in a white population [19]. A similar tendency of association was also suggested for several SNPs located in the most centromeric region (rs45261, rs1059288, rs2071888, rs2073525) (Table 4).

Although extensive effort has been put into collecting samples, particularly for fulminant type 1 diabetes, the number of samples in the present study is still modest for this kind of study. Further studies with dense SNPs and a larger number of participants are necessary to clarify whether or not the association of these SNPs with each subtype is real and independent of other nearby genes. In addition, the contribution of genes outside the extended HLA, as well as of those on different chromosomes to the disease, should also be studied in these three subtypes of type 1 diabetes.

In conclusion, the present study demonstrates that class II HLA is associated with three subtypes of type 1 diabetes, fulminant, acute-onset and slowly progressive forms, but the alleles, haplotypes and genotypes associated with the disease differ among the three subtypes. The association with HLA in fulminant type 1 diabetes is qualitatively different from that in other subtypes of type 1 diabetes, which may reflect the difference in aetiology between fulminant and other subtypes of type 1 diabetes. In contrast, the association with HLA in slowly progressive type 1 diabetes is qualitatively similar to, but quantitatively different from that in acute-onset type 1 diabetes. Given that in this study a substantial number of patients with fulminant type 1 diabetes or with well characterised slowly progressive type 1 diabetes were recruited only in Japan, further studies with dense genetic markers, including whole-genome association studies comparing these three subtypes of type 1 diabetes, are necessary. Such studies are now underway.

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Duality of interest The authors declare that there is no duality of interest associated with this manuscript.

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