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The probable effect of MT1A (A>G) and MT1A (C>G) SNPs of Metallothionein gene on whole blood mercury levels in Iranian population

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Polymorphism in metalloproteins may lead to changes in heavy metal levels in the body. The risk factors of polymorphisms in heavy metal concentrations, particularly mercury, may be due to several confounding factors including differences in ethnicity of the analyzed populations, sample size and the type of the studied environment heavy metals to which population are exposed. We study the effect of MT1A (A>G) and MT1A (C>G) polymorphisms on blood mercury level in Iranian population. 300 non exposure people to control group and 150 exposure people to case group were used. DNA extraction and PCR-RFLP and DNA sequencing was done and blood mercury level was measured *via* AAS technique by DMA-80. Blood mercury concentration in case group was higher than control group (p value<0.001). There was no significant differences in case and control groups to effect of MT1A (A>G) and MT1A (C>G) polymorphism on blood mercury levels and P value were 0.69 and 0.44, 0.59 and 0.56 for case and control groups, respectively. MT1A (A>G) and MT1A (C>G) polymorphism were not associated with increased level of mercury concentration in Iranian, which needs further investigations. In conclusion, this study suggest that MT1A (A>G) and MT1A (C>G) polymorphisms are not attractive susceptibility markers for high blood mercury concentration.

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