

The effects of *CYP2C9* and *CYP2C19* genetic polymorphisms on the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of glipizide in Chinese subjects

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Abstract

Objective To study the effects of *CYP2C9* and *CYP2C19* genetic polymorphisms on the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of glipizide.

Methods Eighteen healthy male subjects were divided into three groups according to their genotypes: group I, *CYP2C9**1/*1 and *CYP2C19* extensive metabolizers (EMs); group II, *CYP2C9**1/*1 and *CYP2C19* poor metabolizers (PMs); and group III, *CYP2C9**1/*3 and *CYP2C19* EMs. After a single dose of a 5-mg glipizide tablet, plasma concentrations of glipizide for a 36-h period were determined. Meanwhile, plasma glucose levels and plasma insulin levels were determined from 0 to 4 h after dosing.

Results The area under the plasma concentration-time curve ($AUC_{0-\infty}$) was 2.0-fold higher and the oral clearance was 51.1% lower in group III than in group I. The change in fasting insulin level within 1 h ($\Delta AUEC_{\text{insulin}0-1\text{h}}$) in group III was 3.8-fold higher than that in group I. The glipizide parameters in group II exhibited similar tendencies to those in group III.

Conclusions These results suggest that *CYP2C9* polymorphism significantly influences the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of glipizide, which needs to be considered in clinical practice. *CYP2C19* polymorphism exhibits a

tendency to influence the effects of glipizide, to a certain extent similarly to *CYP2C9* polymorphism.

Keywords Glipizide · *CYP2C9* · *CYP2C19* · Genetic polymorphism · Pharmacokinetics · Pharmacodynamics

Introduction

Glipizide is a second-generation oral sulfonylurea hypoglycemic agent widely used in the treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus. Glipizide is rapidly absorbed and extensively metabolized to two inactive metabolites through hydroxylation at the 3-cis position (15%) and 4-trans position (71%) of the cyclohexane ring. Any remaining glipizide and its metabolites are mainly excreted into the urine [1, 2].

CYP2C9 is believed to be responsible for the metabolism of glipizide based on a case report that a healthy Caucasian who carried homologous cytochrome P450 (*CYP*) 2*C9**3 alleles had an obviously higher plasma glipizide concentration and lower blood glucose level than those who carried *CYP2C9**1/*1 alleles [3]. Kim et al. recently reported that the area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero to infinity ($AUC_{0-\infty}$) of glipizide was higher by 30% in *CYP2C9**3 heterogeneous carriers compared with *CYP2C9* wild-type carriers [4]. These findings imply that *CYP2C9* polymorphism probably has clinical relevance with glipizide. However, more details are needed to clarify the results.

In our preliminary in vitro study, we found a novel major hydroxyl metabolite of glipizide that can be attributed to both *CYP2C9* and *CYP2C19*. This finding indicated that *CYP2C19* as well as *CYP2C9* was involved in the metabolism of glipizide. To date, there have been no reports on the effect of *CYP2C19* polymorphism on glipizide. In view of the relatively high prevalence of *CYP2C19* PMs in the Asian

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population (12.6–23.1%) [5], it is valuable to investigate the effects of *CYP2C19* polymorphisms on the metabolism and responses of glipizide.

Therefore, we simultaneously investigated the effects of *CYP2C9* and *CYP2C19* polymorphisms on glipizide in the study. The purpose of this study was to investigate the effects of *CYP2C9* and *CYP2C19* genetic polymorphisms on the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of glipizide in healthy Chinese subjects and evaluate the clinical impacts of the two types of genetic polymorphisms on glipizide.

Materials and methods

Subjects

Blood samples were obtained from 221 unrelated healthy male Chinese subjects. After genotyping, 18 subjects (age 21–27 years, weight 56.1–73.8 kg) with different genotypes of *CYP2C9* and *CYP2C19* were enrolled in the study. They were divided into three groups ($n=6$ in each group) as follows: group I, *CYP2C9**1/*1 and *CYP2C19* extensive metabolizers (EM) (*CYP2C19**1/*1) subjects; group II, *CYP2C9**1/*1 and *CYP2C19* poor metabolizers (PM) (*CYP2C19**2/*2, *CYP2C19**2/*3, or *CYP2C19**3/*3) subjects; group III, *CYP2C9**1/*3 and *CYP2C19* EM (*CYP2C19**1/*1) subjects. The study sample size (six persons in each group) would be able to provide 80% power for detecting a significant difference of 30%. The mean ages (\pm SD) of subjects in groups I, II, and III were 23.5 ± 2.3 , 21.7 ± 1.2 , and 22.2 ± 1.6 years, respectively. The mean body weights (\pm SD) were 65.7 ± 5.0 , 63.8 ± 2.3 , and 63.3 ± 5.6 kg, respectively. There were no significant differences among the three groups with respect to age or body weight.

All subjects were male nonsmokers and in good health, as judged by physical examination and routine clinical laboratory tests, including blood glucose levels and insulin levels. No subject had any family history of diabetes mellitus. Two weeks before and throughout the study, subjects were not allowed to take any drug, alcohol, foods containing caffeine, or grapefruits and juice. The study protocol was approved by the Clinical Research Ethics Committee of the Second Affiliated Hospital, Liaoning University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Shenyang, China. Written informed consent was obtained from each subject before participation. The trial was registered in the U.S. National Institute of Health register (www.clinicaltrials.gov) as trial NCT00806013.

Study design

After an overnight fast, the 18 subjects received a single oral dose of a 5-mg glipizide tablet (Disha Pharmaceutical Group, Shandong, China) with 200 mL water followed by 75 g

dextrose 1 h after dosing. Venous blood samples were collected immediately before and at 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 12 h after dosing. Blood samples, collected in EDTA tubes, were centrifuged (2,500 g) immediately for 10 min, and separated plasma samples were stored at -80°C until assay. To evaluate the pharmacodynamic effect, blood glucose levels were determined directly by use of a glucose meter (Accu-Chek, Roche, Germany) at 0, 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, and 4 h after dosing. Blood insulin concentrations were also determined by use of an enzyme immunoassay method (AIA-Pack IRI; Tosoh, Tokyo, Japan) at an identical time course with that of blood glucose.

For safety, each subject who had hypoglycemic symptoms or a blood glucose concentration lower than 3 mmol/L (54 mg/dL) was immediately administered a 15-g oral portion of dextrose. No adverse effects occurred during the study.

Genotyping of *CYP2C9* and *CYP2C19*

CYP2C9 and *CYP2C19* genotypes were determined by the polymerase chain reaction-restriction fragment length polymorphism (PCR-RFLP) method using genomic DNA isolated from venous blood with an extraction kit (TIA-Namp Blood DNA Kit, Tiangen BioTech, China).

The *CYP2C9**1 and *CYP2C9**3 alleles were identified by the absence or presence of the *KpnI* restriction site, using the method previously described [6]. The *CYP2C19**1 allele and two mutant alleles (*CYP2C19**2 and *CYP2C19**3) were determined by the loss of *BamHI* and *SmaI* digestion sites in the PCR product, as described by de Morais et al. and Nasu et al. [7, 8]. The genotypes of all the subjects in our study had been confirmed by gene sequencing.

Determination of glipizide in plasma

Plasma concentrations of glipizide were determined using a validated liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC/MS/MS) method, as previously described with a slight modification [9]. For sample preparation, a methanol–water mixture (50:50, v/v), internal standard solution (gliclazide), and phosphate buffer (0.25 M) were added. The mixed samples were then extracted with hexane–dichloromethane (2:1, v/v), by shaking on a mechanical shaker for 15 min. After centrifugation at 2,000 g for 5 min, the upper organic layer was removed and evaporated to dryness under nitrogen gas. The residue was dissolved in 100 μL of the mobile phase (mobile phase A was water with 0.1% acetic acid and mobile phase B was acetonitrile with 0.1% acetic acid), and 20 μL was injected for analysis.

Chromatography was performed using a Zorbax SB-C₈ column (150 mm \times 4.6 mm ID, 5 μm , Agilent, USA) at 25°C. Quantification was performed using selected reaction monitoring (SRM) of the transitions m/z 446 \rightarrow m/z 321 for

glipizide and m/z 324 \rightarrow m/z 127 for gliclazide. The lower limit of quantification of glipizide was 1.0 ng/mL. The coefficients of variation for the intra- and inter-run were 2.1–14.1 and 5.6–7.6%, respectively. The accuracy of the assay ranged from 102.3 to 106.0%.

Data analysis

The pharmacokinetic parameters of glipizide were estimated by a noncompartmental method, using the WinNonlin program (version 5.1; Pharsight, USA). The peak plasma concentration (C_{max}) was obtained directly from the observed concentration-time data. The terminal elimination rate constant (λ_z) was estimated by linear regression of the terminal portion of the concentration-time curve, and the elimination half-time ($t_{1/2}$) was calculated as $0.693/\lambda_z$. The area under the plasma concentration-time curve (AUC) was calculated by use of the linear trapezoidal rule and extrapolated to infinity ($AUC_{0-\infty}$). The apparent oral clearance (CL/F) of glipizide was calculated as $dose/AUC_{0-\infty}$.

To compare the pharmacodynamic effects of glipizide in subjects with different genotypes, changes in blood glucose and serum insulin concentrations over time were calculated by subtracting their baseline values from the observed values after dosing [10]. The decremental area under the glucose concentration-time curve ($\Delta AUEC_{glucose}$, presented as a positive value) and the incremental area under the insulin concentration-time curve ($\Delta AUEC_{insulin}$) were calculated by use of the linear trapezoidal rule, in a similar manner to that described earlier for AUC.

Statistical analysis

The data are presented as the mean \pm SD. All calculated parameters were compared across the three genotype groups by one-way ANOVA. As appropriate, a post-hoc Dunnett's test was used to assess the presence of statistical differences between the genotype groups when a statistically significant association was described by ANOVA. The relationship of glipizide pharmacokinetic parameters and pharmacodynamic parameters was evaluated by use of the Spearman rank correlation coefficient (r_s). For all analyses, $P < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant. All analyses were performed with SPSS software (version 11.0; SPSS, USA).

Results

Pharmacokinetic differences between *CYP2C9* and *CYP2C19* polymorphisms

The glipizide plasma concentration-time curves for the three genotype groups are shown in Fig. 1a, and the

calculated pharmacokinetic parameters are presented in Table 1. Glipizide parameters were significantly different between group I (*CYP2C9**1/*1 and *CYP2C19* EMs) and group III (*CYP2C9**1/*3 and *CYP2C19* EMs). In group III, the $AUC_{0-\infty}$ was significantly higher by 95.5% ($P=0.002$) and the oral clearance (CL/F) was lower by 51.1% ($P=0.005$) than in group I. Although the $AUC_{0-\infty}$ was higher by 52.6% ($P=0.072$) and the CL/F was lower by 33.3% ($P=0.059$) in group II (*CYP2C9**1/*1 and *CYP2C19* PMs) than in group I, there were no statistical differences between the two groups.

In addition, there was a second peak in the mean concentration-time curve among the three groups. However, the concentration-time curve for each individual showed one peak only (see Fig. 1b).

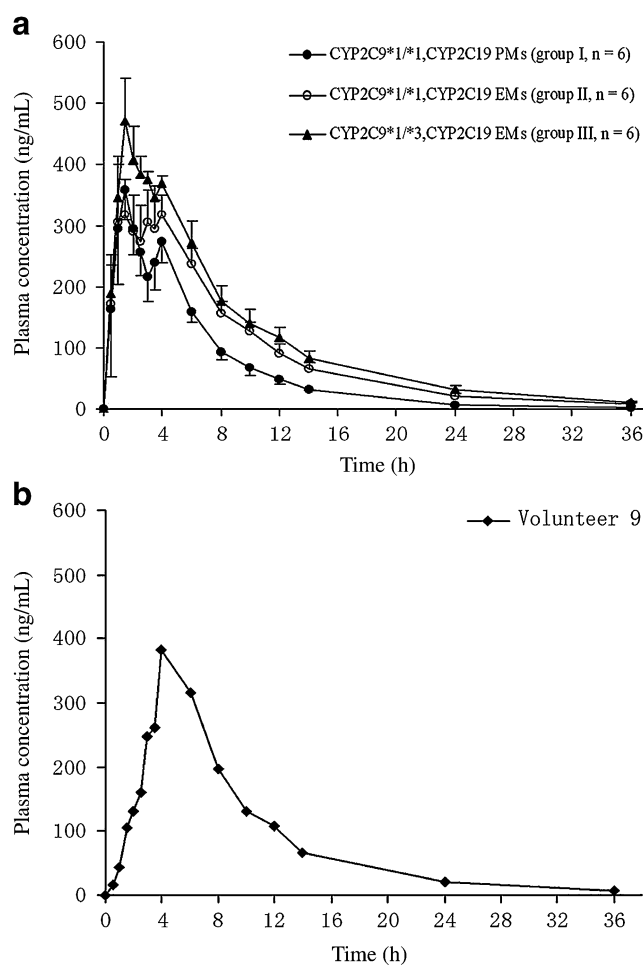


Fig. 1 **a** Mean plasma concentration-time curves of glipizide in different genotype groups after a single dose of a 5-mg glipizide tablet. Data are expressed as mean values \pm SEM. **b** Representative plasma concentration-time curve of glipizide in volunteer 9 after a single dose of a 5-mg glipizide tablet. The curve illustrates individual variation in T_{max}

Table 1 Mean (\pm SD) pharmacokinetic parameters of glipizide among different genotype groups after a single dose of a 5-mg glipizide tablet

	Genotype group			P value
	<i>CYP2C9</i> *1/*1 and <i>CYP2C19</i> EMs (group I, n=6)	<i>CYP2C9</i> *1/*1 and <i>CYP2C19</i> PMs (group II, n=6)	<i>CYP2C9</i> *1/*3 and <i>CYP2C19</i> EMs (group III, n=6)	
C_{max} (ng/mL)	403.7 \pm 152.3	450.3 \pm 199.4	518.8 \pm 116.4	0.472
T_{max} (h)	2.6 \pm 1.2	2.6 \pm 1.6	2.5 \pm 1.2	0.992
$t_{1/2}$ (h)	5.0 \pm 0.7	6.0 \pm 2.0	7.0 \pm 1.4	0.088
CL/F (mL/min)	41.1 \pm 12.7	27.4 \pm 11.4	20.1 \pm 4.0**	0.008
$AUC_{0-\infty}$ (ng·h/mL)	2,205.5 \pm 719.4	3,366.6 \pm 989.7	4,311.2 \pm 955.4**	0.004

C_{max} Peak plasma concentration, T_{max} time to maximum plasma concentration, $t_{1/2}$ elimination half-life, CL/F, oral clearance, $AUC_{0-\infty}$ area under the curve from time zero to infinity

** $P < 0.01$ between group III and group I

Pharmacodynamic differences between *CYP2C9* and *CYP2C19* polymorphisms

The glipizide pharmacodynamic responses (insulin and glucose responses) in the three genotype groups are shown in Figs. 2 and 3. The calculated pharmacodynamic parameters are presented in Table 2. The incremented area under the fasting insulin concentration-time curve ($\Delta AUC_{insulin0-1h}$) was significantly higher by 278.4% ($P=0.012$) in group III (*CYP2C9**1/*1 and *CYP2C19* PMs) compared with group I (*CYP2C9**1/*1 and *CYP2C19* EMs). However, the incremented area under the insulin concentration-time curve after oral dextrose ($\Delta AUC_{insulin1-4h}$) in group III was 88.4% ($P=0.868$) of that in group I, indicating that there was no increment. The $\Delta AUC_{insulin0-1h}$ and $\Delta AUC_{insulin1-4h}$ were higher by 76.8% ($P=0.520$) and 16.7%

($P=0.751$), respectively, in group II (*CYP2C9**1/*1 and *CYP2C19* PMs) than in group I, but none of these parameters were significantly different.

The decremental area under the fasting glucose concentration-time curve ($\Delta AUC_{glucose0-1h}$) and the decremental area under the glucose concentration-time curve after oral dextrose ($\Delta AUC_{glucose1-4h}$) in group III were higher by 46.5% ($P=0.165$) and 49.5% ($P=0.622$), respectively, compared with those in group I. Similarly, $\Delta AUC_{glucose0-1h}$ and $\Delta AUC_{glucose1-4h}$ in group III were higher by 31.8% ($P=0.394$) and 63.4% ($P=0.473$), respectively. However, none of these parameters were significantly different.

A significant decrement in blood glucose concentration (<54 mg/dL) occurred in nine subjects at 1 h after dosing with glipizide tablet. Of these subjects, five belonged to

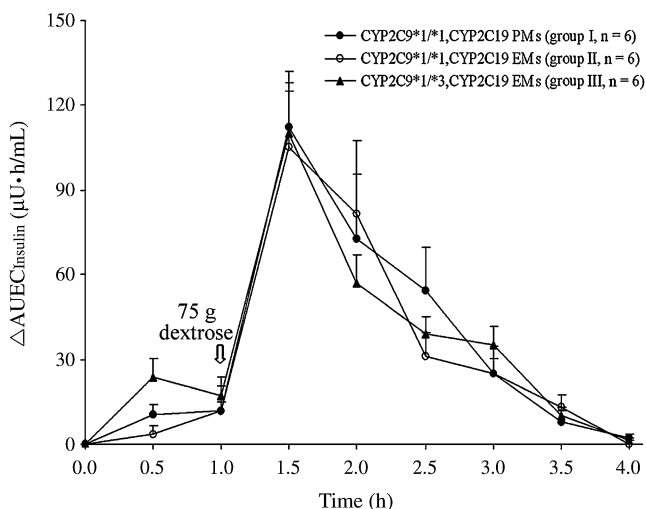


Fig. 2 The mean changes in insulin level-time curves of glipizide in different genotype groups after a single dose of a 5-mg glipizide tablet. Data are expressed as mean values \pm SEM of $\Delta AUC_{insulin}$, the incremental area under the insulin concentration-time curve

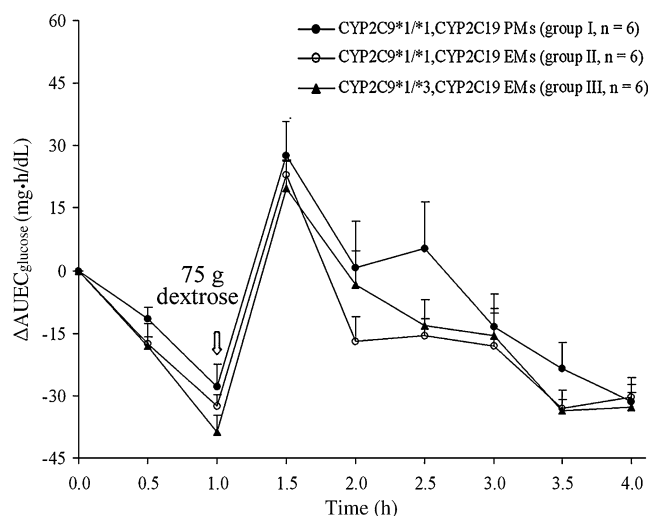


Fig. 3 The mean changes in glucose level-time curves of glipizide in different genotype groups after a single dose of a 5-mg glipizide tablet. Data are expressed as mean values \pm SEM of $\Delta AUC_{glucose}$, the decremental area under the glucose concentration-time curve

Table 2 Mean (\pm SD) pharmacodynamic parameters of glipizide among different genotype groups after a single dose of a 5-mg glipizide tablet

	Genotype group			P value
	<i>CYP2C9</i> *1/*1 and <i>CYP2C19</i> EMs (group I, <i>n</i> =6)	<i>CYP2C9</i> *1/*1 and <i>CYP2C19</i> PMs (group II, <i>n</i> =6)	<i>CYP2C9</i> *1/*3 and <i>CYP2C19</i> EMs (group III, <i>n</i> =6)	
Insulin response (μ U·h/mL)				
Δ AUEC _{insulin0–1h}	4.0 \pm 4.3	7.0 \pm 4.0	15.0 \pm 8.0*	0.019
Δ AUEC _{insulin1–4h}	25.5 \pm 12.1	29.8 \pm 15.0	22.6 \pm 5.1	0.564
Glucose response (mg·h/mL)				
Δ AUEC _{glucose0–1h}	-12.8 \pm 6.1	-16.8 \pm 6.2	-18.7 \pm 4.9	0.225
Δ AUEC _{glucose1–4h}	-27.3 \pm 32.5	-44.7 \pm 22.7	-40.8 \pm 25.7	0.557

Δ AUEC_{insulin} Incremental area under the insulin concentration-time curve, Δ AUEC_{glucose} the decremental area under the glucose concentration-time curve

* P <0.05 between group III and group I

group III, two belonged to group I, and two belonged to group II. One subject in group III even had hypoglycemic symptoms (i.e., faintness and sweating).

Association between glipizide pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics

In an examination of the relationship between glipizide pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics, glipizide exposure (AUC_{0-1h}) in individual subjects was found to correlate well with the observed response from Δ AUEC_{insulin0–1h} and Δ AUEC_{glucose0–1h}, with r_s values of 0.652 ($P=0.006$, Fig. 4a) and -0.646 ($P=0.004$, Fig. 4b), respectively.

Discussion

In this study we found that *CYP2C9* polymorphism significantly influenced the pharmacokinetics of glipizide. After a single dose of glipizide tablet, the $AUC_{0-\infty}$ and CL/F were 2.0-fold greater and 51.1% lower, respectively, in the *CYP2C9**1/*3 subjects than those in the wild-type *CYP2C9* subjects. Kidd et al. had reported the pharmacokinetic parameters for a healthy Caucasian who carried homozygous *CYP2C9**3 alleles after a single dose of glipizide extended-release tablet (Glucotrol XL, Pfizer, USA) [3]. The $AUC_{0-\infty}$ and CL/F for this individual were 445.1 and 18%, respectively, compared with homozygous *CYP2C9**1 alleles carriers. Consistent with the previous study, our study confirmed that *CYP2C9* polymorphism had an important role in the pharmacokinetics of glipizide.

Furthermore, we found that *CYP2C9* polymorphism had a significant influence on the pharmacodynamic response to glipizide. The Δ AUEC_{insulin0–1h} in *CYP2C9**1/*3 subjects was 3.8-fold greater than in the *CYP2C9**1/*1 subjects. Meanwhile, a significantly higher rate (83.3% versus

33.3%) of hypoglycemic effect (blood glucose concentration <3 mmol/L) at 1 h after dosing with a glipizide tablet occurred in the *CYP2C9**1/*3 subjects as compared with the *CYP2C9**1/*1 subjects. Δ AUEC_{glucose0–1h} also tended to be greater in *CYP2C9**1/*3 subjects, although the difference was not statistically significant ($P=0.225$), probably because of the large variations in glucose response as well as the relatively small number of subjects included in each group. When compared with *CYP2C9**1/*1 subjects, Δ AUEC_{insulin1–4h} and Δ AUEC_{glucose1–4h} showed different changes in *CYP2C9**1/*3 subjects: Δ AUEC_{glucose1–4h} was higher whereas Δ AUEC_{insulin1–4h} was lower. It may be that oral administration of dextrose at a high concentration results in a complex response to blood insulin and glucose that could obscure the influence of genetic polymorphism on glipizide.

In addition, this study revealed that there was a strong relationship between the pharmacokinetics (AUC_{0-1h}) and pharmacodynamics (Δ AUEC_{insulin0–1h} and Δ AUEC_{glucose0–1h}) of glipizide, supporting the idea that *CYP2C9* polymorphism could have a significant clinical impact due to its influence on the pharmacokinetics of glipizide.

Taken together, our study strongly suggests that *CYP2C9* polymorphism plays an important role in the pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic effects of glipizide and therefore a lower (i.e., *CYP2C9**3 heterozygote) or non-functional (i.e., *CYP2C9**3 homozygote) allele carrier should have an elevated plasma level of glipizide, which results in a greater hypoglycemic effect and an increased risk of hypoglycemia.

In this study we also found that *CYP2C19* polymorphism had a tendency to influence the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of glipizide. Similarly to the effects of *CYP2C9* polymorphism, there were detectable differences between *CYP2C19* EMs and PMs in the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of glipizide, but none of

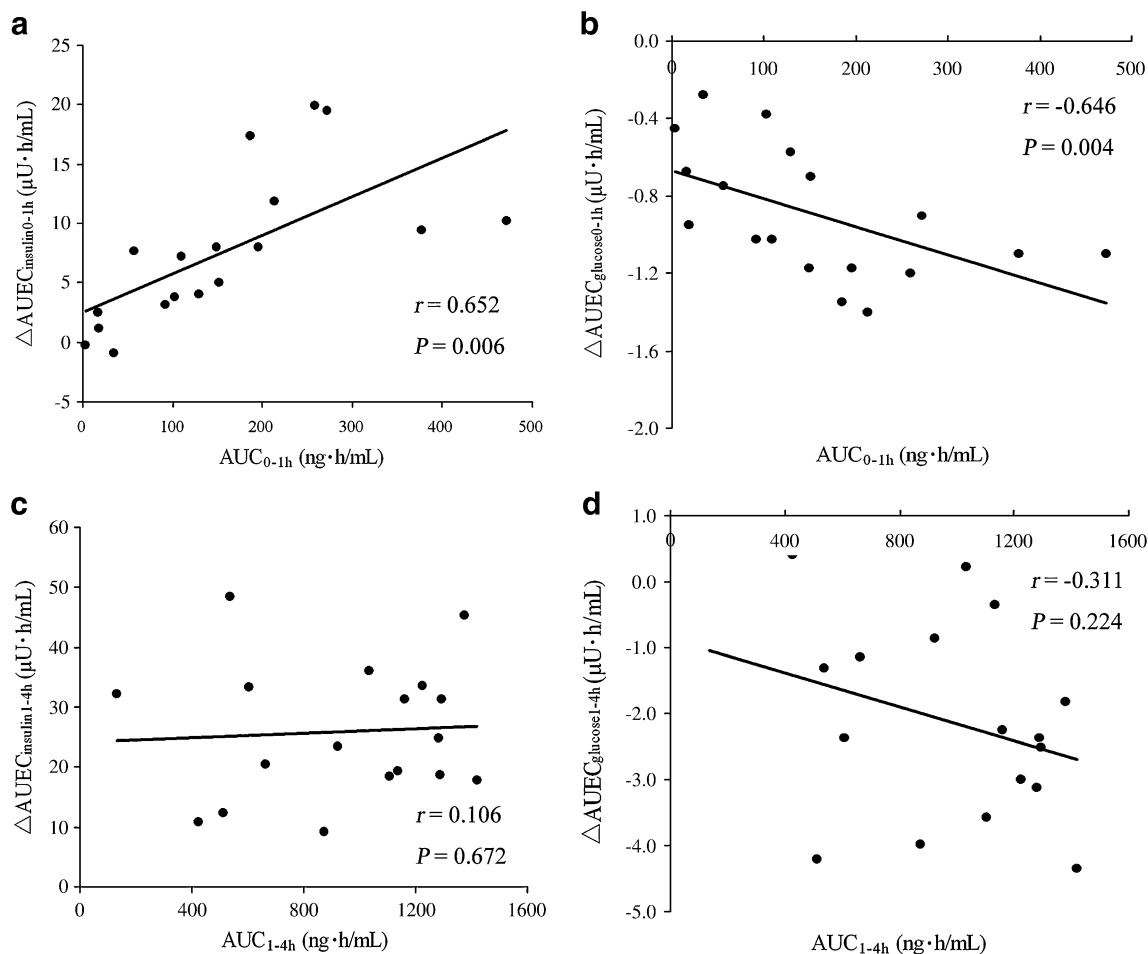


Fig. 4 Correlation between individual pharmacokinetic parameters (**a**, **b** AUC_{0-1h} and **c**, **d** AUC_{1-4h}) of glipizide and its blood glucose-lowering effects, assessed by $\Delta AUEC_{insulin}$ (during **a** 0–1 h and **c** 1–4 h), and $\Delta AUEC_{glucose}$ (during **b** 0–1 h and **d** 1–4 h). AUC Area

under the curve, $\Delta AUEC_{insulin}$ the incremental area under the insulin concentration-time curve, $\Delta AUEC_{glucose}$ the decremental area under the glucose concentration-time curve

these differences were statistically significant. However, the effects of *CYP2C19* polymorphism on the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of glipizide could not be ignored, since the degree of changes for most parameter values exceeded 40% between *CYP2C19* EMs and PMs. It is worth noting that the P values of $AUC_{0-\infty}$ and CL/F for *CYP2C19* EMs and PMs were 0.072 and 0.059, respectively, close to the significance level ($P < 0.05$). Having a larger number of subjects in each group would be helpful to illuminate the effects of *CYP2C19* polymorphism.

In contrast to our findings, a previous study showed insignificant effects of *CYP2C9* polymorphism on the CL/F and pharmacodynamic parameters [4]. These differences are likely related to the differences in the study protocol, such as whether the effect of the *CYP2C19* polymorphism was considered.

The distribution of the *CYP2C9*3* allele is 1.1–3.3% among Asian population [11]. Therefore the frequency of homozygous *CYP2C9*3* subjects is very low, less than 1/

1,000 subjects, and our study did not include this genotype group. The *CYP2C9*2* variant is another important variant in whites (8.0–19.1%) [11]. According to most in vitro data, the maximum rate of substrate metabolism (V_{max}) in *CYP2C9*2* is reduced to around 50% of that in *CYP2C9*1*, resulting in lower intrinsic clearance [12]. Therefore, the *CYP2C9*2* carriers might also have enhanced exposure and similar clinical indications as *CYP2C9*3* carriers [12]. However, we did not investigate this in this study for the same reason we did not study the homozygous *CYP2C9*3* subjects [11]. Additionally, *CYP2C19*17* is a novel variant allele that can increase the activity of *CYP2C19* metabolism [13]. Due to its low frequency among the Chinese population (0.64%) [14], we did not investigate it in our study.

In our study, there was a second peak in the glipizide plasma concentration-time curves among three groups. It may be due to the interindividual variation in T_{max} (see Table 1).

Given the small number of subjects in our study, the significance of the observations requires further confirma-

tion in a larger population. In addition, our study was conducted in healthy subjects by use of a single-dose design. Further studies in patients with different *CYP2C9* and *CYP2C19* genotypes with multiple dosing will be needed to verify the conclusions and will be beneficial to the investigation of individual rational dosages and decreasing the risks of adverse effects [15–17].

In conclusion, *CYP2C9* polymorphism significantly influences the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of glipizide. Dose adjustment based on *CYP2C9* genotype may improve antidiabetic treatments and minimize the risk of adverse reactions. *CYP2C19* polymorphism exhibits a tendency to influence the effects of glipizide, to a certain extent similar to *CYP2C9* polymorphism. Further studies with multiple dosing in diabetic patients are needed to warrant these findings and will be beneficial for clinical practice.

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