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## A Pharmacogenetic Candidate Gene Study of Tenofovir-Associated Fanconi Syndrome

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### Abstract

**BACKGROUND**—Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (TDF) is a widely used antiretroviral agent with favorable efficacy, safety and tolerability profiles. However, renal adverse events, including rare Fanconi syndrome (FS), may occur in a small subset of HIV-infected treated patients.

**OBJECTIVES**—The aim of this study was to identify genetic variants that may associate with TDF-associated FS (TDF-FS).

**METHODS**—DNA samples collected from a 19 cases with TDF-FS and 36 matched controls were sequenced and genetic association studies were performed in eight candidate genes: ATP-binding cassette (ABC) transporters *ABCC2* (MRP2) and *ABCC4* (MRP4), solute carrier family members *SLC22A6* (OAT1) and *SLC22A8* (OAT3), adenylate kinases 2 (AK2) and 4 (AK4), chloride transporter CIC-5 *CLCN5*, and Lowe syndrome protein *OCRL*. Functional effects of a SNP predicted to alter transport of tenofovir were then investigated in cells expressing an identified variant or *ABCC4*.

**RESULTS**—Overall, the case group showed a trend towards a higher proportion of rare alleles. Six SNPs in *ABCC2* (3 SNPs), *ABCC4* (1 SNP) and *OCRL* (2 SNPs) were associated with TDF-FS case status, but did not remain significant after correction for multiple testing. Six SNPs, in *OCRL* (4 SNPs) and *ABCC2* (2 SNPs), were significantly associated with increased serum

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creatinine levels in the cases, and remained significant after multiple test correction ( $P < 2 \times 10^{-04}$ ). One synonymous SNP in *ABCC2* (rs8187707;  $P=2.10 \times 10^{-04}$ ;  $\beta = -73.3 \text{ ml/min/1.73m}^2$ ) was also significantly associated with decreased estimated glomerular filtration rate of creatinine in the cases. However, these results were driven by rare SNPs present in a small number of severely affected cases. A previously uncharacterized, non-synonymous SNP, rs11568694, that was predicted to alter MRP4 function, had no significant effect on tenofovir cellular accumulation *in vitro*.

**CONCLUSIONS**—While no single predictive genetic marker for the development of TDF-FS was identified, these findings suggest that multiple rare variants in multiple genes involved in renal handling of tenofovir and/or renal cell homeostasis may be associated with increased susceptibility to TDF-FS.

### Keywords

Fanconi Syndrome; tenofovir; HIV; transporter; pharmacogenetics

## INTRODUCTION

Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (TDF, Viread<sup>®</sup>) is an orally administered prodrug of tenofovir, a nucleotide inhibitor of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and hepatitis B virus reverse transcriptases. TDF is part of preferred regimens for the treatment of HIV recommended by the Department of Health and Human Services (1, 2) and the European AIDS Clinical Society (3), and is widely used for the treatment of HIV in both treatment-naïve and treatment-experienced patients. Approved for the treatment of HIV by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2001, TDF has well-established safety and tolerability profiles with more than 9 million patient years of clinical experience (4). Among rare adverse effects, low rates of TDF-associated renal adverse events leading to discontinuation of treatment (0–3%) have been reported in controlled trials (2, 5, 6). In the expanded access program for TDF that included > 10,000 patients, graded elevations in serum creatinine (SCr) were observed in 2.2% of patients, and serious renal adverse events of any type occurred in 0.5% of patients, including rare cases (<0.1%) of Fanconi syndrome (FS) (7). FS is characterized by wasting of electrolytes, amino acids and glucose, metabolic acidosis, and occasionally by reductions in renal creatinine clearance (8–15).

The renal toxicity associated with TDF use is multi-factorial, with the mechanism and some of the underlying risk factors not fully understood. Clinical and demographic factors associated with the increased risk of TDF-associated renal adverse events, including rare cases of FS, include increased age, lower body weight, pre-existing renal impairment, diabetes, high blood pressure, and previous or concomitant use of protease inhibitors or nephrotoxic drugs (7, 16). The severity of renal toxicity associated with TDF shows high inter-individual variability, suggesting that host genetics may play a role in susceptibility to this adverse effect (17). Genetic screens to identify variants in suspected candidate genes have shown that various single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), including those in genes putatively involved in tenofovir transport may be implicated in the risk for TDF-related renal dysfunction. Izzedine et al. presented the first evidence of an association between TDF-related renal toxicity and genetic variants within the renal efflux transporter *ABCC2*

(gene product MRP2) (15). Other polymorphisms in *SLC22A6* (gene product OAT1) and *ABCC4* (gene product MRP4) with potential functional consequences for TDF transport have also been identified (15, 18–21). Non-synonymous variants within *ABCC2* were associated with greater renal tubular dysfunction, while a non-coding variant in *ABCC4* was associated with higher intracellular concentrations of tenofovir (15, 17). However, these studies centered on cases of mild and moderate TDF-associated renal toxicity, and not upon the rarer and more severe TDF-FS. The genetic studies performed previously were undertaken in patients with evidence of proximal tubulopathy, although none had actual decline in renal functions. As an extension to a prospective epidemiological study of demographic factors involved in TDF-FS, we obtained DNA samples from 19 cases and 36 matching control HIV-infected patients who participated in this study (22).

Here, we report on a genetic analysis of a set of genes encoding transporters in the renal proximal tubules that have been previously suggested or directly implicated in tenofovir renal disposition including *organic anion transporter 1*, *SLC22A6* (hOAT1); *organic anion transporter 3*, *SLC22A8* (hOAT3); *multidrug resistance protein 2*, *ABCC2* (MRP2); and *multidrug resistance protein 4*, *ABCC4* (MRP4) (18, 19, 23–32). While MRP2 efflux pump is not directly involved in renal transport of tenofovir (33), several genetic studies have suggested its association with TDF-mediated renal dysfunction (15, 18, 19, 27, 34). In addition, we included genes encoding enzymes involved in the intracellular metabolic activation of tenofovir (*adenylate kinase 2*, *AK2*; *adenylate kinase 4*, *AK4*) (35, 36) and genes that are associated with Mendelian Fanconi Syndrome (*oculocerebrorenal Lowe protein 1*, *OCRL*; *chloride channel 5*, *CLCN5*) (37, 38). We used a full sequencing, rather than a genotyping, approach to capture rare as well as common variants in these candidate genes. While no distinct predictive genetic markers for the development of TDF-FS have been identified, this study identified multiple low frequency genetic loci that may play a role in the development of TDF-FS.

## METHODS

### DNA Samples

The DNA samples sequenced in this study were obtained as a part of a recent case-controlled (1:2), cross-sectional cohort study (22). The controls were matched to cases by duration of TDF treatment, race and age. Nineteen FS cases and 36 matched controls were identified at 9 sites in the US and Canada over a 2.5-year period (22). Whole blood samples (30 mL) were obtained from the cohort and genomic DNA was extracted from the blood samples by the use of QIAamp DNA Blood Mini Kit (Qiagen), according to manufacturer's protocol. This study was approved by the ethics committee of the UCSF Committee on Human Research as well as by those of the individual participating clinical sites. All subjects provided informed consent. Detailed cohort information and clinical outcomes for subjects evaluated in this study are described elsewhere (22). Clinical and demographic information for the subjects evaluated in this study is provided in Supplemental Table 1.

## Selection of Pharmacogenetic Candidate Genes

Eight selected candidate genes were evaluated in this study, of which six are directly or potentially involved in the active renal secretion pathway or intracellular metabolism of tenofovir. We hypothesized that genetic variants in these pathway genes may increase the renal accumulation of tenofovir and/or its metabolites in proximal tubule cells, thereby predisposing TDF-treated patients to the onset of FS. The selected genes included OAT1 (*SLC22A6*), OAT3 (*SLC22A8*), MRP2 (*ABCC2*), MRP4 (*ABCC4*), *AK2* and *AK4*. In addition, two genes known to be involved in the development of Mendelian FS have also been included in the analysis: *OCRL* and *CLCN5*.

## DNA Sequencing and SNP Discovery

Sequencing and SNP analysis were performed by Beckman-Coulter Genomics and the UCSF Genome Center Core (UCSF, San Francisco CA). PCR primers were designed to amplify ~200 base pairs (bp) from intron-exon boundaries for each gene using the Primer3 software. The final concentrations of the PCR components were 2.5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.1 mM dNTPs, 0.025 U of Platinum Taq polymerase (Invitrogen), 2% DMSO, 1X PCR Buffer, 200 μM PCR primers and 10 ng of DNA template. The 2 μL PCR reaction was run with the following conditions: 95°C for 5 min, [94 °C for 20 s, 65 °C for 20 s (0.5 °C decrease per cycle), 72 °C for 45 s; 14 cycles], [94 °C for 20 s, 58 °C for 20 s, 72 °C for 45 s; 35 cycles], 72 °C for 10 min. The resulting PCR products were treated with 0.5 U of shrimp alkaline phosphatase (SAP) and 0.5 U of ExoI at 37 °C for 60 min, then 90 °C for 15 min. The PCR products were then used as a template for the sequencing reaction with BigDye Terminator (Applied Biosystems). The sequencing reaction consisted of final concentrations of sequencing buffer, BigDye Terminator mix, 500 μM sequencing primer and PCR product template. The running conditions for the sequencing reaction were: 96 °C for 1 min, [96 °C for 10 s, 55 °C for 5 s, 60 °C for 4 min; 25 cycles]. The sequencing reaction was cleaned up with X-Terminator (Applied Biosystems) and analyzed on the 3730xl DNA Analyzer (Applied Biosystems). The resulting sequencing data were viewed through Sequencher (GeneCodes) in order to identify variations.

## Quality Control (QC) and Data Analysis

The software PLINK v.1.07 (39) was used for data QC. SNPs with a study-wise missing data proportion above 0.05 were removed from the analysis. SNPs failing to meet Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) ( $P < 0.0001$ ), in addition to SNPs with more than 10% missing genotypes were also eliminated from the analysis. After QC, the total remaining SNP counts and minor allele frequencies (MAF) for SNP alleles were determined for each gene and individual. Linkage disequilibrium among SNPs was determined using PLINK and the SNP Annotation and Proxy Search (SNAP) web-server (<http://www.broadinstitute.org/mpg/snap/index.php>) (40).

## Genetic Association Analysis

To identify associations of genetic variants with disease status, logistic and linear regression tests were performed using PLINK v.1.07, and the significance of association was determined using Fisher's exact (allelic) test with a nominal significance threshold of 0.05.

For all tests, the genotype counts, allele frequencies, effect size estimates with 95% confidence intervals (CI) and P-values were computed. To detect associations of SNP alleles with quantitative phenotypic measures (continuous phenotypes), the following clinical measurements were obtained and incorporated into regression models: change in glomerular filtration rate from pre-TDF treatment baseline (eGFR) (as calculated using the Modification of Diet in Renal Disease (MDRD) formula (41)) and change in SCr from pre-TDF treatment baseline (SCr). Linear regression models, initially specifying the genotype as an additive covariate and the clinical measurement values or case-control status as a response, and adjusted for covariates (age, sex, race, baseline SCr or eGFR, and bodyweight), were analyzed using PLINK. Values for demographic covariates (age, sex, race and bodyweight) are reported in Gupta et al (22). The Bonferroni correction, defined as  $0.05/n$  where  $n$  is the total number of SNPs tested, was applied to nominally significant P values; therefore P values below  $2.23 \times 10^{-04}$  were considered significant after correction for multiple testing. For clinical phenotype association analyses, cases and controls were first analyzed separately and the resulting coefficients were compared between the two groups.

### SNP Functional Annotation

Several web-based annotation tools available through the SNP-Nexus web-server (<http://snp-nexus.org>) were used for SNP annotation (42–44). Within SNP-Nexus, the SIFT, PolyPhen and FastSNP web servers were applied to the SNP dataset to determine the predicted effects and ranking of functional consequences of SNPs.

### Generation of HEK-cells overexpressing MRP4 reference and MRP4-V854F

The pcDNA5/FRT vector (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) containing the *ABCC4-V854F* sequence was constructed as described elsewhere (30). The full-length *ABCC4* sequence was used as reference cDNA and as template for generation of the variant cDNA. The desired sequence alteration for the variant cDNA was performed using the QuickChange Lightning site-directed mutagenesis kit (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA) according to the manufacturer's protocol and as described elsewhere (45). The following primers were used: forward 5'-CAAGTGGTTGGTGTGTTCTCTGTGGCTGTGG-3' and reverse 5'-CCACAGCCACAGAGAACACACCAACCACTTG-3'. Complete sequencing of the constructs confirmed the presence of the mutation and ensured that no new mutations had been introduced during the mutagenesis. Human embryonic kidney (HEK) cells were transiently transfected with either pcDNA5/FRT-ABCC4-reference or pcDNA5/FRT-ABCC4-V854F expression constructs, or with pcDNA5/FRT (empty vector) as control, as described elsewhere (45). In brief, HEK-Flpin cells (Invitrogen) were seeded in DMEM (Cell Culture Facility, University of California, San Francisco, CA) supplemented with 10% FBS in poly-D-lysine-coated 24-well plates at a density of 600,000 cells/ml. Approximately 24 hours later, the cells were transfected using Lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen) in OptiMEM-medium (Cell Culture Facility, University of California, San Francisco, CA) according to the manufacturer's protocol. The medium was changed back to DMEM containing 10% FBS approximately 12 hours after transfection and transport experiments were performed approximately 48 hours after transfection.

## Cellular Efflux Assay

A previously described method of pre-loading MRP4-expressing cells with TDF under ATP-depleting conditions was used for the MRP4-dependent efflux studies of TFV (31). Unlike TFV, TDF is highly cell permeable and it is converted to parent TFV inside cells (31). The ATP-depleting conditions (46) allow for sufficient accumulation of TFV released from TDF in the presence of functionally active MRP4 protein. To perform the TFV efflux studies, HEK cells transfected with pcDNA5/FRT-ABCC4-reference, pcDNA5/FRT-ABCC4-V854F or pcDNA5/FRT (control) were preincubated at 37 °C for two hours under ATP-depleting conditions with 1 μM [<sup>3</sup>H]TDF (Moravek Radiochemicals, Brea, CA) in a glucose-free Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium (DMEM, Invitrogen) supplemented with 10 mM NaN<sub>3</sub> and 10 mM 2-deoxy-D-glucose (both from Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO). After washing the cells twice with ice-cold phosphate-buffered saline (PBS, Cell Culture Facility, University of California, San Francisco, CA), complete pre-warmed DMEM (500 μL/well) was added to 21 wells, the three remaining wells being controls at time 0. The plate was then incubated at 37 °C and the media was removed from the wells after 2, 5, 10, 15, 30, 45, and 60 minutes after washing, and added to 3 mL EcoLite scintillation fluid (MP Bio, Solon, OH). All cells were immediately washed twice with ice-cold PBS after removal of the media. The cells were lysed in 800 μL lysis buffer (0.1 N NaOH and 0.1% SDS in distilled water) by shaking them for 2.5 hours at room temperature. 650 μL of the lysate was then added to 3 mL EcoLite scintillation fluid (MP Bio). Radioactivity of both cell lysates and media was determined on a LS6500 Scintillation Counter (Beckman Coulter, Pasadena, CA) and values were corrected for protein concentration as determined with a BCA assay kit (Thermo Scientific, Rockford, IL). Final values are expressed as % of the maximal values after 60 minutes and are the result of two independent experiments.

## RESULTS

### SNP Identification and Annotation

In this study, we sequenced all coding (exon), flanking (intron/exon junctions) and regulatory (promoter, 5' untranslated region (5'UTR) and 3' untranslated region (3'UTR)) regions of eight functionally relevant candidate genes (*ABCC2*, *ABCC4*, *SLC22A6*, *SLC22A8*, *OCRL*, *CLCN5*, *AK1*, *AK2*), in an effort to identify SNPs associated with TDF-FS. The resulting dataset was comprehensively evaluated by single SNP association and gene set analyses.

After QC of sequencing data, a total of 214 SNPs from all sequenced regions were available for analysis. A descriptive summary of all identified SNPs is provided in Supplemental Table 2. The majority of SNPs found in this analysis were located within intronic regions (N=144; 67.3%), while coding SNPs (N=56) accounted for 26.2% of the total number of SNPs identified (Figure 1a). The remaining SNPs (N=14; 6.5%) were found in the 3'UTR and 5'UTR (Figure 1a). In comparison to the control group, data from the case group suggested a greater proportion of SNPs located within the 3'UTRs of the sequenced genes and greater proportion of coding synonymous SNPs (Figure 1b; *P* value not significant).

Of the 56 coding SNPs, 28 SNPs encoded non-synonymous amino acid changes and 28 SNPs encoded synonymous amino acid changes (Supplemental Table 2). The predicted effects of the non-synonymous SNPs on protein function were determined using SIFT and PolyPhen algorithms. Five SNPs (101567211A>T (*ABCC2*), 101591491T>G (*ABCC2*), 101594210T>C (*ABCC2*), rs11568658 (*ABCC4*) and rs8187692 (*ABCC2*)) were predicted by both SIFT and PolyPhen as likely to disrupt protein function while another 13 SNPs were predicted by both algorithms to have no effect (Supplemental Table 2). Analysis of the other SNPs was discordant between the two algorithms.

The mean minor allele frequencies (MAF) and predicted functional effects of SNPs within the whole cohort, and the case and control groups, were determined and compared. Overall, a large proportion of variants identified in this analysis represented rare alleles (MAF<10%) (Figure 2a). While the cumulative SNP distributions were not significantly different overall between the cases and the controls, the case group showed a trend towards a higher proportion of rare alleles (Figure 2b). Consistent with this observation, between the two groups, the mean MAF was significantly higher in the controls (MAF, controls = 0.098; MAF, cases = 0.088;  $P=0.033$ ) (Figure 2c).

### Results of Single SNP Association with TDF-FS

We first evaluated the association of the 214 individual genotypes (single SNP analysis) in TDF-FS cases ( $n=19$ ) and controls ( $n=36$ ). Complete association results for all SNPs is provided in Supplemental Table 2. Six SNPs were present below a nominal P-value of 0.05, of which four SNPs possessed higher allele frequencies in the cases compared to the controls (Table 1). However, none of the six identified SNPs remained significant after correction for multiple testing ( $P < 2.23 \times 10^{-04}$ ). Three of these six identified SNPs were present in *ABCC2* and one SNP was found in *ABCC4*, while the remaining two SNPs were found in *OCRL*. One SNP, rs7899457, encoded a synonymous amino acid change in *ABCC2*, while the remaining SNPs were intronic.

Prior studies have implicated SNPs in *ABCC2* and *ABCC4* in TDF-related renal dysfunction, namely rs2273697, rs8187710, and rs899494, that were also identified in our analysis. However, none of these SNPs had significant associations with TDF-FS (Supplemental Table 2).

### Association of SNPs with SCr and eGFR in TDF-FS cases

To identify SNPs associated with clinical parameters used to diagnose the cases, patient genotypes from the groups of cases ( $n=19$ ) and controls ( $n=36$ ) individually were tested for their association with changes in SCr from baseline (SCr), and changes in estimated glomerular filtration rate from baseline (eGFR). We have intentionally focused on analyzing the genetic associations for SCr and/or eGFR separately in cases and controls rather than across the whole cohort because of the profound differences in these parameters between the two groups of patients. Supplemental Table 1 summarizes the full description of the cohort and the clinical phenotypes that were evaluated.



Thirteen SNPs were nominally associated with increased SCr in the cases, and six SNPs remained significant after multiple test correction (Table 2). The majority of these SNPs (10/13) were found in *OCRL*, and the remainder was located in *ABCC2*. Two intronic SNPs (128718244C>T and 128718318A>G) in *OCRL* were most significantly associated with increased SCr in the cases ( $P = 5.46 \times 10^{-06}$ ;  $\beta = 28.5$  mg/dL) (Table 2). However, it was evident that for nearly all of these SNPs, highly significant association results were driven by extreme changes in serum creatinine occurring in only a few cases (Supplemental Figure 1, panels A–F). In particular, the two *OCRL* SNPs were singletons present in a case subject with the highest SCr in the cohort (Supplemental Figure 1, panels E and F). This same case subject, whose SCr was measured at 27.1 mg/dL, also carried at least one variant allele of the other five SNPs (Supplemental Figure 1). For comparison, the data for the same 13 SNPs in controls were also evaluated; however, none of SNPs were associated with SCr at nominal  $P < 0.05$  (data not shown).

A similar analysis in cases and controls was performed to assess the association of patient genotype with changes in eGFR from baseline. In the cases, 11 SNPs present in *ABCC2*, *OCRL* and *ABCC4* met criteria for significance at the nominal P value threshold of 0.05, and one SNP, rs8187707, remained significant following multiple test correction (Table 3). The top-ranked associated SNP, rs8187707, encoded a synonymous amino acid change (His = His) in *ABCC2* ( $P = 2.16 \times 10^{-04}$ ;  $\beta = -73.3$  ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>) (Table 3). However, this SNP represented a singleton, and was present within a single, severely-affected case subject with a SCr of 27.1 mg/dL and eGFR of  $-104$  ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> (Supplemental Figure 1, panel G). None of the 11 identified SNPs were associated at nominal significance levels in the controls (data not shown).

Based on these results, *OCRL*, *ABCC2* and *ABCC4* were prioritized as candidate genes for TDF-FS.

### Functional Characterization of MRP4-V854F (rs11568694)

Based on its known importance for TDF transport, *ABCC4* has been previously investigated as a candidate gene for TDF-FS. As the majority of known coding variants in *ABCC4* have previously been genotyped and functionally characterized (30), including those that we identified in our analysis as associated with TDF-FS, we first investigated the predicted effects of these variations on protein function and expression *in silico* (summarized in Supplemental Table 3) and then evaluated the functional effects of an uncharacterized, non-synonymous candidate SNP (rs11568694) on the *ABCC4* protein product MPR4. We generated plasmid constructs of the reference (wild-type) and rs11568694-mutant *ABCC4* protein products (MRP4-ref and MRP4-V854F) and transiently expressed these constructs in HEK-293 cells. A time course of intracellular efflux of [<sup>3</sup>H]tenofovir was evaluated for the MRP4-ref-HEK293, MRP4-V854F-HEK293 and mock-HEK293 cell lines preloaded with [<sup>3</sup>H]TDF. For both MRP4-ref-HEK293 and MRP4-V854F-HEK293, significant time-dependent efflux of tenofovir was observed relative to the mock-transfected control cells (Figure 3). However, there was no significant difference in the intracellular and extracellular concentrations of tenofovir between the MRP4-ref and MRP4-V854F cell lines, indicating that the MRP4-V854F variant is unlikely to affect tenofovir cellular efflux. Although

rs11568694 did not appear to alter MRP4-mediated efflux of tenofovir in our assay, this SNP may be in LD with a functional variant(s) that alter *ABCC4* expression or efflux activity. For example, multiple functional variants including rs9524765 and rs11568702 were predicted through sequence analysis of *ABCC4* (Supplemental Table 2 and Supplemental Table 3) to have deleterious effects on protein expression through disruption of splice sites (Supplemental Table 3). Additional studies will be required to characterize the effects of these SNPs on *ABCC4* expression and function.

## DISCUSSION

Renal impairment is one of the adverse events occurring among HIV-infected patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. More severe forms of renal toxicity, including FS, can occur rarely among patients receiving TDF as a component of their treatment. The development of TDF-FS shows high inter-individual variation, suggesting that patient genetics may be an important determinant of this rare adverse event. To investigate the genetic component of the TDF-FS development in HIV infected patients, we sequenced eight candidate genes and conducted SNP and gene-based association tests of case-control status and clinical measurements ( *SCr*, *eGFR*) in an established TDF-FS cohort (add ref 22).

Through single-SNP case-control association study, we identified six SNPs present in *OCRL*, *ABCC2* and *ABCC4* that were associated with TDF-FS case status at a nominal significance threshold (Table 1), although none remained significant after correction for multiple testing. We also identified 13 SNPs and 11 SNPs, respectively, that are nominally significantly associated with *SCr* and *eGFR* in cases (Table 2 and Table 3). The top-ranked SNPs associated with *SCr* were present in intronic regions of *OCRL* and *ABCC2*, while the top-ranked SNPs associated with *eGFR* were also found within these genes. Seven SNPs from both analyses remained significant after the correction for multiple testing. Notably, none of these SNPs identified in cases were also significantly associated with these phenotypes in the controls. These SNPs may therefore represent novel candidate loci for development of TDF-FS. While encouraging, these results should be viewed in light of an important limitation, as these SNPs were very rare, occurring in 1–3 individuals from the case group only. Sensitivity analyses to determine the impact of individual genotypes on the association results showed that removal of the few carriers resulted in P values that still met nominal significance but no longer surpassed the multiple test correction threshold (data not shown). Furthermore, highly significant association P values for the SNPs from Table 2 and Table 3 were driven by singletons, primarily from a single, severely affected case subject with *SCr* of 27.1 mg/dL who expressed all six SNPs associated with clinical phenotypes (Supplemental Figure 1). Thus, due to our limited sample sizes, and the presence of an “extreme” case outlier, our findings should be interpreted with caution.

Our study design has several novel aspects that collectively serve to enrich for causal variations within TDF-FS candidate genes. First, while previous studies of renal dysfunction related to TDF have evaluated a small number of candidate genes involved in the transport of tenofovir, we have expanded this list to include genes involved in the pharmacological pathway (transport and metabolism) of tenofovir in addition to genes that have important physiological roles in kidney homeostasis and are directly related to the development of

heritable renal dysfunction. Second, full sequencing of the exons, intron/exon junctions and regulatory regions of the selected genes enriched for SNPs potentially related to protein expression, function, regulation and/or mRNA splicing, and also helped identify novel as well as rare variants that are likely to be missed through traditional genotyping approaches. Third, in addition to performing a single-SNP association analysis, we also evaluated two of the main clinical phenotypes that were used to diagnose renal dysfunction, SCr and eGFR. Previous genetic studies of TDF-associated nephrotoxicity have not evaluated SNP or gene associations with specific clinical parameters of renal function. Through these analyses, we identified multiple variations within *ABCC2*, *ABCC4* and *OCRL*, of which the latter was previously associated with the Mendelian form of FS, but has not been implicated in TDF-FS until now. Using this approach, we have successfully enriched for SNP and gene associations of TDF-FS.

It should be noted that ritonavir-boosted protease inhibitors (PIs) have been shown to be associated with small reduction in GFR in TDF-treated patients (47, 48). PI-based regimens were very frequent in both cases (84% at the time of study enrollment) and controls (51% at the time of study enrollment) (22). However, the SCr and eGFR changes observed in cases were much more profound than the established effects of PIs. While it is possible that there might be a synergy between genetic and pharmacological effects on creatinine secretion, it is unlikely that the profound changes in SCr and eGFR are induced only by the PI-containing antiretroviral regimen.

One of the limitations of this study is that, due to the rarity of TDF-FS, only a small number of cases could be accrued and were available for the genetic analysis. Evaluation of a larger patient cohort, or through meta-analyses of data from prior studies, would be required to confirm our findings. A second limitation of our investigation is that multiple transporters are capable of endogenous creatinine transport (e.g. OCT2, OAT2 and MATE-1) (49) and the genetic polymorphisms in these genes may influence the variability in creatinine clearance independently of TDF exposure. We accounted for the impact of transporter variation by adjusting for baseline creatinine clearance in our genetic association models; however, we identified four SNPs that were significantly associated with baseline serum creatinine values in the cohort. These SNPs were present within *AK2* (33489932G>A; MAF, cohort = 0.0091;  $\beta$ =1.66 mg/dL;  $P= 1.72 \times 10^{-08}$ ), *SLC22A6* (rs4149173; MAF, cohort = 0.0091;  $\beta$ =1.66 mg/dL;  $P= 1.72 \times 10^{-08}$ ), and *SLC22A8* ((rs45438191; MAF, cohort = 0.0091;  $\beta$ =1.66 mg/dL;  $P= 1.72 \times 10^{-08}$ ) and 62763706G>A; MAF, cohort = 0.018;  $\beta = 1.00$  mg/dL;  $P = 1.71 \times 10^{-06}$ ). However, none of these SNPs were among those we had identified as potential candidates for TDF-FS, and none remained individually significant in the cases. Finally, while additional transporters for TDF exist, e.g. *ABCC10*, we chose to focus our investigation on those genes for which the strongest evidence supports a potential pharmacogenetic effect, which includes the four major organic anion transporters evaluated in this study. Additional studies to evaluate a more comprehensive set of genes are needed in order to clarify the genetic heterogeneity underlying TDF-associated renal damage.

In summary, we have identified several SNPs, many of them novel, in multiple genes that appear to be enriched in cases of TDF-FS in a small cohort of patients treated with TDF. The genes that are potentially associated with increased risk of TDF-FS in HIV-infected

patients include those that regulate the renal efflux of tenofovir (i.e. *ABCC4*) or other drugs and xenobiotics (i.e. *ABCC2*), in addition to a key regulator of renal cell homeostasis (*OCRL*). While MRP2 efflux pump (product of *ABCC2*) is unable to directly interact with tenofovir and mediate its cellular efflux (33), it is involved in handling of xenobiotics and other endogenous compounds that could adversely affect the homeostasis of renal proximal tubules. Collectively, these findings suggest that while multiple rare variants in several genes may be associated with increased susceptibility to TDF-FS, no single, distinct predictive genetic marker for the development of this adverse effect was identified.

## Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

## Acknowledgments

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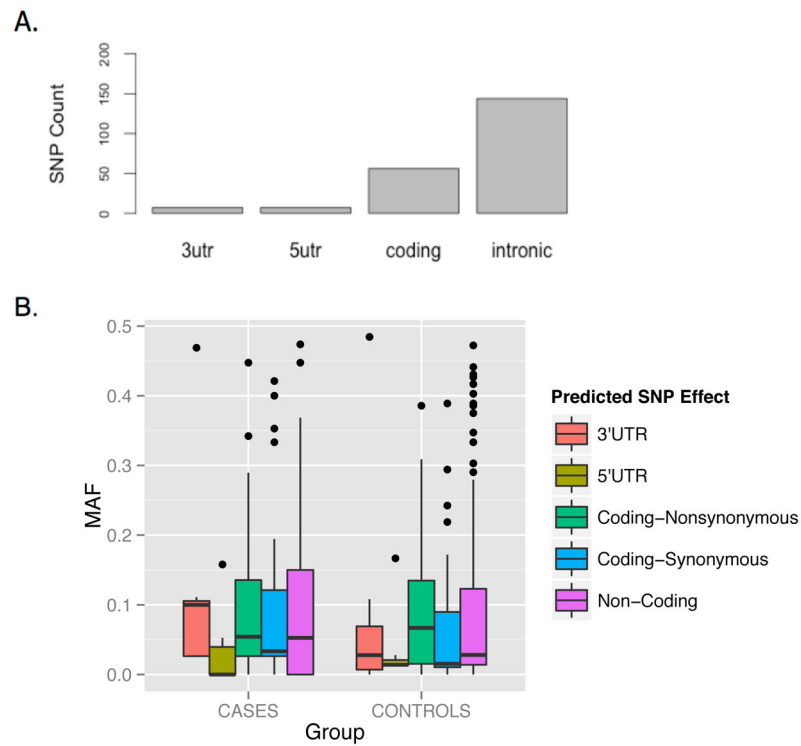
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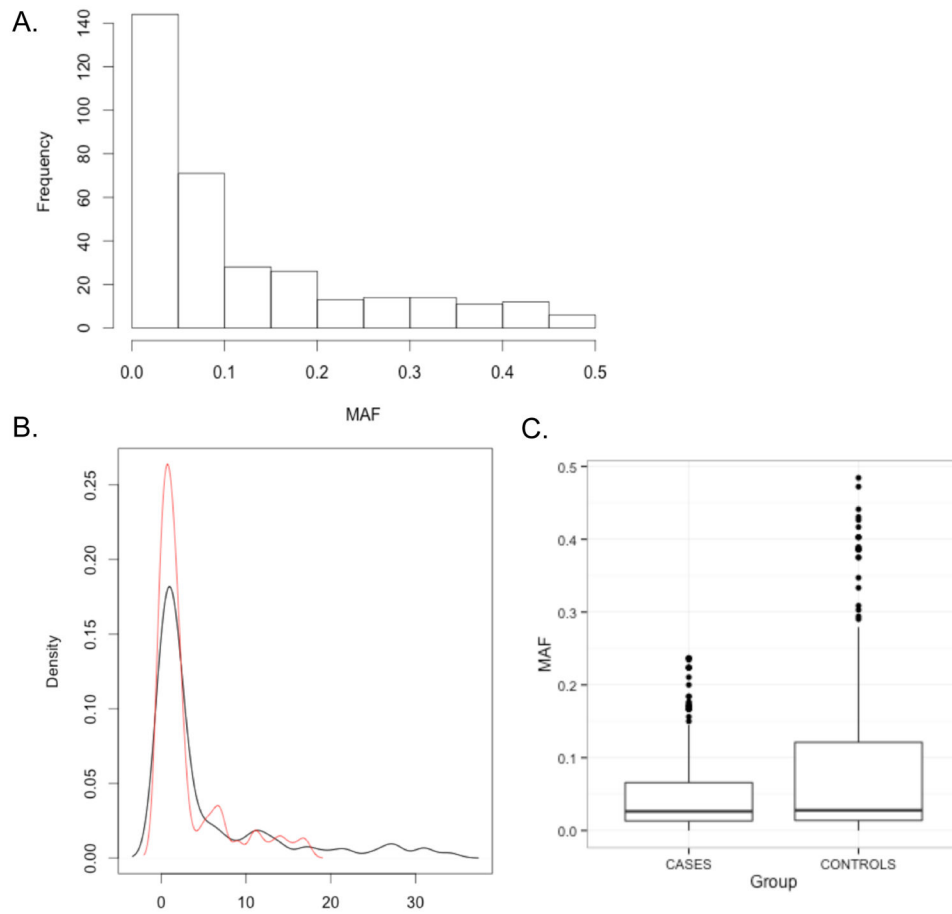
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**Figure 1. Characteristics of SNPs Identified in TDF-FS Cases and Controls**

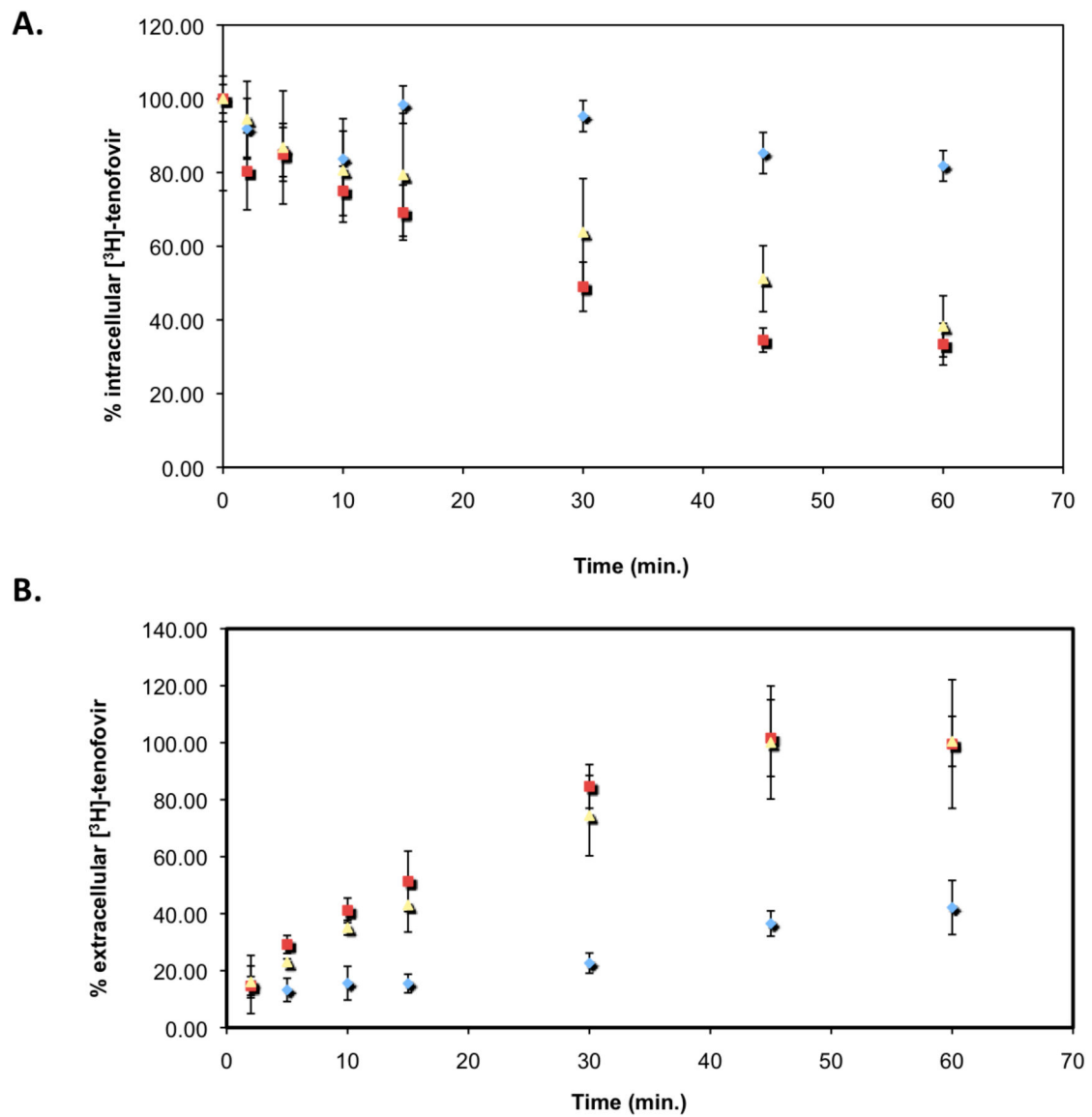
(A) Overall SNP frequency in the study subject samples by predicted functional category: “3utr” = 3’untranslated region, “5utr” = 5’untranslated region, “coding” = all synonymous and non-synonymous coding SNPs, “intronic” = all SNPs located within the intron/exon flanking regions (< 200 bp from exon termini). (B) Boxplots represent median MAF  $\pm$  IQR (y-axis) in cases and controls by predicted functional category (colored squares).





**Figure 2. Distribution of Rare Variants**

(A) Frequency distribution of alleles in all cohort subjects. (B) Density plot of the cumulative distribution of SNPs in cases (red line) and controls (black line) by number of SNPs (x-axis). (C) Boxplots show median MAF  $\pm$  IQR (plotted on the y-axis) in the cases and controls.



**Figure 3. Functional Characterization of the MRP4-V854F SNP**

(A) Time course of tenofovir intracellular accumulation. (B) Time course of tenofovir accumulation in the supernatant (extracellular concentration). Y-axis values represent % of the reference (MRP4-ref) intracellular amount of tenofovir at t=0. Red squares indicate HEK-293-MRP4-reference cell line (reference). Yellow squares indicate HEK-293-MRP4-V854F cell line (variant). Blue squares represent HEK-293-mock cell line (untransfected control). Error bars indicate SEM.

**Table 1**

SNPs associated with TDF-FS case status.

SNP	Chr.	Chr. Pos.	Gene Symbol	SNP Effect	Amino Acid Change	Minor Allele Counts		MAF		Odds Ratio	P Value <sup>‡</sup>
						Cases	Controls	Cases	Controls		
rs17222519	10	101554150	ABCC2	intronic		0	11	0.00	0.15	0	0.015
rs7899457	10	101605503	ABCC2	coding	Lys = Lys	3	0	0.10	0.00	-	0.027
rs17216177	10	101603522	ABCC2	intronic		13	11	0.34	0.16	2.79	0.032
rs2274409	13	95860214	ABCC4	intronic		7	29	0.18	0.43	0.30	0.018
128701401T>C	23	128701401	OCRL	intronic		4	0	0.17	0.00	-	0.019
12869579T>C	23	12869579	OCRL	intronic		3	0	0.15	0.00	-	0.039

Abbreviations: "SNP" = single nucleotide polymorphism; "Chr." = chromosome; "Chr. Pos." = SNP chromosome position; "MAF" = minor allele frequency in cases or controls; "P Value" = Fisher's P value.

<sup>‡</sup>Values reflect nominal P-values.

**Table 2**

Association of SNPs with Change in Serum Creatinine in 19 TDF-FS Cases.

SNP	Chr.	Chr. Pos.	Gene Symbol	SNP Effect	Amino Acid Change	MAF	$\beta$ (mg/dL)	P Value <sup>‡</sup>
128718244C>T* <sup>1</sup>	23	128718244	OCRL	intronic		0.06	28.5	$5.46 \times 10^{-06}$
128718318A>G* <sup>1</sup>	23	128718318	OCRL	intronic		0.06	28.5	$5.46 \times 10^{-06}$
rs113165732*	23	128710213	OCRL	intronic		0.06	29.5	$1.22 \times 10^{-05}$
rs79174032*	10	101560106	ABCC2	intronic		0.05	24.5	$4.86 \times 10^{-05}$
rs8187707*	10	101610533	ABCC2	coding	His = His	0.12	20.3	$6.80 \times 10^{-05}$
rs7057639*	23	129418630	OCRL	intronic		0.05	24.8	$2.19 \times 10^{-04}$
rs11597282	10	101590020	ABCC2	intronic		0.08	12.5	$1.02 \times 10^{-02}$
rs3131282	23	128721316	OCRL	intronic		0.33	12.6	$1.37 \times 10^{-02}$
rs1159042	23	128722284	OCRL	intronic		0.35	12.9	$1.83 \times 10^{-02}$
rs2076076	23	128721193	OCRL	intronic		0.19	10.9	$1.83 \times 10^{-02}$
rs5977104	23	128679030	OCRL	intronic		0.25	11.0	$2.66 \times 10^{-02}$
rs72614119	23	129418440	OCRL	intronic		0.10	12.1	$2.89 \times 10^{-02}$
128701401T>C	23	128701401	OCRL	intronic		0.17	7.7	$3.83 \times 10^{-02}$

Abbreviations: "SNP" = single nucleotide polymorphism; "Chr." = chromosome; "Chr. Pos." = SNP chromosome position; "MAF" = minor allele frequency in the cases; " $\beta$ " = beta coefficient (measure of the effect size for SCr); "P value" = Fisher's P value.

<sup>1</sup> SNP pairs in strong LD ( $r^2 > 0.8$ )

<sup>‡</sup> Values reflect nominal P-values.

\* SNPs meeting the Bonferroni-corrected P value threshold =  $2.23 \times 10^{-04}$

Table 3

Association of SNPs with Change in Glomerular Filtration Rate in 19 TDF-FS Cases.

SNP	Chr.	Chr. Pos.	Gene Symbol	Predicted SNP Effect	Amino Acid Change	MAF	$\beta$ (ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup> )	P Value <sup>‡</sup>
rs8187707*	10	101610533	ABCC2	coding	His = His	0.12	-73.3	$2.16 \times 10^{-4}$
128718318A>G	23	128718318	OCRL	intronic		0.06	-93.7	$4.34 \times 10^{-3}$
128718244C>T	23	128718244	OCRL	intronic		0.06	-93.7	$4.34 \times 10^{-3}$
rs11597282	10	101590020	ABCC2	intronic		0.08	-48.1	$4.92 \times 10^{-3}$
rs7057639	23	129418630	OCRL	intronic		0.05	-74.0	$9.99 \times 10^{-3}$
rs79174032	10	101560106	ABCC2	intronic		0.05	-68.4	$1.18 \times 10^{-2}$
rs113165732	23	128710213	OCRL	intronic		0.06	-94.9	$1.26 \times 10^{-2}$
rs2274405	13	95858978	ABCC4	coding	Ser = Ser	0.09	62.6	$1.75 \times 10^{-2}$
128701401T>C	23	128701401	OCRL	intronic		0.17	-29.5	$2.75 \times 10^{-2}$
rs17216282	10	101605550	ABCC2	intronic		0.03	78.5	$2.92 \times 10^{-2}$
101591491T>G	10	101591491	ABCC2	coding	Trp > Arg	0.13	-38.2	$3.22 \times 10^{-2}$

Abbreviations: "SNP" = single nucleotide polymorphism; "Chr." = chromosome; "Chr. Pos." = SNP chromosome position; "MAF" = minor allele frequency in the cases; " $\beta$ " = beta coefficient (measure of the effect size for eGFR); "P value" = Fisher's P value.

<sup>‡</sup>Values reflect nominal P-values.

\* SNPs meeting the Bonferroni-corrected P value threshold =  $2.23 \times 10^{-4}$