Review

Gene Polymorphisms and Circulating Levels of MMP-2 and MMP-9: A Review of Their Role in Breast Cancer Risk

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Abstract. MMP-2 and MMP-9 genes have been suggested to play a role in breast cancer. Their functions have been associated with invasion and metastasis of breast cancer; however, their involvement in the development of the disease is not well-established. Herein, we reviewed the literature investigating the association between circulating levels and polymorphisms of MMP-2 and MMP-9 and breast cancer risk. Various studies report conflicting results regarding the relationship of polymorphisms in MMP-2 and MMP-9 and breast cancer risk. Nevertheless, it appears that the T allele in rs243865 and rs2285053 in MMP-2 are associated with reduced risk of breast cancer. In addition, high levels of latent form and low levels of active form of MMP-2 were observed in breast cancer patients compared to controls. For MMP-9, high latent levels and low total levels were found in breast cancer patients compared to controls. Additional studies are needed to comprehend the role of these genes in breast carcinogenesis.

Matrix metalloproteinases (MMP) are a family of Zn²⁺-dependent endopeptidases responsible for cleaving components of the extracellular matrix (1). They are classified into several families according to their structural differences (1, 2). MMP-2 and -9 comprise the gelatinase family that possesses three fibronectin repeats allowing for degradation of denatured collagen (gelatin) and collagens IV and V (2, 3). These gelatinases degrade collagen in the basement membrane

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Key Words: Matrix metalloproteinases, gelatinases, polymorphisms, circulating levels, breast cancer risk, review.

(4), as well as other extracellular matrix components, thus promoting extracellular matrix remodeling and consequently play a key role in several physiological processes, such as tissue repair, wound healing, and cell differentiation (5, 6).

Gelatinases could be involved in carcinogenesis processes, including cell proliferation, angiogenesis, and tumor metastasis through their proteolytic function (7). Indeed, the literature suggests their involvement in several pathological processes critical for cancer development, including inflammation, angiogenesis, and cell proliferation, as well as in tumor progression (8, 9). More specifically, the biological functions of MMP-2 and -9 proteins have been associated with invasive and metastatic stages of breast cancer (10, 11); however, their involvement in breast cancer development is unclear.

Herein, we aimed to review and discuss articles which studied the association between gelatinases and breast cancer risk. For this purpose, an electronic search of the MEDLINE (PubMed) database was performed to identify all published studies that evaluated the association of polymorphisms or circulating levels of MMP-2 and MMP-9 with breast cancer risk.

Matrix Metalloproteinase-2 (*MMP-2*)

MMP-2 is located on chromosome 16 and codes for gelatinase A. The substrates for this enzyme include gelatin, collagen V, and collagen VI (12). The *MMP-2* gene has been studied in several abnormal physiological processes, such as obesity and cancer (13). Polymorphisms that alter the function and efficacy of this protein could be associated with breast cancer risk. Several studies have evaluated this association (14-23).

Circulating Levels of MMP-2 and Breast Cancer Risk

MMP-2 exists in three forms: latent, active and total. These forms vary in their molecular weight, making it possible to measure them in the blood. Enzymatic techniques such as

zymography (12, 24) allow quantifying the presence of these different MMP-2 forms in the blood. However, there are other less specific methods to measure circulating levels. Studies that have examined circulating levels of MMP-2 and breast cancer risk have measured either the latent, active or concentrations of both combined (latent plus active) (25-30), but two studies did not specify the form (31, 32). Eight research articles on circulating levels of MMP-2 are presented in Table I.

Latent form (pro-MMP-2). MMP-2 is expressed in its latent form and is activated in the extracellular matrix. This latent form can be measured in either serum or plasma. The molecular weight of pro-MMP-2 is 72 kDa (33). La Rocca et al. (25) found that the serum levels of the pro-MMP-2 form were higher in breast cancer patients than in healthy patients (p<0.0001). The authors used the zymography technique to quantify the enzyme in the study.

Active MMP-2 form (aMMP-2). Active MMP-2 results from the activation of the pro-MMP-2 form by proteolytic cleavage of the N-terminus (34). The molecular weight of this active species is 63 kDa (33). This functional form of MMP-2, as measured in plasma, was reportedly lower in breast cancer patients than in healthy people (100 pg/mg vs. 130 pg/mg, p=0.038) (26). The concentrations of aMMP-2 in serum were also lower in breast cancer patients than in healthy groups (375 pg/mg vs. 725 pg/mg, p<0.001) (27). Thus, circulating levels of aMMP-2 appear to be lower in breast cancer patients than healthy people.

Total MMP-2 (tMMP-2). This form of MMP-2 includes both the pro-enzyme and the active enzyme. Somiari et al. (26) found that the plasma concentrations of tMMP-2 were higher in patients with breast cancer than healthy individuals (1350 pg/mg vs. 900 pg/mg, p=0.002). However, Aroner et al. (30) and Kim et al. (29) did not find any association between plasma levels of tMMP-2 in breast cancer cases and healthy individuals. In addition, two studies revealed that tMMP-2 concentrations, when assessed in the serum, did not differ between breast cancer patients and healthy low risk women (p=0.926) (27) or healthy women (p>0.05) (28). Thus, tMMP-2 does not appear to be associated with breast cancer. These results for tMMP-2 levels are not surprising since opposite associations have been observed for pro-MMP-2 and aMMP-2 levels with the risk of breast cancer.

No specific form. Other authors have studied circulating levels of MMP-2 in breast cancer without identifying the form. Two studies found that serum mean levels of MMP-2 are higher in patients with breast cancer than in healthy patients (694.3 ng/ml *vs*. 593.3 ng/ml (31), 806.5 ng/ml *vs*.

771.2 ng/ml (32), p<0.05). These results are nonetheless concordant with those observed between pro-MMP-2 levels and breast cancer risk.

MMP-2 Gene Polymorphisms and Breast Cancer Risk

A total of 37 polymorphisms located on the *MMP-2* gene were studied, with most located in the promoter region. The main studied polymorphisms were rs243865, rs2285053, rs243866 and rs243864. Studies of *MMP-2* polymorphisms are described in Table II.

rs243865. The rs243865 polymorphism in MMP-2 is a common C→T transition at position -1306 in the promoter. This transition interrupts binding with stimulating protein 1 (Sp1), which is a transcription factor. It has been reported that the T allele reduces the expression of MMP-2 (35). Ten studies investigated the association between rs243865 and breast cancer risk, but the results were unclear (14-23). Several authors have hypothesized that this polymorphism may reduce the risk of breast cancer because of less protein expression. Three studies found a significant association between rs243865 in MMP-2 and risk of breast cancer in Chinese (OR=0.46; 95% CI=0.34-0.63; p=0.00001) (14), Mexican (OR=0.47; 95% CI=0.24-0.88; p=0.01) (17) and Tunisian (OR=0.39; 95% CI=0.25-0.72) (22) populations. These three studies used the dominant model and found that CT+TT genotypes reduced the risk of breast cancer compared to the CC genotype. However, Saeed et al. (19) also used this same dominant model in the Saudi population and found that CT+TT genotypes increased the risk of breast cancer compared to the CC genotype (OR=2.12; 95% CI=1.09-4.11; p=0.025). It is important to note that, deviation from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium was observed for rs243865 in this study (19). Using a recessive model in a Caucasian-Hispanic population, Slattery et al. (21) observed that the association between TT carriers compared to CT+CC carriers was significant (OR=0.84; 95% CI=0.73-0.97) after adjustment for body mass index and other risk factors. Additionally, five studies analyzed the relation between rs243865 in MMP-2 and breast cancer risk in Caucasian (15, 20), Brazilian (16), Chinese (18) and Tunisian (23) populations, but did not find any association. In contrast with studies reporting decreased breast cancer risk with rs243865, these four former studies used an additive model. Increasing the number of copies of the T allele did not affect the risk of breast cancer. Habel et al. (23) compared the T allele to the C allele of rs243865 in MMP-2 in the Tunisian population and demonstrated that the T allele was not associated with the risk of breast cancer. Taken together, we cannot exclude the possibility that the T allele may reduce breast cancer risk in some populations.

rs243866. rs243866 is a G to A transition located in the MMP-2 promoter, at position -1575. MMP-2 is estrogenresponsive, but the -1575 G→A transition appears to be an incomplete palindromic binding site for estrogen receptor and the -1575A allele reduces the transcriptional activity of MMP-2 (36). According to two studies in Chinese (18) and Tunisian (23) populations, rs243866 was not associated with breast cancer risk (p>0.05). These results are consistent with the fact that the G and A alleles have similar allelic expression. The A allele is likely non-functional (35).

rs243864. This polymorphism is located in the MMP-2 promoter at position -790 and involves a transition of the common allele G to T. The functional significance of the wild T allele is unclear. The rs243864 polymorphism has been studied in Chinese (18) and Tunisian (23) populations, but none of these studies found an association between this polymorphism and breast cancer risk (p>0.05).

rs2285053. rs2285053 is located in the MMP-2 promoter at position -735 and implicates a transition of the common allele C to T. To our knowledge, the biological significance of the wild T allele is undefined. However, Yu et al. (37) have reported that according to bioinformatics analyses, rs2285053 in MMP-2 could alter a Sp1 binding site and influence MMP-2 transcription. Three studies were identified that investigated the association between rs2285053 in MMP-2 and breast cancer risk. Two studies showed that the rs2285053 T allele rather than the C allele reduced the risk of breast cancer in the Tunisian (OR=0.59; 95% CI=0.46-0.75) (23) and Iranian (OR=0.61; 95% CI=0.37-0.99; *p*=0.049) (38) populations. However, Beeghly-Fadiel et al. (18) did not find any association between CC, CT, TT genotypes of rs2285053 and breast cancer risk in additive models (p=0.436). Based on this evidence, the T allele may affect breast cancer risk.

Other polymorphisms in MMP-2. Thirty-three other polymorphisms in MMP-2 were also examined in two studies (18, 21). However, none of these polymorphisms was associated with breast cancer risk in the study populations, except for rs11541998 that CG+GG increased breast cancer risk compared to CC (OR=1.16; 95% CI=1.02-1.31) (21).

Haplotypes in MMP-2. Haplotype analyses have also been performed. Beeghly-Fadiel *et al.* (18) observed significant haplotype effects of rs11644561 and rs11643630 on breast cancer risk. The authors found that the haplotype with minor alleles (AG) for both SNPs was associated with reduced breast cancer risk (OR=0.6; 95% CI=0.4-0.8; *p*=0.003) compared to the haplotype with both major alleles (GT). In the same study, no significant haplotype effects for rs243865 and rs2285053 were observed. However, Habel *et al.* (23) found that patients who had GCTT and GTTC combinations

of rs243866, rs243865, rs243864 and rs2285053 respectively had a lower risk of breast cancer (GCTT: OR=0.49, 95% CI=0.25-0.94; GTTC: OR=0.39, 95% CI=0.19-0.81) than those who had GCTC haplotypes. Several studies are needed to clarify the haplotype effect of polymorphisms located in *MMP-2* gene on breast cancer risk.

Matrix Metalloproteinase-9 (*MMP-9*)

The *MMP-9* gene is located on chromosome 20 and encodes the gelatinase B protein. *MMP-9* expression is either lower or absent in normal tissues, and elevated in inflammation and wound healing (39). The main substrates for this enzyme include gelatin, collagen IV, and V (12).

Circulating Levels of MMP-9 and Breast Cancer Risk

Few studies have evaluated the role of circulating levels of MMP-9 in carcinogenesis. Similar to gelatinase A, gelatinase B is also translated into a pro-enzymatic form and activated in the extracellular space. Six studies of circulating levels of MMP-9 are presented in Table I.

Pro-MMP-9. This form is the latent form of MMP-9 and has a molecular weight of 92 kDa (33). In a study conducted by La Rocca *et al.*, the serum concentrations of pro-MMP-9 were significantly higher in women with breast cancer than in healthy women (p<0.0001) (25).

Active MMP-9 (aMMP-9). This form of MMP-9 is the functional form of the enzyme, which binds to different substrates of MMP-9 for degradation. The molecular weight of aMMP-9 is 87 kDa (33). The plasma concentrations of aMMP-9 were found to be higher in breast cancer patients compared to healthy low risk participants (p=0.015) (26). However, serum aMMP-9 concentrations did not differ between women with breast cancer and healthy women (27). Therefore, the association between aMMP-9 and breast cancer has not been clarified yet; further studies are needed to clarify the role of aMMP-9 in breast cancer.

Total MMP-9. Total MMP-9 (tMMP-9) consists of the pro-MMP-9 and active MMP-9 forms. Plasma MMP-9 levels were found to be lower in breast cancer patients than in healthy low risk women (p=0.013) (26). In a small population, Katunina $et\ al.$ (28) found that circulating levels of MMP-9 in serum were also lower in breast cancer cases than in controls (p<0.05). However, one study found no differences in serum MMP-9 levels between breast cancer patients and healthy women (p=0.177) (27). Taken together, it is possible that high tMMP-9 levels could be associated with lower breast cancer risk.

Table I. Circulating levels of MMP-2 and MMP-9 and breast cancer risk.

First author, Pop year	oulation ¹	Gene	Method	Serum/ Plasma	Enzymatic forms	Samples N (cases/controls)	Circulating levels	Associations	Adjustment
Sheen-Chen et al.,	ND	MMP-2	Immuno- assay	Serum	ND	69 (12/57) Benign breast disease: 12	Mean (±SD) 593.3±134.0 ng/ml	Reference	None
2001 (31) La Rocca	ND	MMP-2	Zymography	Serum	Pro-MMP-2	Breast cancer: 57 102 (80/22)	694.3±140.5 ng/ml Mean (±SD)	p=0.026	None
et al., 2004 (25)		MMP-9			Pro-MMP-9	Healthy participants: 22 Breast cancer: 80 102 (80/22)	160.7±45.82 320.1±168.3	Reference <i>p</i> <0.0001	
						Healthy participants: 22	141.7±65.59	Reference	
			5 10 1	ъ.		Breast cancer: 80	412.3±239	<i>p</i> <0.0001	
	ND	MMP-2	Bradford	Plasma	Total	124 (100/24)	Median	Reference	None
et al., 2006 (26)			microassay		MMP-2	Low risk: 22 High risk: 31	3630.61 pg/mg *15000 pg/mg	p < 0.001	
2000 (20)						Benign breast disease: 38	*14000 pg/mg	p<0.001 p<0.001	
					Active	Breast cancer: 30 124 (100/24)	*13500 pg/mg	p=0.002	
					MMP-2	Low risk: 24	122.75 pg/mg	Reference	
						High risk: 31	*90 pg/mg	<i>p</i> <0.001	
						Benign breast disease: 38	*90 pg/mg	p<0.022	
		MMP-9			Total	Breast cancer: 30 124 (100/24)	*100 pg/mg	p=0.038	
					MMP-9	Low risk: 24	438.47 pg/mg	Reference	
						High risk: 31 Benign breast disease: 38	*200 pg/mg *275 pg/mg	<i>p</i> <0.001 <i>p</i> <0.001	
						Breast cancer: 30	308.29 pg/mg	p = 0.001	
					Active	124 (100/24)	200.25 pg/mg	p oloze	
					MMP-9	Low risk: 24	8.75 pg/mg	Reference	
						High risk: 31	*17 pg/mg	<i>p</i> <0.001	
						Benign breast disease: 37	*19 pg/mg	p<0.001	
C ::	ND	MMD 2	D 464	C	T-4-1	Breast cancer: 28	*18 pg/mg	p=0.015	NT
Somiari <i>et al.</i> ,	ND	MMP-2	Bradford microassay	Serum	Total MMP-2	345 (284/61) Low risk: 61	Median *8000 pg/mg	Reference	None
2006 (27)			meroassay		1411411 2	High risk: 46	9669.7 pg/mg	p<0.012	
						Benign breast disease: 150	*6000 pg/mg	p=0.833	
					Active	Breast cancer: 88 345 (284/61)	*7500 pg/mg	p=0.926	
					MMP-2	Low risk: 61	495.5 pg/mg	Reference	
						High risk: 46	699.5 pg/mg	p=0.162	
						Benign breast disease: 150 Breast cancer: 88	*400 pg/mg	<i>p</i> <0.001 <i>p</i> <0.001	
		MMP-9			Total	345 (284/61)	*375 pg/mg Median	p<0.001	
		.,,			MMP-9	Low risk: 61	*1900 pg/mg	Reference	
						High risk: 46	*2000 pg/mg	p=0.880	
						Benign breast disease: 150	*1800 pg/mg	p=0.079	
						Breast cancer: 88	*2100 pg/mg	p=0.177	
					Active MMP-9	345 (284/61) Low risk: 61	13.9 pg/mg	Reference	
					1V11V1F-7	High risk: 46	13.9 pg/mg 12.2 pg/mg	p=0.005	
						Benign breast disease: 150	*11.5 pg/mg	p<0.001	
						Breast cancer: 88	13.6 pg/mg	p=0.280	
	ND	MMP-9	ELISA	Serum	ND	93 (78/15)	Mean (±SD)		None
et al.,						Healthy women: 15	19.6±8.5 ng/ml	Reference	
2008 (40)						Benign breast disease: 18	21.8±11.7 ng/ml	ND n<0.001	
Katunina	ND	MMP-2	Immuno-	Serum	Total	Breast cancer: 60 53 (45/8)	69.4±44.8 ng/ml Median (Q1-Q3)	<i>p</i> <0.001	None
et al.,	.10	1111111 -2	assay	Scruiii	MMP-2	Controls: 8	256 (161-303) ng/ml	Reference	140110
2011 (28)		10000				Breast cancer: 45	228 (153-361) ng/ml	p>0.05	
		MMP-9			Total	48 (40/8)	200 (270 400) / 1	D. o. f	
					MMP-9	Controls: 8 Breast cancer: 40	398 (279-496) ng/ml	<i>p</i> <0.05	
						Dieast Calleet. 40	229 (136-847) ng/ml	$p \sim 0.03$	

Table I. Continued

First autho	or, Population ¹	Gene	Method	Serum/ Plasma	Enzymatic forms	Samples N (cases/controls)	Circulating levels	Associations	Adjustment
Patel et al., 2011 (32)	ND	MMP-2	ELISA	Serum	ND	160 (100/60) Healthy women: 60 Benign breast disease: 40 Breast cancer: 60	Mean (±SD) 771.2±59.9 ng/ml 774.3±81.9 ng/ml 806.5±101.6 ng/m	p>0.05	None
		MMP-9				160 (100/60) Healthy women: 60 Benign breast disease: 40	272.5±41.6 ng/ml 288.3±37.3 ng/ml	Reference	
Kim	Multiethnic (Caucasian,	MMP-2	Immuno- fluorescence	Plasma	Total MMP-2	Breast cancer: 60 1462 (731/731) Controls: 731	371.9±47.1 ng/ml Mean (±SD)	p<0.001 Reference	None
et al., 2012 (29)	African- American, native Hawaiians, Japanese- Americans)		assay		MMP-2	Invasive breast cancer: 731	20.5±0.21 pg/ml 20.4±1.79 pg/ml	p=0.58	
Aroner et al.,	ND	MMP-2	Immuno- assay	Plasma	Total MMP-2	2272 (1136/1136) Q1: 284/309	Quantile Q1 ≤187.9	OR=1.0	Age, BMI, age at
2015 (30)						Q2: 284/264	ng/ml Q2: 188.0-214.8 ng/ml	(reference) OR=0.8 (95%CI=0.7-1.1)	menarche, menopausal, current
						Q3: 284/265	Q3: 214.9-246.1	OR=0.9 (95%CI=0.7-1.1)	alcohol
						Q4: 284/298	Q4: >246.1 ng/ml	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.7-1.2) p=0.890	PMH use, parity, family history of breast cancer, history of benign breast disease

MMP: Matrix metalloproteinase; ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay; Q: quartile; M: mean; SD: standard deviation; BMI: body mass index; PMH: postmenopausal hormones; ND: not defined; CI: confidence interval. 1 Study design: case-control; *Median estimated from box plots. Statistically significant differences are indicated in bold (p<0.05).

No specific form. Two other studies evaluated the circulating levels of MMP-9, though without specifying the form, in breast cancer (32, 40). These studies demonstrated that circulating serum levels of MMP-9 were higher in breast cancer patients than healthy women (p<0.05). These results are concordant with those observed for pro-MMP-9 levels and breast cancer risk.

Polymorphisms Located in the MMP-9 Gene and Breast Cancer Risk

Ten polymorphisms located in the *MMP-9* gene have been studied in breast cancer risk, four of which have been the most investigated, namely: rs3918242, rs17576, rs2274756, rs2250889. Studies of the *MMP-9* polymorphisms are described in Table II.

rs3918242. The rs3918242 in the MMP-9 promoter is the most studied polymorphism for its relation to breast cancer risk. This polymorphism involves a C to T transition. The presence of the T allele leads to the loss of a nuclear repressor protein binding site and increases the expression of gelatinase B (41). The relationship between rs3918242 and breast cancer risk was unclear in the literature. The majority of studies did not find an association between this polymorphism and breast cancer risk in Caucasian (15) and Brazilian (16, 42) populations (p>0.05). However, Chiranjeevi et al. (43) suggested a decreased risk of breast cancer in the Indian population using additive and recessive models, although deviation from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium was observed for rs3918242 in this study. Similarly, Padala et al. (44) found that the TT genotype increased the risk of breast cancer, but also observed

Table II. Polymorphisms in MMP-2 and -9 genes and breast cancer risk.

Study	Population ¹	Cases	Controls	s Gene name SNP	Localisation	HWE	Genotype distribution Cases/Controls	Genotyping method	Genotype/ Allele	Analysis	Adjustment/ Matching													
Zhou et al., 2004 (14)	Chinese	462	509	MMP-2 rs243865	Promoter	YES	CC 381/349 CT 79/154 TT 2/6	PCR-based DHPLC	CC CT+TT	OR=1.00 (reference) OR=0.46 (95%CI=0.34-0.63)	Age													
Lei et al.,	Swedish	949	948	MMP-2 rs243865	Promoter	YES	CC 520/520 CT 359/359	Taqman assays	CC CT	p<0.00001 OR=1.00 (reference) OR=1.00	None													
2007 (15)				13243000)		TT 70/69	assays	TT	(95%CI=0.83-1.21) OR=1.01														
		946	946	<i>MMP-9</i> rs391824	Promoter	YES	CC 682/692 CT 239/240	Sequencing	CC CT	(95%CI=0.71-1.45) OR=1.00 (reference) OR=1.01														
							TT 25/14		TT	(95%CI: 0.82-1.24) OR=1.88 (95%CI: 0.97-3.63)														
Roehe <i>et al.</i> , 2007 (16)	Brazilian	89	100	MMP-2 rs243865	Promoter	YES	CC 63/66 CT 21/32	DNA Sequencing	CC CT	ND ND	None													
		96	100	MMP-9	Promoter	YES	TT 5/2 CC 76/83	PCR-RFLP	TT CC	ND p=0.22 ND														
				rs391824	2		CT 20/15 TT 0/2		CT TT	ND ND														
Delgado- Enciso et al.,		90	96	MMP-2 rs243865	Promoter	YES	CC 63/50 CT 25/42 TT 2/4	PCR	CT+TT CC	p=0.23 OR=1.00 (reference) OR=2.15 (95%CI=1.13-4.11)	None													
2008 (17) Beeghly- Fadiel et al.,	Chinese	3039	3039	3039	3039	3039	3039	3039	3039	3039	3039	3039	3039	3039	3039	3027	MMP2 rs1005912	Promoter 2	YES	ND	Affymetrix	TT TA AA	<i>p</i> =0.01 OR=1.0 (reference) OR=1.2 (95%CI=1.0-1.3) OR=1.1 (95%CI=0.9-1.3)	Age, education
2009 (18)	1			rs111619:	5 Promoter	YES	ND	Sequenom	AA AT TT	p=0.207 OR=1.0 (reference) OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.9-1.2) OR=1.2 (95%CI=1.0-1.4)														
							1	rs1164456	1 Promoter	YES	ND	Affymetrix	GG	p=0.075 OR=1.0 (reference)										
									GA AA	OR=0.9 (95%CI=0.8-1.1) OR=0.6 (95%CI=0.3-1.0) p=0.098														
				rs243867	Promoter	YES	ND	Affymetrix	AA AG GG	OR=1.0 (reference) OR=1.1 (95%CI=0.9-1.2) OR=1.1 (95%CI=0.9-1.3) p=0.403														
			1	rs1164363	60 Promoter	YES	ND	Affymetrix	TT TG GG	OR=1.00 (reference) OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.8-1.1) OR=0.8 (95%CI=0.7-1.0)														
				rs243866	Promoter	YES	ND	Affymetrix	GG GA AA	p=0.046 OR=1.00 (reference) OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.9-1.2) OR=1.2 (95%CI=0.7-2.1)														
				rs243865	5 Promoter	YES	ND	Sequenom	CC CT TT	p=0.602 OR=1.0 (reference) OR=0.9 (95%CI=0.8-1.1) OR=1.4 (95%CI=0.9-2.4)														
				rs243864	Promoter	YES	ND	Affymetrix	TT TG GG	p=0.776 OR=1.0 (reference) OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.9-1.2) OR=1.1 (95%CI=0.6-2.0)														

 $Table \ II. \ Continued$

Table II. Continued

		name SNP	Localisation		Genotype distribution Cases/Controls	Genotyping method	Allele	Analysis	Adjustment/ Matching
	r	s228505	3 Promoter	YES	ND	Sequenom	CC	OR=1.0 (reference)	
						•	CT	OR=1.2 (95%CI=1.0-1.4)	
							TT	OR=0.9 (95%CI=0.6-1.2) p=0.436	
	r	s147701′	7 Intron 2	YES	ND	Affymetrix/		OR=1.0 (reference)	
						Sequenom	AG	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.9-1.2)	
							GG	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.8-1.2) p=0.833	
	1	rs865094	Intron 2	YES	ND	Affymetrix/		OR=1.0 (reference)	
						Sequenom	AG	OR=0.9 (95%CI=0.8-1.0)	
							GG	OR=1.1 (95%CI=0.9-1.4)	
	410	1164664	3 Intron 3	VEC	ND	A ffrancetair	A A	p=0.838	
	18	1104004	3 IIIIIOII 3	YES	ND	Affymetrix	AA AG	OR=1.0 (reference) OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.8-1.1)	
							GG	OR=1.1 (95%CI=0.7-1.6)	
		105260	. F	MEG	ND	A CC		p=0.726	
	r	s105360:	5 Exon 5	YES	ND	Affymetrix/		OR=1.0 (reference)	
						Sequenom	CT TT	OR=1.1 (95%CI=0.9-1.2)	
							11	OR=0.8 (95%CI=0.4-1.3) p=0.862	
	r	s930267	1 Intron 5	YES	ND	Affymetrix	GG	OR=1.0 (reference)	
	-	0,0020,		120	112	1111/111011111	GT	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.8-1.1)	
							TT	OR=1.1 (95%CI=0.8-1.6) p=0.936	
	r	s224114:	5 Intron 5	YES	ND	Sequenom	GG	OR=1.0 (reference)	
						1	GC	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.8-1.2)	
							CC	OR=0.9 (95%CI=0.8-1.2) p=0.613	
	r	s2241140	6 Intron 5	YES	ND	Sequenom	GG	OR=1.0 (reference)	
						1	GA	OR=1.1 (95%CI=0.9-1.3)	
							AA	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.7-1.5)	
		242940	. F 7	MEG	ND	A 66	CC	p=0.632	
	1	18243849	Exon 7	YES	ND	Affymetrix	CC CT	OR=1.0 (reference)	
							TT	OR=0.9 (95%CI=0.8-1.1) OR=1.1 (95%CI=0.8-1.6)	
	re	1250077	5 Intron 7	YES	ND	Sequenom	GG	p=0.816 OR=1.0 (reference)	
	13	1237711	3 muon 7	1 LS	ND	Sequenom	GC	OR=1.1 (95%CI=0.9-1.4)	
							CC	OR=0.9 (95%CI=0.4-1.9)	
								p=0.453	
	1	rs243847	Intron 7	YES	ND	Affymetrix/	TT	OR=1.0 (reference)	
						Sequenom	TC	OR=1.1 (95%CI=0.9-1.2)	
							CC	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.8-1.2) p=0.881	
	r	s219285	2 Intron 7	YES	ND	Sequenom	AA	OR=1.0 (reference)	
							AG	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.8-1.2)	
							GG	OR=0.9 (95%CI=0.7-1.2)	
						-		p=0.546	
	rs	1292301	1 Intron 7	YES	ND	Sequenom	CC	OR=1.0 (reference)	
							CT	OR=0.9 (95%CI=0.7-1.1)	
							TT	OR=0.7 (95%CI=0.4-1.3)	
		·c2/128/15	Intron 8	YES	ND	Affymetrix	GG	p=0.118 OR=1.0 (reference)	
	1	3473043	inuon o	1123	ND	Anymentx	GA	OR=1.0 (PETETERICE) OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.9-1.2)	
							AA	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.8-1.2)	
	1	s243844	Intron 8	YES	ND	Sequenom	GG	p=0.945 OR=1.0 (reference)	
				. 25	1.12	Sequenom	GA	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.8-1.2)	
								OR=1.1 (95%CI=0.8-1.5)	

Table II. Continued

Table II. Continued

Study	Population ¹	Cases	Controls	s Gene name SNP	Localisation	HWE	Genotype distribution Cases/Controls	Genotyping method	Genotype Allele	/ Analysis	Adjustment/ Matching
				rs228707-	4 Exon 9	YES	ND	Sequenom	GG	OR=1.0 (reference)	
								•	GA	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.8-1.2)	
									AA	OR=0.8 (95%CI=0.5-1.1)	
										p=0.276	
				rs243842	2 Intron 9	YES	ND	Affymetrix	TT	OR=1.0 (reference)	
									TC	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.9-1.2)	
									CC	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.8-1.2)	
				rs183112	2 Intron 9	YES	ND	Sequenom	GG	p=0.882 OR=1.0 (reference)	
				15105112	, muon ,	1 110	T\D	Sequenom	GA	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.8-1.2)	
									AA	OR=0.9 (95%CI=0.6-1.5)	
										p=0.874	
				rs243839	Intron 9	YES	ND	Affymetrix/	AA	OR=1.0 (reference)	
								Sequenom	AG	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.9-1.1)	
									GG	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.8-1.2)	
										p=0.924	
				rs992330	4 Intron 9	YES	ND	Affymetrix	CC	OR=1.0 (reference)	
									CT	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.9-1.2)	
									TT	OR=0.9 (95%CI=0.7-1.2) p=0.983	
			1	rs1163996	0 Intron 10	YES	ND	Affymetrix/	AA	OR=1.0 (reference)	
				131103770	oo miiron 10	ILO	ND	Sequenom	AG	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.9-1.1)	
								Sequenom	GG	OR=1.1 (95%CI=0.8-1.3)	
										p=0.889	
				rs243831	3' FR	YES	ND	Sequenom	TT	OR=1.0 (reference)	
									TG	OR=0.8 (95%CI=0.7-1.0)	
									GG	OR=0.8 (95%CI=0.4-1.6)	
								_		p=0.113	
			1	rs1293025	59 3' FR	YES	ND	Sequenom	TT	OR=1.0 (reference)	
									TC CC	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.9-1.2)	
									CC	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.7-1.3) p=0.899	
				rs219285	3 3' FR	YES	ND	Sequenom	AA	OR=1.0 (reference)	
								1	AG	OR=0.9 (95%CI=0.8-1.1)	
									GG	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.7-1.3)	
										p = 0.607	
				rs158358	7 3' FR	YES	ND	Affymetrix	GG	OR=1.0 (reference)	
									GC	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.9-1.2)	
									CC	OR=1.1 (95%CI=0.8-1.20)	
				rs805380	6 3'FR	YES	ND	Affymetrix	CC	p=0.796 OR=1.0 (reference)	
				18003300	0 3 FK	1123	ND	Arrymeurx	CA	OR=1.1 (95%CI=1.0-1.3)	
									AA	OR=1.1 (95%CI=0.9-1.5)	
										p=0.139	
			1	rs1270895	52 3'FR	YES	ND	Affymetrix	GG	OR=1.0 (reference)	
									GC	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.9-1.2)	
									CC	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.8-1.2)	
				150050	5 01 FF	*****	175	1.00	66	p=0.874	
				rs158358.	5 3'FR	YES	ND	Affymetrix	GG	OR=1.0 (reference)	
									GA AA	OR=1.1 (95%CI=0.9-1.2)	
									AA	OR=1.1 (95%CI=0.9-1.5) p=0.192	
Beeghly-	Chinese	2064	2081	MMP9	Promoter	YES	ND	Affymetrix	AA	OR=1.0 (reference)	Age,
Fadiel		_001		rs606591		1 20	1,2	j cu i A	AG	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.9-1.2)	education
et al.,									GG	OR=0.8 (95%CI=0.3-2.0)	
2011 (46)	1									p=0.884	
		1056	1064	rs481048	2 Promoter	YES	ND	Sequenom	CC	OR=1.0 (reference)	
									CT	OR=1.1 (95%CI=0.9-1.3)	
									TT	OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.7-1.3)	
										p=0.802	

Table II. Continued

Table II. Continued

Study	Population ¹	Cases	Controls	s Gene name SNP	Localisation	HWE	Genotype distribution Cases/Controls	Genotyping method	Genotype Allele	e/ Analysis	Adjustment/ Matching
		1054	1064	rs391824	1 Promoter	YES	ND	Sequenom	TT TA AA	OR=1.0 (reference) OR=1.1 (95%CI=0.9-1.3) OR=1.8 (95%CI=0.9-3.6)	
		1908	1919	rs3918249	Promoter	YES	ND	Affymetrix	TT	p=0.116 OR=1.0 (reference)	
		1,00	1,1,	13371021	Tromoci	LES	T\D	rinymean	TC CC	OR=1.1 (95%CI=1.0-1.2) OR=1.1 (95%CI=0.9-1.5)	
		1058	1063	rs17576	Exon 6	YES	ND	Sequenom	GG GA	p=0.148 OR=1.0 (reference) OR=1.0 (95%CI: 0. 9-1.2)	
									AA	OR=1.0 (95%CI: 0.7-1.3) p=0.905	
		1056	1062	rs2250889	Exon 10	YES	ND	Sequenom	CC CG	OR=1.0 (reference) OR=1.0 (95%CI=0.9-1.2)	
									GG	OR=0.9 (95%CI=0.7-1.3) p=0.990	
		1054	1064	rs2274750	6 Exon 12	YES	ND	Sequenom	GG GA	OR=1.0 (reference) OR=1.1 (95%CI=0.9-1.4)	
									AA	OR=2.0 (95%CI=1.0-4.0) p=0.056	
Saeed <i>et al.</i> , 2013 (19)	Saudi population	90	92	<i>MMP-2</i> rs243865		NO	CC 58/73 CT 30/19 TT 2/0	PCR-RFLP	CC CT+TT	OR=1.00 (reference) OR=2.12 (95%CI=1.09-4.11) p=0.025	Age
Resler et al., 2013	Caucasian	845	807	<i>MMP-9</i> rs17576	Exon 6	YES	AA 338/366 AG 393/357 GG 106/78	Illumina GoldenGate multiplex		OR=1.00 (reference) OR=1.21 (95%CI=1.04-1.40) OR=1.46 (95%CI=1.08-1.96) p=0.01	
(47)				rs2274750	6 Exon 12	YES	GG 338/366 GA 393/357			OR=1.00 (reference) OR=1.14 (95%CI=0.94-1.40)	
				rs3918262	2 Intron	YES	AA 106/78 AA 327/518		AA AA	OR=1.30 (95%CI=0.88-1.96) p=0.19 OR=1.00 (reference)	
							AG 195/246 GG 35/31			OR=1.18 (95%CI=1.00-1.40) OR=1.39 (95%CI=1.00-1.96) p=0.05	
Zagouri <i>et al.</i> , 2013	Greek	113	124	MMP-2 rs243865	Promoter	YES	CC 63/83 CT 41/37 TT 9/4	Nucleopsin Tissue kit	CC CT TT	OR=1.00 (reference) OR=1.48 (95%CI=0.84-2.58) OR=2.90	Age, smoking, alcohol,
(20)										(95%CI=0.82-10.29)	BMI, menopausal status, age at menarche, education
Slattery <i>et al.</i> , 2013 (21)	Caucasian- Hispanic	3592	4183	MMP-2 rs243865	Promoter	YES	CC+CT 3183/3646 TT 386/504	Multiplexed bead array assay	CC+CT TT	OR=1.00 (reference) OR=0.84 (95%CI=0.73-0.97) *p=0.08	Age, BMI, parity, genetic admixture,
(21)			1	rs1154199	8 ND	YES	CC 2957/3547 CG+GG 610/600		CC CG+GG	OR=1.00 (reference)	study center (Mexico
				<i>MMP-9</i> rs3787268	Intron B	YES	GG 2479/2930 GA+AA 1074/1202		GG GA+AA	OR=1.00 (reference)	city, San Francisco Bay Area, 4 corner's)

Table II. Continued

Table II. Continued

Study I	Population ¹	Cases	Control	s Gene name SNP	Localisation	HWE	Genotype distribution Cases/Controls	Genotyping method	Genotype Allele	e/ Analysis	Adjustment/ Matching
Chiranjeev et al., 2014 (43)	i Indian	200	191	<i>MMP-9</i> rs391824		NO	CC 73/86 CT 66/68 TT 61/37	AS-PCR		OR=1.00 (reference) OR=0.87 (95%CI=0.55-0.38) OR=0.51 (95%CI=0.38-0.86) OR=1.00 (reference) OR=0.70 (95%CI=0.46-1.05) p=0.1068	
									CT+CC TT	OR=1.00 (reference) OR=0.54 (95%CI=0.34-0.87) p=0.015)
Yari K. <i>et al.</i> , 2014 (38)	Iranian	98	135	MMP-2 rs228505	Promoter 3	YES	CC 70/80 CT 28/52 TT 0/3	PCR-RFLP	T C	OR=1.00 (reference) OR=1.64 (95%CI=1.01-2.7) p=0.049	None
	Malaysian	80	81	<i>MMP-9</i> rs17576		NO	AA 4/15 AG 26/29	Illumina GoldenGate	AA AG	OR=1.00 (reference) OR=3.14 (95%CI=0.92-10.74)	Age
		80	80	rs225088	389 Exon 10	NO	GG 50/37 CC 1/8		GG CC	OR=4.73 (95%CI=1.44-15.54) OR=1.00 (reference)	
							CG 18/27 GG 61/45		CG GG	OR=5.33 (95%CI=0.61-46.37) OR=10.84	
Néjima F.	Tunisian	210	250	<i>MMP-2</i> rs243865	Promoter	YES	CC 118/97	RT-PCR	CT+TT	(95%CI=1.31-89.83) OR=1.00 (reference)	None
et al., 2015 (22) Rahimi Z.		101	104	MMP-9	Promoter	YES	CT 69/105 TT 23/48 CC 68/84	PCR-RFLP	CC	OR=2.54 (95%CI=1.39-4.06) OR=1.00 (reference)	None
et al., 2015 (45)	(Kurdish)	(disii)		rs391824	.42		CT 31/19 TT 2/1			OR=2.02 (95%CI=1.05-3.88) OR=1.57 (95%CI=1.57-5.28) OR=1.00 (reference) OR=2.04 (95%CI=1.07-3.87)	
									CT+CC TT		
									CC+TT CT	OR=1.00 (reference) OR=1.98	
Padala <i>et al.</i> , 2017 (44)	Indian	300	300	<i>MMP-9</i> rs391824	Promoter 2	NO	CC 121/150 CT 107/101 TT 72/49	AS-PCR		(95%CI=1.03-3.81) OR=1.00 (reference) OR=1.31 (95%CI=0.91-1.88) OR=1.82 (95%CI=1.18-2.81)	
Felizi <i>et al.</i> , 2018 (42)	Brazilian	148	245	<i>MMP-9</i> rs391824		YES	CC 115/186 CT+TT 24/45	PCR-RFLP	CC CT+TT	OR=1.00 (reference) OR=1.16 (95%CI: 0.66-2.00)	None
Habel <i>et al.</i> , 2019 (23)	Tunisian	430	498	MMP-2 rs243864	Promoter	YES	TT 297/366 TG 112/120 GG 18/12	TaqMan assays	G T	p=0.5964 OR=1.00 (reference) OR=1.24 (95%CI=0.97-1.59)	None
2017 (23)				rs243865	5 Promoter	YES	CC 291/350 CT 122/108 TT 14/40		C T	OR=1.00 (reference) OR=0.92 (95%C=0.73-1.17)	
				rs243860	6 Promoter	YES	GG 251/352 GT 101/120 TT 11/8		G A	OR=1.00 (reference) OR=0.24 (95%CI=0.95-1.61)	
				rs228505	3 Promoter	YES	CC 303/307 CT 89/169 TT 11/22		C T	OR=1.00 (reference) OR=0.59 (95%CI=0.46-0.75)	

HWE: Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium; MMP: matrix metalloproteinase; SNP: single nucleotide polymorphisms; DNA: deoxyribonucleic acid; PCR-DHPLC: polymerase chain reaction-denaturing high performance liquid chromatography; PCR-RFLP: polymerase chain reaction-restriction fragment length polymorphism; RT-PCR: reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction; AS-PCR: allele specific-polymerase chain reaction; ND: not defined; OR: odds ratio; CI: confidence interval; BMI: body mass index. Statistically significant differences are indicated in bold italics (p<0.05). ¹Study design: case-control; *p-values are adjusted for multiple comparisons.

deviation from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium for rs3918242. One study conducted in the Iranian population showed an increased risk of breast cancer using additive and dominant models (45). In total, literature evidence suggests that rs3918242 in *MMP-9* does not influence breast cancer risk.

rs2274756. This polymorphism is a G \rightarrow A transition in exon 12 of MMP-9 gene. In previous studies, it was not associated with breast cancer risk in Asian (p=0.056) (46) and Caucasian (p=0.19) (47) populations.

rs2250889. The rs2250889 polymorphism is a G→C transition located in exon 10. Two studies in the Asian population have demonstrated conflicting results. Beeghly-Fadiel $et\ al.$ (46) did not find any association between rs2250889 and breast cancer risk. On the other hand, Chachil $et\ al.$ (48) analyzed a small population and showed that the GG genotype increased the risk of breast cancer (OR=10.84; 95% CI=1.31-89.83) compared to CC.

rs17576. The rs17576 is an A→G transition located in exon 6. The G allele alters protein conformation and changes substrate-binding and enzyme activity (49). The GA and GG genotypes of rs17576 compared to AA were associated with increased breast cancer risk in Caucasian populations (GA: OR=1.21; 95% CI=1.04-1.40; GG: OR=1.46; 95% CI=1.08-1.96; p=0.01) (47). The GG genotype was also associated with increased breast cancer risk compared to AA in Asian populations (OR=4.73; 95% CI=1.44-15.54) (48), but deviation from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium was observed in this study. However, conflicting evidence was presented in a study by Beeghly-Fadiel et al., who did not find any association between rs17576 and breast cancer risk (p=0.905) in an Asian population (46).

Other polymorphisms in MMP-9. Some other polymorphisms in MMP-9 [rs6065912 (46), rs4810482 (46), rs3918241 (46), rs3918249 (46), rs3918262 (46), rs3787268 (21)] have been investigated in relation to breast cancer risk. No evidence has been found to support an association between those polymorphisms and breast cancer risk.

Haplotypes in MMP-9. To our knowledge, one study performed haplotype analysis for polymorphisms (rs6065912, rs4810482, rs3918241, rs3918249, rs17576, rs2250889, rs2274756) in MMP-9 gene, but no significant associations were revealed (46).

Conclusion

Review of evidence on the relation between 37 polymorphisms located in *MMP-2* gene and breast cancer risk showed that most of them were not associated with breast cancer risk. Among

these polymorphisms, the T allele of rs243865 and rs2285053 was the only one that has been associated with reduced expression of *MMP-2* as well as with decreased breast cancer risk. However, functional analyses of rs2285053 polymorphism are required. These observations are consistent with the results of circulating levels of latent or unspecified forms of MMP-2 that appear to be higher in breast cancer patients than in healthy women. Conversely, aMMP-2 levels appeared to be lower in breast cancer cases than in healthy women. Since it is unclear why levels of pro-MMP-2 and aMMP-2 are associated in opposite directions with breast cancer risk, it would be useful for future studies to clarify why the direction of this association depends on the forms of MMP-2.

Concerning the 10 studied polymorphisms located in MMP-9, only rs17576 G allele was reported to influence breast cancer risk. However, only a few studies have evaluated this association. Additional, functional analyses and studies with homogenous populations are required. Similar to MMP-2, circulating levels of latent or unspecified forms of MMP-9 were higher in breast cancer patients than healthy women, while the opposite was observed for total MMP-9 levels. Thus, several analyses are necessary to clarify why different forms of MMP-9 are differentially associated with breast cancer risk. Furthermore, most studies so far have measured MMP-9 in serum. However, the literature suggests that serum samples are not appropriate to assess MMP-9 concentrations (50, 51). Hence, future studies should focus on plasma levels in order to investigate the association between different forms of circulating MMP-9 and breast cancer risk.

Conflicts of Interest

The Authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors' Contributions

SGD and CD designed the review, wrote the manuscript and analyzed results of literature research. SGD, CD and SLC reviewed the article.

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Received April 21, 2020 Revised May 19, 2020 Accepted May 28, 2020