ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Genetic variations of *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* genes in dogs with mammary tumours

S. O. Enginler • I. Akış • T. S. F. Toydemir • K. Oztabak • D. Haktanir • M. C. Gündüz • I. Kırşan • I. Fırat

Accepted: 4 September 2013 / Published online: 13 October 2013 © Springer Science+Business Media Dordrecht 2013

Abstract Mammary tumours are the most common tumour type in female dogs. The formation of the mammary tumours is multifactorial but the high incidence of tumour disease in certain canine breeds suggests a strong genetic component. BRCA1 and BRCA2 are the most important genes significantly associated with mammary tumours. The aim of this study was to determine the association between the variations of these two genes and canine mammary tumours. 5'untranslated region, intron 8 and exon 9 of BRCA1 and exons 12, 24, 27 of BRCA2 were sequenced in order to detect the genetic variations. In addition to six previously identified polymorphisms, six novel single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) were detected. Five of the coding SNPs were synonymous and three of them were non-synonymous. The comparison of the sequences from 25 mammary tumour bearing and 10 tumour free dogs suggested that the two SNPs in intron 8 and exon 9 of BRCA1 and two SNPs in exon 24 and exon 27 of BRCA2, which are firstly identified in this study, might be associated with mammary tumour development in dogs. Especially one SNP in exon 9 of BRCA1 and one SNP in exon 24 of BRCA2 were found to be significantly associated with canine mammary tumours.

Keywords $Dog \cdot Mammary tumour \cdot BRCA1 \cdot BRCA2 \cdot Single nucleotide polymorphism$

S. O. Enginler (\boxtimes) • T. S. F. Toydemir • M. C. Gündüz • I. Kırşan Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Istanbul University, Avcılar, 34320 Istanbul, Turkey e-mail: soapaydin@hotmail.com

I. Akış · K. Oztabak

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Biochemistry, Istanbul University, Avcılar, 34320 Istanbul, Turkey

D. Haktanir · I. Fırat

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Pathology, Istanbul University, Avcılar, 34320 Istanbul, Turkey

Introduction

Mammary tumours are the most common neoplasm observed in female dogs (Arnesen et al. 2001; Moe 2001; Egenvall et al. 2005). Canine mammary tumours (CMT) develop with age and they occur usually after 5 years of age (Cohen et al. 1974; Egenvall et al. 2005). Approximately half of the CMT's are reported to be malignant (Moulton et al. 1970). The development of the CMT's is multifactorial, but the higher incidence of mammary tumours in certain dog breeds supports the important role of the genetic factors (Borge et al. 2011). There are several candidate genes, which have been evaluated for association to CMT risk, like BRCA1, BRCA2, TP53, PTEN, CHEK2, TOX3, ERBB2, BRIP1, STK11 (Rivera et al. 2009; Borge et al. 2011). Two of these genes, BRCA1 and BRCA2, are significantly associated with mammary tumours in dogs. These genes encode proteins participating in DNA damagerecognition and repair pathways and act as tumour suppressors. BRCA1-deficient cells are hypersensitive to ionizing radiation (IR) and characterized by defects in the repair of both oxidative DNA damage by transcription-coupled processes and chromosomal double-strand breaks by homologous recombination (Gowen et al. 1998). BRCA2 protein has a key role in the maintenance of genomic stability in DNA recombination and double strand-break repair through interaction of with Rad51 recombinase. The genomic instability of BRCA2 deficient cells points to the tumour suppressor function of this protein (Scully and Livingston 2000; Ventikaraman 2002). The mutations in BRCA1 and 2 genes include point mutations which cause termination codons, indel's leading frame-shift mutations and mutations that affect regulation of the transcription. Most of the mutations observed in BRCA1 and 2 genes result protein truncations, representing loss of function alterations. There are also many sequence variants detected in these genes, whose effects are not yet identified (Peto et al. 1999; Easton et al. 2007; Rivera et al.

2009; Borge et al. 2011). The results of the studies on both coding and non-coding SNP's in BRCA genes indicated that these genes are involved in the development of CMTs (Rivera et al. 2009; Borge et al. 2011). The coding SNPs might change protein structure or function, whereas some non-coding SNPs might have effects on transcription (Borge et al. 2011). The aim of this study was to determine the association between the variations of these two genes and CMTs. 5'-UTR, intron 8 and exon 9 of *BRCA1* and exons 12, 24, 27 of *BRCA2* were sequenced in order to detect the genetic variations.

Materials and methods

Animals

In this study 25 female dogs with mammary tumours and 10 female dogs with healthy mammary glands were used. All animals in the study were presented in Istanbul University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The characteristics of the dogs were given in Table 1.

At the first examination a complete history and physical examination including the vaginal cytology was performed to all bitches. Only the bitches in anoestrus according to their vaginal cytology were included in this study and female dogs which have been spayed 1 year before the examination were accepted as in anoestrus, too. All control group dogs (n = 10) and 15 dogs from the tumoural group were all intact during the study, 10 dogs from the tumoural group were spayed previously. Four of them were spayed at their 10th age 1 year ago. Two of them were spayed at their 8th age 1 year ago, two dogs were spayed at 11th age, 3 years ago. One dog was spayed 3 months ago which was 6 years old and one dog was spayed 4 years ago who was 18 years old when included to the study.

Specimen collections

For DNA extraction 5 ml blood samples were collected into vacuumed tubes containing EDTA before the surgeries. Twenty-five female dogs with mammary lesions were surgically treated and 10 normal mammary glands were obtained by surgical biopsy from left inguinal mammary lobes of the control group dogs (n=10) with the absence of any tumoural lesion at the palpation of all mammary glands and without a history of any mammary or endocrine disease. Immediately after the surgery, all the obtained tissue samples were sent to Pathology Department for histopathological evaluation. The mammary tissue samples were fixed in 10 % buffered formalin solution for 24 h, embedded in paraffin and cut in 5 μ m sections. Histopathological diagnosis was evaluated on haemotoxylin and eosin (H&E) stained sections by the

WHO's classification for canine mammary tumours, dysplasias and normal mammary glands.

DNA extraction, PCR and sequencing

Genomic DNA samples were isolated from whole blood by using the standard salt-out method (Miller et al. 1988). 5' UTR, intron 8 and exon 9 of BRCA1 gene and 5' UTR, exon 12, exon 24 and exon 27 of BRCA2 gene were amplified. Primers, annealing temperatures and product sizes were given in Table 2. PCR amplifications were performed in a reaction volume of 25 µl using 1 U Taq polymerase, 2–2.5 µl 10XPCR buffer (100 mM KCl, 20 mM Tris HCl (pH 8.0), 0.1 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM PMSF, 1 mM DTT, 50 % glycerol), 2.5 mM MgCl₂ 50-100 ng genomic DNA, 100µM dNTP and 10 pmol of each primer. Amplification was carried out for 95 °C for 2 min; 34 cycles of 95 °C for 30 s, annealing temperature for 40 s, 72 °C for 50 s; and a final extension at 72 °C for 10 min. PCR products were run through 2 % agarose gel to check the results of amplification. Sequencing was performed by using an ABI-3100 sequencer (PE Biosystems, Germany) and the BigDyeTM terminator cycle sequencing kit, after the purification of the PCR products. Forward primer was used to sequence the PCR products.

Identification of sequence variations

Nucleotide sequences of all amplified regions were aligned by using Clustal W program in the MEGA 4 software program (Tamura et al. 2007). The previous identified SNPs were obtained from GenBank for comparison. The correct reading frame for each region was determined on the protein sequence at Ensemble (Release 70, 2013) and the possible changes in amino acid sequence caused by coding SNPs were identified.

For this study permission from "Istanbul University Animal Researches and Ethic Committee" was taken with the verdict number 126.

Statistical analysis

The cases versus the controls were analyzed to examine if a SNP has a significantly higher frequency in dogs with CMTs compared with the dogs in control group. Pearson's two-sided chi-square test was performed to calculate the significance of the association by using SPSS 13.0 program. Odds ratios (OR) with 95 % confidence intervals (CI) were estimated by using unconditional logistic regression.

Results

The 5'-UTR, Intron 8, Exon 9 of the BRCA1 gene and Exons 12, 24 and 27 of the BRCA2 gene were sequenced. In addition

Table	1 The histo	patholc	gical fe	atures and genetic varia	ations of BRC	A1 and BRCA	2 in dogs w	ith mamma	ry tumours	and norma	l mammary	gland				
Case	Breed	Age	Body	Tumor type	BRCA1						BRCA2					
01		(Jean)	(kg)		5' UTRª C/G 199960743	5′ UTR A/G 199960874	I8 A/C 199984973	I8 A/G 19984992	E9 A/G 19985060	E9 A/T 19985075	E12 GTT/- 7768733	E12 A/G 7768681	E24 A/G 7747634	E24 A/G 7797752	E27 A/G 7735475	E27 AAA/- 7735654
-	Terrier	16	6	Complex carcinoma- comnlex adenoma	G	A	С	A	G	Т	GTT	G	Υ	A	Y	AAA
7	Terrier	6	7	Ductal carcinoma	G	А	A	A	A	Τ	GTT	A	А	A	G	AAA
З	Terrier	14	5.5	Dermatofibrosarcoma	G	А	С	A	G	A	GTT	G	A	A	IJ	AAA
4	Terrier	11	4.5	Ductal carcinoma- benign mixed	Ū	A	A	A	A	Т	Del	IJ	A	A	¥	AAA
5	Terrier	14	7	Tubulopapillary carcinoma	IJ	A	С	IJ	IJ	A	GTT	Ū	Υ	A	IJ	AAA
9	Pitbull	9	22	Fibroadenoma-benign	Ū	А	А	А	А	Т	GTT	IJ	А	А	А	AAA
٢	Mixed	13	22	tumour Complex carcinoma	IJ	A	A	A	A	Т	Del	IJ	A	A	Ū	AAA
8	Mixed	13	23	Complex	Ū	A	A	A	A	Т	GTT	Ū	A	A	Ð	AAA
6	Irish Seter	10	13	adenocarcinoma Carcinosarcoma	IJ	A	C	A	A	Т	GTT	Ū	Α	A	A	AAA
10	Mixed	٢	18	Complex	Ū	A	A	A	A	Τ	GTT	G	Α	A	A	AAA
11	Cocker	10	25	adenocarcinoma Simple	C	A	A	A	A	A	Del	IJ	A	A	A	AAA
12	Terrier	14	25	adenocarcinoma Tubulopapillary	IJ	A	A	A	A	T	GTT	Ū	Ū	A	G	AAA
13	Terrier	11	12	adenocarcinoma Complex carcinoma	Ū	A	A	A	A	Г	GTT	Ð	A	A	Ð	AAA
14	Terrier	15	10	Complex	Ū	A	А	A	A	Τ	GTT	G	Α	A	Ū	Del
15	Terrier	18	б	adenocarcinoma Adenosquamous	C	A	C	A	IJ	A	GTT	IJ	A	A	A	AAA
26	Terrier	11	25	carcinoma Complex carcinoma	Ū	A	A	Ū	A	Т	GTT	IJ	Α	A	Ū	AAA
17	Terrier	13	٢	Tubulopapillary	Ð	A	А	IJ	А	Т	GTT	Ð	A	А	Ð	AAA
18	Terrier	14	5	carcinoma Complex	G	A	A	A	IJ	Т	Del	IJ	А	A	Ð	AAA
19	German	11	31.5	adenocarcinoma Simple carcinoma	Ð	A	A	A	Ū	Т	GTT	A	А	A	Ū	AAA
20	Shepherd Irish Seter	Π	16	Complex carcinoma	ŋ	A	A	A	A	Т	GTT	IJ	A	A	Ū	AAA
21	German Sheperd	10	9.5	Simple tubulopapillary adenocarcinoma	С	A	A	A	A	Т	GTT	Ū	Α	A	IJ	AAA
22	mixed Welsh Corgi	6	12	Solid adenocarcinoma	5	A	A	A	A	Т	GTT	Ū	A	A	IJ	AAA
23	Welsh Corgi	13	10	Tadenocarcinoma	Ū	А	А	A	А	Τ	Del	G	Α	A	Ð	AAA
24	Terrier	6	8	Tubulopapillary	Ū	А	A	Ū	А	Α	GTT	Ð	Α	A	Ð	AAA
25	Terrier	12	7	adenocarcinoma Complex	G	Α	A	A	А	Т	GTT	Ū	А	A	Ð	AAA
$C1^{b}$	Mixed	12	22	adenocarcinoma NMG ^c	Ð	A	A	A	A	Т	Del	G	Ū	A	IJ	AAA

0	
- 2	4
_	1

Case	Breed	Age	Body	Tumor type	BRCA1						BRCA2					
2		(year)	(kg)		5′ UTRª C/G 199960743	5' UTR A/G 199960874	I8 A/C 199984973	I8 A/G 19984992	E9 A/G 19985060	E9 A/T 19985075	E12 GTT/- 7768733	E12 A/G 7768681	E24 A/G 7747634	E24 A/G 7797752	E27 A/G 7735475	E27 AAA/- 7735654
02	Mixed	10	18	NMG	G	A	A	A	A	Т	Del	Ū	A	A	IJ	AAA
3	Collie	Π	18	NMG	Ū	A	А	А	А	Т	GTT	Ū	IJ	Α	Ū	AAA
4	Mixed	13	32	NMG	Ū	A	А	А	Α	Т	GTT	G	IJ	Α	А	Del
32	Kangal	10	28	NMG	C	A	А	А	Α	Г	GTT	G	IJ	А	G	AAA
36	Akbaş	10	35	NMG	Ū	A	А	А	А	Т	GTT	G	IJ	А	G	AAA
5	Kangal	14	38	NMG	Ū	A	А	А	А	Т	GTT	G	А	А	G	AAA
8	German Shepherd	10	23	NMG	Ū	А	A	A	A	Т	GTT	Ū	A	A	IJ	AAA
60	German Shepherd	6	23	NMG	C	A	A	A	A	F	GTT	Ð	Ð	A	IJ	AAA
010	Mixed	Π	17	DMG	G	А	A	A	А	T	GTT	IJ	G	А	Ð	AAA

Vet Res Commun (2014) 38:21-27

to six previously identified polymorphisms (two of them were 3 bp indels in BRCA2), four novel SNPs in BRCA1 and two novel SNPs in BRCA2 were detected (Table 3). Animals were genotyped for 12 SNPs in total. Eight of these SNPs were in coding regions of the BRCA genes. Three coding SNPs were found to be non-synonymous, whereas the other five coding SNPs were synonymous (Table 4). Of the three nonsynonymous SNPs, one of them was located in the second and two were located in the third position of the codon. The non-synonymous SNP (A/G) in exon 24 of BRCA2 gene resulted to lysine/arginine substitution. Two non-synonymous polymorphisms were determined in exon 27 of BRCA2. One of them was a A/G transition causing serine/asparagines variation (identified in this study) and the second one was an indel polymorphism (AAA), which substitutes methionine to isoleucine and lysine. The genetic variations in BRCA1 and 2 genes and the clinicopathological features of dogs with mammary tumours and dogs in control group are given in Table 1. For the genetic variations, which occurred more frequently in dogs with mammary tumours, no specifity of breed or tumour type were observed. The certain alleles of 4 SNPs in intron 8 and exon 9 of BRCA1 were only observed in mammary tumour bearing dogs. The A allele of the SNP A/G in exon 27 of BRCA2 was found in 7 of the 25 dogs with mammary tumour and only in one individual from the control group. The G allele of the SNP A/G in exon 24 of BRCA2 was only present in 7 from the 10 dogs in control group.

Association analysis was performed for 25 cases with CMTs and 10 controls. Two monomorphic SNPs (ss244244320 and ss244244324) were excluded from statistical analysis. MAF, OR and *p*-values were given in Table 5. The most significant association (p=0.0001) was observed for the SNP A/G in exon 24 of *BRCA2* (ss748770619). The SNP A/G in exon 9 of *BRCA1* (ss748770617) was also found to be suggestively (p=0.089) associated with CMTs. Both of these SNPs were firstly identified in this study.

Discussion

Normal mammary gland

BRCA1 and BRCA2 are two main candidate genes, which are associated with mammary tumours. Both of these genes belong to the granin family, which acts as tumour suppressor genes (Phillips et al. 1999). The genetic variations of these genes in dogs are under focus in recent years, to shed light on the pathogenesis, the clinicopathological status and prognosis of CMTs (Szabo et al. 1996; Judkins et al. 2005; Rivera et al. 2009; Borge et al. 2011). The genetic variations mainly consist of SNPs, but insertion and deletions were also found. Both the coding and non-coding SNPs might have effects on the tumour development. While the coding SNPs can change the protein structure or function, some non-coding SNPs may affect transcription. The missense mutations in the coding Table 2 Primer annealing temper uct size of the an

annealing temperatures and prod-	Gene	CFA ^a	Exon	Primer sequence: 5'-3'	Tm (°C)	Product size (bp)
uct size of the amplified regions	BRCA1	9	5' UTR	F: CGTGGCTTTCTTTTTCTTGG R: CTGGATTTCCAAAGCTCCTG	53	574
			Intron8-Exon 9	F: TCCTCAGGATTCTTGGTGGT R: GTGCTGGGAATCTGCCTATC	55	475
	BRCA2	25	Exon 12	F: TCTTTCAAAATAGGATGGTTGC R: CCCAATTACAAAGAACCTCCA	52	567
			Exon 24	F: AGTATCTGGCGTCCATCACC R: CCTCCTTCTGTTCCATGTCC	56	540
^a Chromosome, Canis familiaris			Exon 27	F: CCCCCATTCTCCTCTCTCTC R: CAAAAGGGCTTGGGTGTTTA	55	535

regions may cause loss of protein function due to the structural changes (Borge et al. 2011). The silent mutations in these regions do not result in amino acid alterations but they might affect protein folding. There are recent studies suggesting that silent mutations can have impact on the kinetics of protein synthesis leading to different final protein conformations (Kimchi-Safarty et al. 2007; Komar 2007).

In this study, we focused on the genetic variations in some coding and non-coding regions of the BRCA1 and BRCA2, which have been pointed out by recent studies (Yoshikawa et al. 2005b; Hsu et al. 2009; Borge et al. 2011). In total 12 variations were identified in dogs with mammary tumours and compared to the variations in dogs with healthy mammary glands. Six of the variations were novel SNPs and the distribution of them among dogs with CMT and dogs in control group, were remarkable.

The two SNPs (A/C and A/G) in intron 8 of the BRCA1 gene might be associated to CMTs due to their allele distributions. The C allele of the first SNP was observed in 5/25 dogs with mammary tumours and none of the dogs in the control group have allele C. The absence of the G allele of the second

Table 3 SNPs and indels in coding and non-coding regions of BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes

Gene	Exon/intron position	Allele	NCBI RefSNP/Assay ID
BRCA1	5' UTR	G/C	ss244244319
	5' UTR	A/G	ss244244320
	INT8	A/C	ss748770615 (This study)
	INT8	A/G	ss748770616 (This study)
	EX9	A/G	ss748770617 (This study)
	EX9	A/T	ss748770618 (This study)
BRCA2	EX12	GTT/-	ss244244371
	EX12	A/G	rs23255542
	EX24	A/G	ss748770619 (This study)
	EX24	A/G	ss244244324
	EX27	A/G	ss748770620 (This study)
	EX27	AAA/-	AB210823.1

SNP in tumour-free dogs also might point to a relationship with allele G and CMTs. These non-coding SNPs may show their effects through influence on the transcription. For example, a genetic variation in intron 8 of the human BRCA1 was reported to induce an aberrant transcript, which deletes exon 8 (Pyne 2000). But statistically, no significant association was detected. This might be a result of the limited number of cases.

Two novel SNPs (A/G and A/T) identified in exon 9 of BRCA1 were synonymous mutations. The allele distributions of both SNPs suggest that there may be a relation between these polymorphisms and CMTs. The G allele of the first SNP and the A allele of the second were only observed in dogs with mammary tumours. These silent mutations may have an influence on the conformation of the BRCA1 protein (Kimchi-Safarty et al. 2007; Komar 2007). The SNP A/G showed suggestive association (p=0.089) with CMTs, whereas no significant association was found for the SNP A/T.

One synonymous (identified in this study) and one nonsynonymous A/G transitions were observed in exon 24 of BRCA2. The non-synonymous SNP leads to a Lysine/ Arginine change but no correlation was found between this SNP and CMT, because only A allele was present in all the dogs used in this study. The G variant of the synonymous mutation was detected in 7/10 dogs with normal mammary gland and in only one individual with CMT. The high frequency of the A allele in dogs with CMT is remarkable, considering the association between this allele and mammary tumour development. According to the statistical analysis, the association of this SNP was found to be highly significant (p=0.0001). This synonymous SNP may have a role other than the effect on the protein function, which may be related with CMT's (Mooney 2005). It has been reported that synonymous variations in exonic splicing enhancers can affect mRNA splicing and exon skipping (Blencowe 2000). Disease associated polymorphisms which effect exonic splicing enhancers, were also detected in human BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes (Liu et al. 2001; Orban and Olah 2001; Fackenthal et al. 2002).

Exon 27, the last exon of the BRCA2, encodes the C-terminus of BRCA2 and the 3' UTR The C-terminal

Table 4 Coding SNPs and amino acid variations	Gene	CFA ^a	Region	Allele	Function ^b	Codon position	AA variation	AA position
	BRCA1	9	EX9	A/G	Syn	3	Lysine	242
			EX9	A/T	Syn	3	Threonine	247
	BRCA2	25	EX12	GTT/-	Syn	3	Leucine	2305
			EX12	A/G	Syn	3	Phenylalanine	2310
			EX24	A/G	Syn	2	Leucine	3045
^a Chromosome number,			EX24	A/G	Ns	2	Lysine/Arginine	3103
Canis familiaris			EX27	A/G	Ns	3	Serine/Asparagine	3322
^b Synonymous (Syn) and non-synonymous (Ns) SNPs			EX27	AAA/-	Ns	3	Methionine/Isoleucine and Lysine	3331-3332

sequence is highly conserved in mammals and the nuclear localization signals (NLSs) in this region play an essential role in nuclear localization of human BRCA2 (Yano et al. 2000; Spain et al. 1999). An indel polymorphism of AAA, which results to an amino acid change of Methionine/Isoleucine and Lysine in NLS2, was indentified in exon 27 by Yoshikawa et al. (2005a). The researchers suggested that this amino acid alteration enhances nuclear localization. They also found higher tumour morbidity rate in dogs with AAA insertion than with AAA deletion, which might be a result of the association between translocation efficiency of BRCA2 protein and CMTs (Yoshikawa et al. 2005b). In a study on germline genetic variations in mammary tumour associated gene in dogs, the AAA insertion was found to occur more frequently then AAA deletion, but no significant difference between dog breeds with high- and low-risk , were identified (Borge et al. 2011). In a recent study of Yoshikawa et al. (2012), the researchers reported that the AAA insertion is consensus sequence in dogs and is probably a neutral variation. In this study only two individuals (one with CMT and one with normal mammary gland) with AAA deletion were observed. The presence of the AAA insertion observed in the rest of the 35 dogs showed no evidence for any association between this insertion and mammary tumours in dogs.

A novel non-synonymous SNP A/G in exon 27 of *BRCA2*, identified in this study, causes an amino acid change of Serine/ Asparagine. The frequency of A allele is higher in dogs with CMT than in tumour free dogs, but no significant association was detected. An increased number of cases may reveal a possible relationship between this SNP and CMTs, which might be explained by another function of the C terminus of BRCA2, which is its interaction with Rad51 recombinase (Mizuta et al. 1997). This interaction was first reported in mouse (Sharan et al. 1997), human (Esashi et al. 2005) and dogs (Ochiai et al. 2004). Non-synonymous variations may have an impact on this interaction and can lead to uncontrolled cell growth and tumour formation via the loss of Rad51 activity (Cotroneo et al. 2007).

In conclusion, in this study four novel SNPs in *BRCA1* and two novel SNPs in *BRCA2* were identified. The distribution of the novel SNP variants in dogs with mammary tumour and normal mammary gland suggested that these genetic variations might be associated with CMTs. The effects of the two novel SNPs (one in BRCA1 gene and the other one in BRCA2 gene) which are significantly associated with mammary tumours should be investigated through functional analysis. Further studies on large number of animals from particular breeds with family histories would be helpful to strengthen the

in BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes to	SNP	Gene-Exon/Intron	Allele ^a	MAF ^b	OR ^c (95 % CI)	p^d
CM1s	ss244244319	BRCA1-5' UTR	G/C	0.14	1.83(0.26–13.06)	0.541
	ss748770615	BRCA1-Intron 8	A/C	0.14	0.18 (0.01-3.53)	0.127
* <i>p</i> <0,1	ss748770616	BRCA1-Intron 8	A/G	0.11	0.23 (0.01-4.63)	0.179
*** <i>p</i> < 0.001	ss748770617	BRCA1-Exon 9	A/G	0.17	0.14 (0.01–2.79)	0.089*
^a Major/minor allele	ss748770618	BRCA1-Exon 9	T/A	0.14	0.18 (0.01-3.53)	0.127
^b Minor allele frequency	ss244244371	BRCA2-Exon12	GTT/-	0.20	1.00 (0.16-6.26)	1.00
^c Odds ratios	rs23255542	BRCA2-Exon12	G/A	0.06	0.45 (0.02–10.16)	0.357
^d Test for allele frequency differ-	ss748770619	BRCA2-Exon24	A/G	0.23	56.00 (5.01-626.47)	0.0001***
ences between dogs with and	ss748770620	BRCA2-Exon27	G/A	0.23	0.29 (0.03-2.69)	0.252
without CMTs using Pearson's two sided chi-square test	AB210823.1	BRCA2-Exon27	AAA/-	0.06	2.67 (0.15-47.30)	0.490

A secolation of the CNID

evidence and also would shed more light on the function of these two candidate genes, BRCA1 and BRCA2, in dogs.

Acknowledgments This study was supported by the Research Fund of Istanbul University with grant number 8802.

Conflict of interest The authors confirm that all co-authors have given their permission to be listed.

References

- Arnesen K, Gamlem H, Glattre E, Grøndalem J, Moe L, Nordstoga K (2001) The Norwegian canine cancer register 1990–1998. Report from the Project "Cancer in dog". EJCAP 11:159–169
- Blencowe BJ (2000) Exonic splicing enhancers: mechanism of action, diversity and role in human genetic diseases. Trend Biochem Science 25:106–110
- Borge KS, Børresen-Dale AL, Lingaas F (2011) Identification of genetic variation in 11 candidate genes of canine mammary tumour. Vet Comp Oncol 9(4):241–250
- Cohen D, Reif JS, Brodey RS, Keiser H (1974) Epidemiological analysis of the most prevalent sites and types of canine neoplasia observed in a veterinary hospital. Cancer Res 34:2859–2868
- Cotroneo MS, Haag JD, Zan Y, Lopez CC, Thuwajit P, Petukhova GV, Camerini-Otero RD, Gendron-Fitzpatrick A, Griep AE, Murphy CJ, Dubielzieg RR, Gould MN (2007) Characterizing a rat BRCA2 knockout model. Oncogene 26:1626–1635
- Easton DF, Pooley KA, Dunning AM et al (2007) Genome-wide association study identifies novel breast cancer susceptibility loci. Nature 447:1087–1093
- Egenvall A, Bonnett BN, Ohage P, Olson P, Hedhammar A, von Euler H (2005) Incidence of and survival after mammary tumors in a population of over 80,000 insured female dogs in Sweden from 1995 to 2002. Prev Vet Med 69:109–127
- Ensemble release 70 (2013) http://www.ensemble.org (accessed March 2013)
- Esashi F, Christ N, Gannon J, Liu Y, Hunt T, Jasin M, West SC (2005) CDK-dependent phosphorylation of BRCA2 as a regulatory mechanism for recombinational repair. Nature 434:598–604
- Fackenthal JD, Cartegni L, Krainer AR, Olopade OI (2002) BRCA2 T2722R is a deleterious allele that causes exon skipping. Am J Human Genet 71(3):625–631
- Gowen LC, Avrutskaya AV, Latour AM, Koller BH, Leadon SA (1998) BRCA1 required for transcription-coupled repair of oxidative DNA damage. Science 281:1009–1012
- Hsu WL, Huang YH, Chang TJ, Wong ML, Chang SC (2009) Single nucleotide variation in exon 11 of canine BRCA2 in healthy and cancerous mammary tissue. Vet J 184:351–356
- Judkins T, Hendrickson BC, Deffenbaugh AM, Scholl T (2005) Single nucleotide polymorphisms in clinical genetic testing: the characterization of the clinical significance of genetic variants and their application in clinical research for BRCA1. Mutat Res 573:168–179
- Kimchi-Safarty C, Oh JM, Kim IW, Sauna ZE, Calcagno AM, Ambudkar SV, Gottesman MM (2007) A "silent" polymorphism in the MDR1 gene changes substrate specifity. Science 315:525–528
- Komar AA (2007) Genetics. SNPs, silent but not invisible. Science 315: 466-467
- Liu HX, Cartegni L, Zhang MQ, Krainer AR (2001) A mechanism for exon skipping caused by nonsense or missense mutations in BRCA1 and other genes. Nat Genet 27(1):55–58

- Miller SA, Dykes DD, Polesky HF (1988) A simple salting out procedure for extracting DNA from human nucleated cells. Nucleic Acids Res 16(3):1215
- Mizuta R, LaSalle JM, Cheng HL, Shinohara A, Ogawa H, Copeland N, Jenkins NA, Lalande M, Alt FW (1997) RAB22 and RAB163/ mouse BRCA2: proteins that specifically interact with the RAD51 protein. PNAS 94:6927–6932
- Moe L (2001) Population-based incidence of mammary tumours in some dog breeds. J Reprod Fertil Suppl 57:439–443
- Mooney S (2005) Bioinformatics approaches and resources for single nucleotide polymorphism functional analysis. Brief Bioinform 6(1): 44–56
- Moulton JE, Taylor DO, Dorn CR, Andersen AC (1970) Canine mammary tumours. Vet Pathol 7:289–320
- Ochiai K, Morimatsu M, Yoshikawa Y, Syuto B, Hashizume K (2004) Brca2 C-terminus interacts with Rad51 and contributes to nuclear focus formation in double-strand break repair of DNA. Biomed Res 25:269–275
- Orban TI, Olah E (2001) Purifying selection on silent sites—a constraint from splicing regulation? Trends Genet 17(5):252–253
- Peto J, Collins N, Barfoot R, Seal S, Warren W, Rahman N, Easton DF, Evans C, Deacon J, Stratton MR (1999) Prevalence of bRCA1 and BRCA2 gene mutations in patients with early-onset breast cancer. JNCI 91:943–949
- Phillips KA, Andrulis IL, Goodwin PJ (1999) Breast carcinomas arising in carriers of mutations in BRCA1 or BRCA2: are they prognostically different? JCO 17:3653–3663
- Pyne MT (2000) Characterization of intronic variants in BRCA1 and BRCA2. Master of Science Thesis, The University of Utah, Department of Pathology
- Rivera P, Melin M, Biagi T, Fall T, Häggsström J, Lindblad-Toh K, von Euler H (2009) Mammary tumor development in dogs is associated with BRCA1 and BRCA2. Cancer Res 69(22):8770–8774
- Scully R, Livingston DM (2000) In search of the tumour-suppressor functions of BRCA1 and BRCA2. Nature 408:429–432
- Sharan SK, Morimatsu M, Albrecht U, Lim DS, Regel E, Dinh C, Sands A, Eichele G, Hasty P, Bradley A (1997) Embryonic lethality and radiation hypersensitivity mediated by Rad51 in mice lacking Brca2. Nature 386:804–810
- Spain BH, Larson CJ, Shihabuddin LS, Gage FH, Verma IM (1999) Truncated BRCA2 is cytoplasmic: implications for cancer-linked mutations. PNAS 96:13920–13925
- Szabo CI, Wagner LA, Francisco LV, Roach JC, Argonza R, King M, Ostrander EA (1996) Human, canine and murine BRCA1 genes: sequence comparison among species. Hum Mol Genet 5(9):1289– 1298
- Tamura K, Dudley J, Nei M, Kumar S (2007) MEGA4: Molecular Evolutionary Genetics Analysis (MEGA) software version 4.0. Mol Biol Evol 24:1596–1599
- Ventikaraman AR (2002) Cancer susceptibility and the functions of BRCA1 and BRCA2. Cell 108:171–182
- Yano K, Morotomi K, Saito H, Kato M, Matsuo F, Miki Y (2000) Nuclear localization signals of the BRCA2 protein. Biochem Biophys Res Commun 270:171–175
- Yoshikawa Y, Morimatsu M, Ochiai K, Nagano M, Yamane Y, Tomizawa N, Sasaki N, Hashizume K (2005a) Insertion/deletion polymorphism in the BRCA2 nuclear localization signal. Biomed Res 26:109–116
- Yoshikawa Y, Morimatsu M, Ochiai K, Nagano M, Yamane Y, Tomizawa N, Sasaki N, Hashizume K (2005b) Analysis of genetic variations in the exon 27 region of the canine BRCA2 locus. JVMS 67:1013–1017
- Yoshikawa Y, Morimatsu M, Ochiai K, Okuda K, Takahiro T, Chikazawa S, Shimamura A, Omi T, Bonkobara M, Orino K, Watanabe K (2012) Establishment of a PCR analysis method for canine BRCA2. BMC Res Notes 5:173