

# Polymorphisms of human 8-oxoguanine DNA glycosylase 1 and 8-hydroxydeoxyguanosine increase susceptibility to arsenic methylation capacity-related urothelial carcinoma

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**Abstract** Arsenic causes oxidative stress in cultured animal and human cells, and it is a well-documented human carcinogen. We conducted a hospital-based case–control study including 167 cases of urothelial carcinoma (UC) and 334 age- and gender-matched healthy controls to evaluate the relationships between urinary arsenic profiles, urinary 8-hydroxydeoxyguanosine (8-OHdG) levels, and human 8-oxoguanine DNA glycosylase (hOGG1) genotypes and UC. The urinary arsenic species were analyzed by high-performance liquid chromatography and hydride generator-atomic absorption spectrometry. Genotyping for *hOGG1* (Ser326Cys) and *hOGG1* (–15C>G) was performed using the Sequenom MassARRAY platform with iPLEX Gold chemistry. Urinary 8-OHdG was measured with high-sensitivity enzyme-linked immunosorbent

assay kits. The results indicated that the *hOGG1* 326 Cys/Cys genotype and the *hOGG1* –15C>G G/G genotype were associated with an increased risk of UC (OR [95 % CI] 1.57 [1.04–2.35] and 1.57 [1.04–2.35], respectively). Participants with high urinary total arsenic, regardless of the haplotype of *hOGG1* Ser326Cys and the –15C>G polymorphism, had significantly higher urinary 8-OHdG compared to participants with low urinary total arsenic. This is the first study to investigate the joint effects of high urinary total arsenic or inefficient arsenic methylation capacity indices, and the high-risk G–G haplotype of *hOGG1* on the risk of UC. The findings are especially meaningful for participants with risk factors such as high urinary total arsenic, inefficient arsenic methylation indices, high urinary 8-OHdG, and the high-risk G–G haplotype of *hOGG1* which are all associated with an increased UC risk.

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## Introduction

Urothelial carcinoma (UC) can arise from the urothelium of the lower urinary tract, which includes the urinary bladder, or the upper urinary tract, which includes the renal pelvis and ureter (Liang et al. 2012). UC accounts for more than 90 % of cases of bladder cancer and the incidence of UC ranks seventh in men and seventeenth in women among cancers worldwide (Jemal et al. 2010). Environmental and occupational risk factors such as cigarette smoking and arsenic exposure are well-known risk factors for urothelial bladder cancer (Burger et al. 2013).

Worldwide, more than 200 million people are exposed to arsenic in drinking water at levels exceeding the World Health Organization's guideline of 10  $\mu\text{g/L}$  (WHO 2008). Several epidemiological studies in Taiwan have demonstrated that 2 to 3 decades of chronic exposure to high concentrations of arsenic in drinking water is associated with high risks of skin, bladder, kidney, liver, lung, and prostate cancers (Chen et al. 1988), as well as high risks of peripheral vascular disease (Tseng 2008), cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease (Chiou et al. 1997), diabetes mellitus, and hypertension (Chen et al. 2007). Our previous study also showed that subjects who have an unfavorable urinary arsenic profile have an increased risk of UC even at low arsenic exposure levels (Pu et al. 2007).

Arsenic induces oxidative stress and generates reactive oxygen species (ROS), such as the superoxide anion, hydrogen peroxide, and the hydroxyl radical, which play an important role in arsenic toxicity (Flora 2011). One report showed that a high concentration of arsenic produced 8-hydroxy-2'-deoxyguanosine (8-OHdG), which is a biomarker of arsenic-induced oxidative DNA damage (Roy et al. 2011). Our previous study showed that urinary 8-OHdG levels were significantly correlated with urinary total arsenic concentrations. Also, our study showed that UC patients had significantly higher 8-OHdG levels ( $7.48 \pm 0.97$  ng/mg creatinine) than healthy controls ( $5.95 \pm 0.21$  ng/mg creatinine) (Chung et al. 2008). We also found that urinary 8-OHdG levels were significantly related to urinary total arsenic levels and that levels of urinary 8-OHdG were significantly associated with the odds ratio (OR) of renal cell carcinoma (RCC) in a dose–response relationship after multivariate adjustment (Huang et al. 2012).

DNA damage and DNA repair may work together to stimulate arsenic-induced carcinogenesis. Our recent study found that *XRCC1* 399 Gln/Gln and 194 Arg/Arg DNA repair genes play important roles in poor arsenic methylation capacity and, as such, increase the risk of UC (Chiang et al. 2014). Other polymorphisms or base excision repair (BER) genes may also be involved in arsenic-induced carcinogenesis. Specifically, the human 8-oxoguanine DNA glycosylase (*hOGG1*) repair enzyme in the BER pathway removes 8-OHdG, which is an important cause of DNA damage (Zhong et al. 2012a). *hOGG1* is located at chromosome 3p26.2; a single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) at position 1245 bp in exon 7 of the *hOGG1* gene with C→G variation results in an amino acid substitution of serine with cysteine at codon 326 (Ser326Cys) (Zhang et al. 2011). A recent study showed that the *hOGG1* 326 Ser/Cys heterozygous genotype was inversely associated with cancer risk (OR [95 % CI] 0.69 [0.50–0.95]) (Ramanik et al. 2014). The variant genotype Cys/Cys of *hOGG1* (Ser326Cys) was associated with a significantly increased

risk of bladder cancer compared to the Ser/Ser genotype in a North Indian population (Mittal et al. 2012), and another study reported that the *hOGG1* Ser/Cys + Ser/Ser genotype was associated with a significantly increased risk of bladder cancer (adjusted OR [95 % CI] 1.19 [1.01–1.41]) in a Chinese population (Ma et al. 2012). Conversely, another study found that *hOGG1* Ser326Cys polymorphisms did not contribute to the risk of bladder cancer (Zhong et al. 2012b). Results from epidemiologic studies have been inconsistent, some studies found that the Cys allele of *hOGG1* Ser326Cys was associated with an increased risk of bladder cancer (Ma et al. 2012), while other studies found no association (Zhong et al. 2012b). Additionally, another polymorphism of the *hOGG1* (rs2072668; –15C>G) gene, which is present in intron 4, was reported to be the best polymorphic signature for discriminating between gallbladder cancer cases and controls (Srivastava et al. 2011). Further, the combination of *hOGG1* rs2072668 and *hOGG1* Ser326Cys was reported to be strongly associated with an increased risk of breast cancer (Kim et al. 2013). Therefore, the aim of the present study was to explore whether there was an association between *hOGG1* Ser326Cys and *hOGG1*–15C>G polymorphisms and UC. We also investigated the joint effects of urinary 8-OHdG levels, urinary total arsenic levels, arsenic methylation capacity indices, and *hOGG1* polymorphisms and haplotypes on UC risk.

## Materials and methods

### Study participants

We conducted a hospital-based case–control study that has been described previously (Pu et al. 2007). Briefly, 167 UC cases and 334 age- and gender-matched healthy controls were recruited from the National Taiwan University Hospital and the Taipei Municipal Wan Fang Hospital from March 2007 to April 2009. All UC cases were diagnosed by histological confirmation, and none of the UC cases presented with other histology, such as squamous cell carcinoma, adenocarcinoma, sarcoma, lymphoma, or benign lesions. The healthy controls had no prior history of cancer. All study participants lived in Taiwan City, which is 200–300 km away from arsenic-contaminated areas. The participants drank tap water supplied by the Taipei Water Department of the Taipei City Government; the average arsenic concentration in tap water in Taiwan City is 0.7  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . The Research Ethics Committee of National Taiwan University Hospital and Taipei Medical University approved this study, and all participants provided written informed consent before the questionnaire interview and biological specimen collection. This study complied with the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki.

## Questionnaire interview

Well-trained interviewers used a structured questionnaire to collect personal information from all participants, including demographic and socioeconomic characteristics; lifestyle choices such as consumption of alcohol, tea, and coffee and cigarette smoking habits; and family and personal disease histories of diabetes, stroke, and hypertension. Cigarette smoking status was classified as never, former, or current at the time of enrollment. Ever-smokers included former and current smokers.

## Determination of urinary 8-OHdG levels

Spot urine samples were collected and placed in 50 mL acid-washed tubes. The samples were immediately transferred to a  $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  freezer until analysis. To ensure the stability of the samples, 8-OHdG levels were measured within 6 months of collection. Urinary specimens were centrifuged at 1,500 rpm for 10 min to remove particulates. The supernatants were used to measure the enol isomerization of 8-OHdG levels using a competitive in vitro enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) kit (Japan Institute for the Control of Aging, Fukuroi, Japan) (Saito et al. 2000). The detailed procedure was described previously (Chung et al. 2008). The detection range of the ELISA assay was 0.5–200 ng/mL. The intra-assay coefficient of variance (CV) was 9.8 % and the inter-assay CV was 6.7 %. The urinary concentrations of 8-OHdG were corrected using individual urinary creatinine concentrations.

## Determination of urinary arsenic species

To ensure the reliability of the urinary arsenic profiles, arsenic species were detected within 6 months after collection of urine samples (Chen et al. 2002). Frozen urine samples were thawed at room temperature, dispersed by ultrasonic wave, and filtered through a Sep-Pak C18 column (Mallinckrodt Baker, Inc., Phillipsburg, NJ, USA). A 200- $\mu\text{L}$  urine aliquot was applied to each Phenomenex column (Nucleosil, Torrance, CA, USA) to determine the concentrations of arsenic species by high-performance liquid chromatography (Waters Corporation, Milford, MA, USA). Next, the proportions of inorganic arsenic (iAs), including both arsenite ( $\text{As}^{\text{III}}$ ) and arsenate ( $\text{As}^{\text{V}}$ ), monomethylarsonic acid ( $\text{MMA}^{\text{V}}$ ), and dimethylarsonic acid ( $\text{DMA}^{\text{V}}$ ) were quantified using a hybrid generator and atomic absorption spectrometry (Hsueh et al. 1998). The presence of arsenic species is not influenced by dietary factors such as the ingestion of shellfish, fish, or other seafood (Hsueh et al. 2002). The recovery rates of  $\text{As}^{\text{III}}$ ,  $\text{As}^{\text{V}}$ ,  $\text{MMA}^{\text{V}}$ , and  $\text{DMA}^{\text{V}}$  ranged from 93.8 to 102.2 %, with detection limits of 0.02, 0.06, 0.07, and

0.10  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , respectively. The standard reference material, SRM 2670, was obtained from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (Gaithersburg, MD, USA), and it contained  $480 \pm 100\ \mu\text{g/L}$  iAs. SRM 2670 was analyzed at the same time as the test urine samples to control for the quality of the method; an average value of  $507 \pm 17\ \mu\text{g/L}$  ( $n = 4$ ) iAs was recorded for the reference material. The reliability of urinary arsenic measurements was assessed by the CV of duplicate samples, which was calculated to be less than 5 %. The sum of  $\text{As}^{\text{V}}$ ,  $\text{As}^{\text{III}}$ , and the methylated metabolites ( $\text{MMA}^{\text{V}}$  and  $\text{DMA}^{\text{V}}$ ) was defined as total urinary arsenic; this level was not affected by organic arsenic species from seafood. Arsenic methylation capacity indices were defined as the percentage of iAs (iAs%), the percentage of  $\text{MMA}^{\text{V}}$  ( $\text{MMA}^{\text{V}}\%$ ), and the percentage of  $\text{DMA}^{\text{V}}$  ( $\text{DMA}^{\text{V}}\%$ ), which were calculated by dividing the concentration of each arsenic species by the total urinary arsenic concentration and then multiplying by 100.

## Genotype determination

Genomic DNA was extracted using proteinase K digestion after phenol and chloroform extraction. Genotyping for *hOGG1* (Ser326Cys) and *hOGG1* ( $-15\text{C}>\text{G}$ ) was performed with the Sequenom MassARRAY platform with iPLEX Gold chemistry (Sequenom, San Diego, CA, USA). According to the manufacturer's guidelines, the specific polymerase chain reaction (PCR) primer and extension primer sequences were designed with the Assay Designer software package (v.4.0). A 1- $\mu\text{L}$  sample of genomic DNA (10 ng/ $\mu\text{L}$ ) was used for the multiplex PCR; the total reaction mixture had a volume of 5  $\mu\text{L}$  and contained 0.2 units of Taq polymerase, 2.5 pmol of each PCR primer, and 25 mM of each deoxynucleotide (dNTP) (Sequenom, PCR Accessory and Enzyme Set). The thermocycler protocol was as follows: 94  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 4 min; 45 cycles of 94  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 20 s, 56  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 30 s, and 72  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 1 min; and a final step of 72  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 3 min. Unincorporated dNTPs were deactivated using 0.3 U of shrimp alkaline phosphatase. The single-base extension reaction was conducted with the iPLEX enzyme, terminator mix, and extension primer mix. The thermocycler protocol was as follows: 94  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 30 s; 40 cycles of 94  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 5 s, including 5 inner cycles of 56  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 5 s and 80  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 5 s; and a final step of 72  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 3 min (Sequenom, iPLEX Gold kit). A cation exchange resin was added to remove residual salt from the reactions, and 7 nL of the purified primer extension reaction was loaded onto a matrix pad of a SpectroCHIP (Sequenom). SpectroCHIPS were analyzed using the MassARRAY Analyzer 4, and the clustering analysis was completed with TYPER 4.0 software.

## Statistical analysis

Continuous variables are shown as means  $\pm$  standard error. The analysis of variance and least significant difference test were applied to compare different urinary 8-OHdG levels among combined groups of urinary total arsenic levels and *hOGGI* haplotypes. The Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) was assessed by a goodness-of-fit Chi-square test to examine possible genotyping errors for each SNP among the controls. The frequencies of *hOGGI* (Ser326Cys) and *hOGGI* (–15C>G) were fit to HWE among the controls. Dose–response relationships for continuous variables were estimated by the cutoff points of the respective tertiles of the distribution of the controls. A trend test was performed by treating ordinal variables as continuous variables in the logistic regression model. Multivariate-adjusted ORs and 95 % confidence intervals (CIs) were estimated by multiple logistic regression models. The strength of the linkage disequilibrium (LD), shown by Lewontin  $D'$ , was calculated using the Haploview software package, version 4.1 (Barrett et al. 2005). *hOGGI* haplotypes were estimated based on the expectation–maximization algorithm using the SAS/Genetics module. We used the additive model (synergy index) to evaluate the joint effects of *hOGGI* haplotype and urinary 8-OHdG level, urinary total arsenic level or arsenic methylation capacity indices on UC risk (Hosmer and Lemeshow 1992). All analyses were conducted using the Statistical Analysis Software (SAS) statistical package (SAS, version 9.2, Cary, NC, USA).

## Results

Participants with a higher educational level had a significantly lower risk of UC than those with a lower educational level. Former cigarette smokers had a significantly higher risk of UC than non-smokers (OR 3.42, 95 % CI 2.05–5.68) and ever-smokers had a 2.59-fold higher risk of UC than non-smokers (data not shown). The distribution of genotypes and haplotypes of *hOGGI*, urinary 8-OHdG levels, and urinary arsenic profiles of UC patients and healthy controls are shown in Table 1. The distribution of each genotype fit the HWE in the control participants. After multivariate adjustment, participants with the *hOGGI*-326 Cys/Cys genotype had a significantly higher risk of UC than those with the *hOGGI*-326 Ser/Ser + Ser/Cys genotype (OR 1.57, 95 % CI 1.04–2.35). Participants with the *hOGGI*-15 G/G genotype also had a significantly higher risk of UC than those with the *hOGGI*-15 G/C + C/C genotype.

In the present study, the Lewontin  $D'$  between *hOGGI* (Ser326Cys) and *hOGGI* (–15C>G) polymorphisms was 0.98, which indicated LD. The associations between

*hOGGI* haplotypes (326, –15) composed of two loci at Ser326Cys and –15C>G and the risk of UC were evaluated. The *hOGGI* low-risk haplotype, C–C/G–C, was associated with a significantly lower risk of UC (OR 0.77; 95 % CI 0.57–1.02) compared with the high-risk haplotype, G–G, in a multivariate-adjusted model. We also observed significant dose–response relationships between high urinary total arsenic levels, inefficient arsenic methylation capacity indices (high inorganic arsenic percent, high MMA<sup>V</sup> percent, and low DMA<sup>V</sup> percent) and high urinary 8-OHdG levels and the increased risk of UC in this study.

Table 2 lists the associations between urinary arsenic profiles, urinary 8-OHdG levels, and UC risk stratified by *hOGGI* haplotype. Among patients with the *hOGGI* C–C/G–C haplotype, high urinary 8-OHdG levels, and high urinary total arsenic levels, inefficient arsenic methylation capacity indices were associated with an increased risk of UC; the ORs (95 % CI) associated with increasing 8-OHdG levels were 1.00, 2.10 (1.15–3.84), and 2.10 (1.13–3.90), and the ORs (95 % CI) associated with increasing urinary total arsenic levels, increasing iAs%, increasing MMA<sup>V</sup>%, and increasing DMA<sup>V</sup>% were 1.00, 2.66 (1.20–5.92), and 7.72 (3.58–16.67); 1.00, 1.53 (0.84–3.40), and 1.92 (1.08–3.40); 1.00, 0.85 (0.43–1.68), and 3.40 (1.89–6.09); and 1.00, 0.38 (0.22–0.66), and 0.31 (0.17–0.55), respectively. Among participants with the *hOGGI* G–G haplotype, we also observed similar associations between urinary 8-OHdG levels, urinary total arsenic levels, and arsenic methylation capacity indices and UC risk.

Table 3 lists the joint effects of urinary arsenic profiles and urinary 8-OHdG levels on UC risk stratified by *hOGGI* haplotype. Participants with low 8-OHdG levels and low urinary total arsenic levels, low iAs%, low MMA%, or high DMA% were used as the reference group for analysis. A trend analysis revealed progressively increasing risks through exposure to no risk factors, either one of the risk factors, or both risk factors. The risk of UC was more pronounced in participants with high urinary 8-OHdG and high urinary total arsenic or inefficient arsenic methylation indices, with the exception of MMA%, who had the *hOGGI* G–G haplotype than in participants who had the *hOGGI* C–C/G–C haplotype; the risk was evident in a dose–response manner. Although urinary 8-OHdG concentration tended to interact additively with urinary total arsenic or arsenic methylation capacity indices to modify UC risk, none of the synergy indices of the interactions were statistically significant.

We further analyzed the joint effects of *hOGGI* haplotype and urinary arsenic profiles or urinary 8-OHdG levels on UC risk after adjusting for age, sex, educational level, and cigarette smoking status (Table 4). Participants with low 8-OHdG levels and the *hOGGI* C–C/G–C haplotype were used as the reference group; the ORs (95 %

**Table 1** *hOGG1* genotypes, *hOGG1* haplotypes, urinary arsenic profiles, and urinary 8-OHdG levels of urothelial carcinoma (UC) cases and healthy, non-UC controls

Variables	UC cases <i>N</i> (%)	Controls <i>N</i> (%)	Age-gender adjusted ORs (95 % CI)	Multivariate ORs <sup>†</sup> (95 % CI)
<i>hOGG1</i> (Ser326Cys)				
Ser/Ser	26 (15.6)	55 (16.5)	1.00	1.00
Ser/Cys	67 (40.1)	161 (48.2)	0.88 (0.51–1.52)	0.94 (0.53–1.67)
Cys/Cys	74 (44.3)	118 (35.3)	1.33 (0.77–2.30)	1.49 (0.83–2.68)
Ser/Ser + Ser/Cys	93 (55.7)	216 (64.7)	1.00	1.00
Cys/Cys	74 (44.3)	118 (35.3)	1.46 (1.00–2.14)*	1.57 (1.04–2.35)*
<i>hOGG1</i> (C[–15]G)				
C/C	26 (15.6)	52 (15.6)	1.00	1.00
G/C	67 (40.1)	164 (49.1)	0.81 (0.47–1.41)	0.84 (0.47–1.50)
G/G	74 (44.3)	118 (35.3)	1.26 (0.72–2.18)	1.38 (0.77–2.48)
C/C + G/C	93 (55.7)	216 (64.7)	1.00	1.00
G/G	74 (44.3)	118 (35.3)	1.46 (1.00–2.14)*	1.57 (1.04–2.35)*
<i>hOGG1</i> haplotypes <sup>a</sup>				
G–G	215 (64.4)	397 (59.4)	1.00	1.00
C–C	119 (35.6)	268 (40.1)	0.82 (0.62–1.08)	0.78 (0.58–1.04)
G–C	0	3 (0.05)	–	–
G–G	215 (64.4)	397 (59.4)	1.00	1.00
C–C/G–C	119 (35.6)	271 (40.6)	0.81 (0.62–1.06)	0.77 (0.57–1.02) <sup>+</sup>
Urinary total arsenic (μg/g creatinine)				
≤12.24	39.5 ± 3.26	20.7 ± 0.84	1.00 <sup>§</sup>	1.00 <sup>§</sup>
12.24–21.80	13 (7.80)	112 (33.6)	3.50 (1.52–5.14)**	2.44 (1.19–5.02)*
>21.80	35 (21.0)	111 (33.2)	11.6 (5.97–22.61)**	8.44 (4.25–16.75)**
Arsenic species (%)				
Inorganic arsenic				
≤2.95	7.74 ± 0.76	7.39 ± 0.57	1.00 <sup>§</sup>	1.00 <sup>§</sup>
2.95–6.54	43 (25.8)	112 (33.6)	1.27 (0.79–2.05)	1.32 (0.80–2.20)
>6.54	54 (32.3)	111 (33.2)	1.68 (1.05–2.68)*	1.66 (1.01–2.73)*
MMA <sup>V</sup>				
≤3.94	13.1 ± 0.99	7.96 ± 0.40	1.00 <sup>§</sup>	1.00 <sup>§</sup>
3.94–9.20	34 (20.4)	112 (33.6)	1.14 (0.67–1.94)	1.05 (0.60–1.84)
>9.20	38 (22.7)	111 (33.2)	2.87 (1.79–4.63)**	2.58 (1.56–4.25)**
DMA <sup>V</sup>				
≤82.60	79.3 ± 1.21	84.9 ± 0.64	1.00 <sup>§</sup>	1.00 <sup>§</sup>
82.60–91.23	83 (49.7)	112 (33.6)	0.61 (0.40–0.95)*	0.62 (0.39–0.99)*
>91.23	51 (30.5)	111 (33.2)	0.39 (0.24–0.64)**	0.42 (0.25–0.70)**
8-OHdG (ng/mg creatinine)				
≤3.52	8.73 ± 1.45	5.15 ± 0.17	1.00 <sup>§</sup>	1.00 <sup>§</sup>
3.52–5.93	37 (22.2)	112 (33.6)	1.57 (0.96–2.58) <sup>+</sup>	1.60 (0.95–2.69) <sup>+</sup>
>5.93	57 (34.1)	111 (33.2)	2.08 (1.27–3.41)**	1.85 (1.10–3.13)*

Values expressed as number (percent) or mean ± SE unless noted otherwise

<sup>+</sup> 0.05 ≤ *P* < 0.1; \* *P* < 0.05; \*\* *P* < 0.01; § *P* < 0.05 for trend test

<sup>†</sup> Adjusted for age, gender, educational level, and cigarette smoking status

<sup>a</sup> *hOGG1* haplotypes listed in the following order: C[–15]G and Ser326Cys, and neither case nor control with CG haplotype

CI) for the combinations of low 8-OHdG and *hOGG1* G–G haplotype, high 8-OHdG and *hOGG1* C–C/G–C haplotype, and high 8-OHdG and *hOGG1* G–G haplotype were

1.05 (0.68–1.61), 1.11 (0.70–1.78), and 1.71 (1.13–2.58), respectively. When participants with low urinary total arsenic and the *hOGG1* C–C/G–C haplotype were used as the

**Table 2** Associations between 8-OHdG, urinary arsenic profiles, and urothelial carcinoma stratified by *hOGG1* haplotype

Variables	<i>hOGG1</i> haplotypes <sup>a</sup>			
	C–C/G–C		G–G	
	Case/control (N)	Multivariate ORs <sup>†</sup> (95 % CI)	Case/control (N)	Multivariate ORs <sup>†</sup> (95 % CI)
Urinary total arsenic (μg/g creatinine)				
≤12.24	10/91	1.00 <sup>§</sup>	16/133	1.00 <sup>§</sup>
12.24–21.80	31/92	2.66 (1.20–5.92)*	39/130	2.32 (1.19–4.54)*
>21.80	78/88	7.72 (3.58–16.67)**	160/134	8.82 (4.69–16.57)**
Arsenic species (%)				
Inorganic arsenic				
≤2.95	28/96	1.00 <sup>§</sup>	58/128	1.00 <sup>§</sup>
2.95–6.54	38/82	1.53 (0.84–3.40)	70/140	1.26 (0.80–2.00)
>6.54	53/93	1.92 (1.08–3.40)*	87/129	1.58 (1.00–2.49)*
MMA <sup>V</sup>				
≤3.94	23/93	1.00 <sup>§</sup>	45/131	1.00 <sup>§</sup>
3.94–9.20	21/92	0.85 (0.43–1.68)	55/130	1.12 (0.68–1.85)
>9.20	75/86	3.40 (1.89–6.09)**	115/136	2.11 (1.34–3.33)**
DMA <sup>V</sup>				
≤82.60	68/86	1.00 <sup>§</sup>	98/138	1.00 <sup>§</sup>
82.60–91.23	29/92	0.38 (0.22–0.66)**	73/130	0.80 (0.53–1.23)
>91.23	22/93	0.31 (0.17–0.55)**	44/129	0.51 (0.32–0.82)**
8-OHdG (ng/mg creatinine)				
≤3.52	26/95	1.00 <sup>§</sup>	48/129	1.00 <sup>§</sup>
3.52–5.93	44/85	2.10 (1.15–3.84)**	70/135	1.35 (0.84–2.17)
>5.93	49/91	2.10 (1.13–3.90)**	97/133	1.71 (1.07–2.74)*

\*  $P < 0.05$ ; \*\*  $P < 0.01$ ; §  $P < 0.05$  for trend test

† Adjusted for age, gender, educational level, and cigarette smoking status

<sup>a</sup> *hOGG1* haplotypes listed in the following order: C[–15]G and Ser326Cys

reference group, the ORs (95 % CI) for the combinations of low urinary total arsenic and *hOGG1* G–G haplotype, high urinary total arsenic and *hOGG1* C–C/G–C haplotype, and high urinary total arsenic and *hOGG1* G–G haplotype were 1.15 (0.63–2.07), 4.24 (2.49–7.22), and 5.01 (3.04–8.25), respectively. The joint effects of the *hOGG1* haplotype and inefficient arsenic methylation capacity indices had similar dose–response relationships. We noted joint effects for urinary total arsenic level or inefficient arsenic methylation capacity indices plus *hOGG1* haplotype and urinary 8-OHdG level plus *hOGG1* haplotype, with a significant dose–response relationship observed for UC risk ( $p < 0.05$  for the trend test). However, these interactions were not statistically significant.

We also evaluated the effect of high urinary total arsenic levels and the high-risk G–G haplotype of *hOGG1* on urinary 8-OHdG levels (Fig. 1). We found that urinary 8-OHdG levels were associated with the following haplotypes in significant dose–response relationships in the following sequence: G–G haplotype of *hOGG1* and high urinary total arsenic (mean urinary 8-OHdG  $7.73 \pm 0.76$  ng/

mg creatinine), C–C/G–C haplotype of *hOGG1* and high urinary total arsenic (mean urinary 8-OHdG  $6.75 \pm 0.83$  ng/mg creatinine), G–G haplotype of *hOGG1* and low urinary total arsenic (mean urinary 8-OHdG  $4.79 \pm 0.19$  ng/mg creatinine), and C–C/G–C haplotype of *hOGG1* and low urinary total arsenic (mean urinary 8-OHdG  $4.64 \pm 0.21$  ng/mg creatinine). However, we did not observe the same effects of inefficient arsenic methylation capacity indices and the high-risk GG haplotype of *hOGG1* on urinary 8-OHdG levels (data not shown).

## Discussion

This study revealed associations between genotypes and haplotypes of two *hOGG1* genes and UC risk. Participants with the *hOGG1* (Ser326Cys) Cys/Cys and *hOGG1* (–15C>G) G/G genotypes had significantly higher risks of UC than those with the *hOGG1* (Ser326Cys) Ser/Ser + Ser/Cys genotype and the *hOGG1* (–15C>G) G/C + C/C genotype, respectively. Participants with the

**Table 3** Joint effects of urinary arsenic profiles and 8-OHdG levels on urothelial carcinoma risk stratified by *hOGG1* haplotype

Variables		<i>hOGG1</i> haplotypes <sup>a</sup>			
		C–C/G–C		G–G	
		Case/control (N)	Multivariate ORs <sup>†</sup> (95 % CI)	Case/control (N)	Multivariate ORs <sup>†</sup> (95 % CI)
Urinary total arsenic (μg/g creatinine)	≤4.73	15/79	1.00 <sup>§</sup>	13/103	1.00 <sup>§</sup>
		9/64	1.06 (0.42–2.69)	19/88	2.31 (1.02–5.21)*
	>4.73	40/59	4.13 (1.99–8.56)**	68/93	5.75 (2.80–11.81)**
		55/69	4.70 (2.27–9.76)**	115/113	7.25 (3.60–14.59)**
Inorganic arsenic (%)	≤4.23	20/56	1.00 <sup>§</sup>	34/108	1.00 <sup>§</sup>
		21/74	0.74 (0.35–1.57)	63/96	1.88 (1.10–3.23)*
	>4.23	35/82	1.03 (0.52–2.04)	47/88	1.60 (0.90–2.84)
		43/59	1.91 (0.97–3.78) <sup>+</sup>	71/105	2.04 (1.20–3.47)**
MMA <sup>V</sup> (%)	≤6.54	9/62	1.00 <sup>§</sup>	17/102	1.00 <sup>§</sup>
		22/73	2.35 (0.96–5.76) <sup>+</sup>	52/97	3.01 (1.55–5.82)**
	>6.54	46/76	4.39 (1.95–9.91)**	64/94	3.28 (1.73–6.22)**
		42/60	4.99 (2.15–11.61)**	82/104	3.72 (1.98–6.99)**
DMA <sup>V</sup> (%)	>87.40	9/60	1.00 <sup>§</sup>	9/110	1.00 <sup>§</sup>
		20/75	1.93 (0.79–4.75)	48/89	5.82 (2.60–13.01)**
	≤87.40	46/78	4.10 (1.82–9.27)**	72/86	8.82 (4.01–19.43)**
		44/58	4.92 (2.14–11.31)**	86/112	8.15 (3.76–17.66)**

<sup>+</sup> 0.05 ≤ *P* < 0.1; \* *P* < 0.05; \*\* *P* < 0.01; § *P* < 0.05 for trend test

<sup>†</sup> Adjusted for age, gender, educational level, and cigarette smoking status

<sup>a</sup> *hOGG1* haplotypes listed in the following order: C[–15]G and Ser326Cys

G–G haplotype of *hOGG1* (Ser326Cys) and the (–15C>G) polymorphism had a significantly higher risk of UC than those with the *hOGG1* C–C/G–C haplotype. There are significant dose–response relationships between high urinary total arsenic levels, inefficient arsenic methylation capacity indices and high urinary 8-OHdG levels and the increased risk of UC, which are similar to the findings of our previous studies (Chung et al. 2008; Pu et al. 2007).

To our knowledge, this is the first case–control study to simultaneously evaluate the associations among the *hOGG1* gene polymorphisms, urinary total arsenic level, inefficient arsenic methylation capacity indices, and urinary 8-OHdG levels and the risk of UC. We found that participants who had high urinary total arsenic levels and carried the high-risk G–G haplotype of *hOGG1* had high urinary 8-OHdG levels. Participants with the combination of the high-risk G–G haplotype of *hOGG1* and the high urinary 8-OHdG concentration or with the combination of the high-risk G–G haplotype of *hOGG1* and high urinary total arsenic level or inefficient arsenic methylation capacity indices had higher risks of UC than other combination groups.

Arsenic induces ROS generation (Ruiz-Ramos et al. 2009) and mediates DNA damage (Nesnow et al. 2002). Urinary 8-OHdG is a marker of oxidative DNA damage (Flora 2011) and increased 8-OHdG levels have been observed in the urine of individuals with acute arsenic intoxication (Qin et al. 2008; Yamauchi et al. 2004). Our epidemiological data also show that urinary 8-OHdG levels are associated with urinary total arsenic levels and are related to an increased risk of UC and RCC, even in patients without obvious arsenic exposure (Chung et al. 2008; Huang et al. 2012). Therefore, urinary 8-OHdG levels might reflect the risk of oxidative DNA damage at varying levels of arsenic exposure. In addition, an in vitro study reported that arsenic increased oxidative DNA damage, which led to a decrease in or lack of OGG1 activity (Bach et al. 2014). A follow-up study reported that increased levels of DNA damage, measured by salivary 8-OHdG levels, and decreased DNA repair capacity, measured by levels of *hOGG1* expression, may result from low arsenic exposure early in life (Hinhumpatch et al. 2013).

**Table 4** Joint effects of *hOGG1* haplotype and urinary arsenic profiles or 8-OHdG on urothelial carcinoma risk

Variables		Case/control (%)	Multivariate ORs <sup>†</sup> (95 % CI)
Urinary total arsenic ( $\mu\text{g/g}$ creatinine)	<i>hOGG1</i> haplotypes <sup>a</sup>	C–C/G–C	1.00 <sup>§</sup>
		G–G	1.15 (0.63–2.07)
	>16.47	C–C/G–C	4.24 (2.49–7.22)**
		G–G	5.01 (3.04–8.25)**
Inorganic arsenic (%)	$\leq 4.23$	C–C/G–C	1.00 <sup>§</sup>
		G–G	1.59 (1.12–2.50)*
	>4.23	C–C/G–C	1.71 (1.06–2.74)*
		G–G	2.01 (1.29–3.15)**
MMA <sup>V</sup> (%)	$\leq 6.54$	C–C/G–C	1.00 <sup>§</sup>
		G–G	1.81 (1.09–2.98)*
	>6.54	C–C/G–C	2.86 (1.74–4.70)**
		G–G	3.15 (1.98–5.02)**
DMA <sup>V</sup> (%)	>87.40	C–C/G–C	1.00 <sup>§</sup>
		G–G	1.57 (0.93–2.64) <sup>+</sup>
	$\leq 87.40$	C–C/G–C	3.22 (1.94–5.36)**
		G–G	3.85 (2.37–6.20)**
8-OHdG (ng/mg creatinine)	$\leq 4.73$	C–C/G–C	1.00 <sup>§</sup>
		G–G	1.05 (0.68–1.61)
	>4.73	C–C/G–C	1.11 (0.70–1.78)
		G–G	1.71 (1.13–2.58)**

<sup>+</sup>  $0.05 \leq P < 0.1$ ; \*  $P < 0.05$ ; \*\*  $P < 0.01$ ; <sup>§</sup>  $P < 0.05$  for trend test

<sup>†</sup> Adjusted for age, gender, educational level, and cigarette smoking status

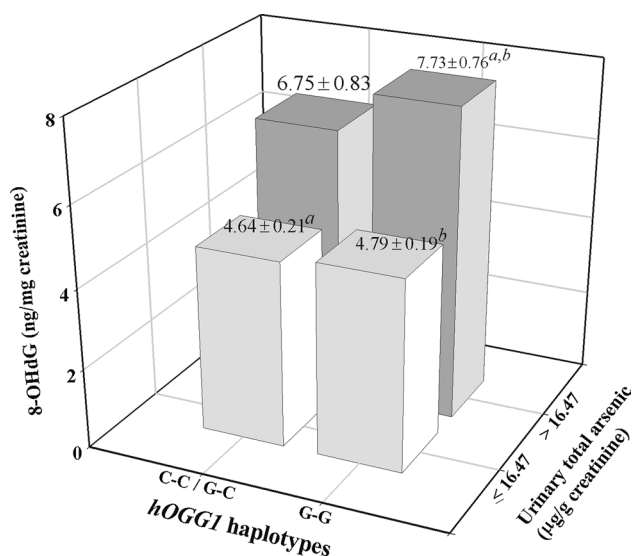
<sup>a</sup> *hOGG1* haplotypes listed in the following order: C[–15]G and Ser326Cys

Cancer can develop if DNA repair systems are dysfunctional. The enzyme activity of the hOGG1 protein may be influenced by the polymorphisms of hOGG1 to decrease repair activity of 8-OHdG and DNA damage, which play critical roles in the carcinogenesis of cancers. An in vitro study showed that a cell carrying the *OGG1* (Ser326Cys) homozygous Cys allele demonstrated high genetic instability and low DNA repair capacity (Bravard et al. 2009). Other studies have also reported that the variant genotype Cys/Cys of *hOGG1* (Ser326Cys) is associated with a significant risk of bladder cancer in Japanese (Arizono et al. 2008), Turkish (Karahalil et al. 2006), and North Indian populations (Mittal et al. 2012). Another study also showed that the *hOGG1* (Ser326Cys) Cys/Cys genotype was associated with an elevated risk of urothelial bladder cancer (OR 2.10;  $p = 0.028$ ) (Gangwar et al. 2009). These results are similar to the results of our present study, and they suggest that the *hOGG1* Cys326 allele has significantly lower hOGG1 activity, and cannot prevent mutagenesis caused

by 8-OHdG in human cells compared with the *hOGG1* Ser326 allele (Simonelli et al. 2013; Yamane et al. 2004). In contrast, another study reported that the *hOGG1* (Ser326Cys) Ser/Cys + Ser/Ser genotype was associated with a significant risk of bladder cancer (Ma et al. 2012), but the *hOGG1* 326 Ser/Cys heterozygous genotype was reported to significantly reduce the risk of bladder cancer in smokers (Ramaniuk et al. 2014). These inconsistent results may suggest a role of ethnic differences, genetic background, and environmental exposure in the development of UC; the inconsistent results may also be due to small sample sizes.

In this study, in addition to the *hOGG1* 326 Cys/Cys genotype, we evaluated another polymorphism of the hOGG1 gene present in intron 4 of *hOGG1* –15C>G and found that the G/G genotype was associated with a significantly increased risk of UC. These polymorphisms are likely also involved in the hOGG1 mRNA; however, these two polymorphisms followed a recessive model in their effects on UC risk. Haplotype analysis revealed that





**Fig. 1** Joint effects of urinary total arsenic level and *hOGG1* haplotypes on urinary 8-OHdG levels among the entire study population. <sup>a</sup>Urinary 8-OHdG levels of the G-G haplotype of *hOGG1* and high urinary total arsenic group compared to the C-C/G-C haplotype of *hOGG1* and low urinary total arsenic group; <sup>b</sup>urinary 8-OHdG levels of the G-G haplotype of *hOGG1* and high urinary total arsenic group compared to the G-G haplotype of *hOGG1* and low urinary total arsenic group

3 possible haplotypes (neither case nor control with C-G haplotype), the G-G haplotype of the *hOGG1* Ser326Cys, and the -15C>G polymorphism were significantly associated with an increased risk of UC. This finding is similar to the findings of a study that revealed that the G-G haplotype of the *hOGG1* Ser326Cys and -15C>G polymorphism were associated with a twofold increased risk of gallbladder cancer (Srivastava et al. 2010).

Participants with the combination of the G-G haplotype of the *hOGG1* Ser326Cys and the -15C>G polymorphism and high urinary total arsenic, high urinary 8-OHdG concentration, or inefficient arsenic methylation capacity indices had the highest risk of UC compared to other combination groups (Table 4); the risk was evident in a dose-response manner. This finding offers a possible explanation for increasing urinary 8-OHdG concentrations in participants with high urinary total arsenic levels (Bhattacharjee et al. 2013; Chung et al. 2008), inefficient methylation capacity indices (high urinary iAs%, MMA<sup>V</sup>%, and DMA<sup>V</sup>%) (Xu et al. 2008), or high urinary levels of iAs, MMA<sup>V</sup>, and DMA<sup>V</sup> (Chung et al. 2008; Xu et al. 2008). An in vitro study showed that acute arsenic exposure induced production of ROS and reduced *hOGG1* activity in human cells (Mei et al. 2002); arsenic exposure from drinking water can cause a reduction in *hOGG1* capacity in humans (Osmond et al. 2010). Additionally, arsenic can cause fragmentation of mouse

*OGG1*, resulting in DNA repair inhibition and accumulation of 8-OHdG (Hirano et al. 2006). Another explanation is that individuals carried the *hOGG1* 326 Cys/Cys genotype had significantly higher urinary 8-OHdG than those with the 326 Ser/Cys and Ser/Ser genotypes in a population with arsenic exposure (Fujihara et al. 2011). Therefore, we conclude that participants with high urinary total arsenic level, inefficient arsenic methylation capacity, high urinary 8-OHdG level, and the high-risk G-G haplotype of *hOGG1*, have a higher risk of UC than participants with low level or efficient capacity of these risk factors.

Our recent study found that *XRCC1* 399 Gln/Gln and 194 Arg/Arg DNA repair genes play important roles in poor arsenic methylation capacity and, thereby, increase the risk of UC (Chiang et al. 2014). In this study, we only examined *hOGG1* polymorphisms involved in the BER pathway. Other polymorphisms of BER genes may actually be responsible for the observed responses. Also, untyped SNPs may be in the LD with our selected SNPs. Due to the low frequency of the allele among the Han Chinese and the limited experimental methodology, we selected *hOGG1* Ser326Cys and *hOGG1* -15C>G as representative polymorphisms in the *hOGG1* gene. In addition, we did not measure the actual *hOGG1* enzyme activity to provide relevant information of the *hOGG1* gene polymorphism was the limitation. Since this was designed as a case-control study, we cannot exclude the possibility that the association between urinary 8-OHdG levels and UC is the result, and not the cause, of UC. In addition, the sample size was small, so statistical significance should be interpreted with caution.

To our knowledge, this is the first study to show a dose-response relationship of the combined effects of high urinary total arsenic levels or inefficient arsenic methylation capacity indices or high 8-OHdG level and the high-risk G-G haplotype of *hOGG1* on the OR of UC. Our data provide evidence that, in humans, the combination of high urinary total arsenic and the high-risk G-G haplotype of *hOGG1* may be related to the induction of oxidative stress as indicated by increased urinary 8-OHdG levels.

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## Compliance with ethical standards

**Conflict of interest** The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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