

Research Paper



Alcohol Consumption and Lung Cancer According to Ile349Val Polymorphism in ADH3 Gene: Beyond the Tobacco Smoking Effect

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Abstract

Objectives: Smoking is the leading cause of lung cancer. However, several studies have suggested other factors such as alcohol consumption could also play a role through polymorphisms associated with alcohol metabolism. We investigated the association between alcohol consumption and lung cancer according to the Ile349Val polymorphism in the alcohol dehydrogenase 3 ADH3 gene.

Methods: We carried out a hospital-based case-control study, a total of 402 incident cases of lung cancer and 383 controls were genotyped for the Ile349Val polymorphism by polymerase chain reaction combined with restriction fragment length polymorphism. Alcohol consumption and other variables were measured using questionnaires in personal interviews. We used multiple logistic regressions to estimate adjusted odd ratios using and 95% confidence intervals.

Results: In multivariate analysis, an increased risk of lung cancer was observed for the highest category of alcohol consumption (\geq 30 g/day), although it does not reach statistical significance (OR=1.60, 95% CI: 0.91–2.83). Besides, an increased risk of lung cancer was observed in the highest category of alcohol consumption for the lle/Val genotype compared with the lle/lle genotype (OR=2.35, 95% CI: 1.04–5.33).

Conclusions: This study suggests that beyond smoking consumption, a high consumption of alcohol might increase the risk of lung cancer. No clear association was found between alcohol consumption and lung cancer according to the lle349Val polymorphism in ADH3 gene.

Key words: Alcohol, Lung Cancer, Polymorphism, Acetaldehyde

Introduction

Lung cancer was the most common form of cancer worldwide in 2012, with approximately 1.82 million incident cases and 1.59 million deaths due to lung cancer [1]. In Spain alone, lung cancer caused 21,487 deaths [2].

Approximately 80–90% of lung cancer cases are related to smoking [3]. However, other factors such as

genetic susceptibility, diet, and alcohol consumption may play a role in the individual variability. In fact, worldwide around 5.5% of all cancer cases and 5.8% of total cancer deaths were attributable to alcohol consumption [4]. Alcohol consumption is a known risk factor for several cancer sites such as the oral cavity, pharynx, larynx, esophagus, liver, colorectal and female breast, although its role in lung cancer risk is still controversial [5-7]. In 1988, the International Agency for Research on Cancer concluded that "there are enough evidences that alcoholic beverages are carcinogenic in humans" [8]. Alcohol might act as a carcinogenic agent by acetaldehyde, first metabolite of alcohol oxidation, classified as carcinogenic in humans [9], and by altering single nucleotide polymorphisms in genes that are involved with alcohol metabolism or DNA damage repair. Differences in individual lung cancer susceptibility may thus be the result of varying acetaldehyde exposure owing to genetic variants in the alcohol metabolism pathways.

Alcohol dehydrogenases (ADHs) are enzymes that oxidize ethanol to acetaldehyde, and seven ADHs have been identified in humans [10]. One of the functionally important polymorphic sites for ADH3 is Ile349Val, which causes an amino acid change from isoleucine (Ile) to valine (Val). Compared with the wild-type allele (349Ile), the variant allele (349Val) shows decreased ethanol oxidation by about 2.5-fold [11]. Therefore, the 349Ile allele produces acetaldehyde (a well-known carcinogenic agent) at higher rates, thus increasing exposure time to the carcinogenic effects of acetaldehyde. Individuals who possess the more active variant (349Ile) then have a greater risk of developing alcohol-related cancer [12-14].

In Western populations, epidemiological studies on the association between the Ile349Val polymorphism in the *ADH3* gene and cancer risk have shown inconsistent results [15-20]. Only two studies have examined the Ile349Val polymorphism in the *ADH3* gene and the risk of developing lung cancer, but no association was found [7, 21].

We used data from the CAPUA (Cáncer de Pulmón en Asturias [Lung Cancer in Asturias], Spain) study, a hospital-based case-control study of lung cancer carried out in four hospitals in the Asturias region of Spain [22-28], to examine the effect of alcohol consumption on lung cancer risk according to the Ile349Val polymorphism in the *ADH3* gene.

Material and Methods

Details of the CAPUA hospital-based case-control study have been previously described [22-28]. Briefly, a total of 877 incident lung cancer cases aged 30-85 years were recruited and interviewed in four main hospitals of Asturias in northern Spain from October 2000 to December 2010. Patients with primary cancer other than lung cancer in the last 5 years were excluded. All cases were newly diagnosed, previously untreated, and histologically confirmed with the exception of those with advanced

stage IV disease for whom surgery is not appropriated, and therefore did not have histological confirmation. The diagnosis of such few cases was confirmed by the oncologist and they were defined as "Clinical Diagnosis". A total of 840 controls were selected from the same hospitals among patients with unrelated diseases. Controls were individually matched to the cases in terms of sex, age $(\pm 5 \text{ years})$, and hospital. The main disease diagnoses of the control series were as follows: 41.1% inguinal and abdominal hernias (ICD [International Classification of Diseases]-10: K40-K46); 32.5% injuries (ICD-10: S00-S99); 8.8% appendicitis (ICD-10: K35); and 13.3% intestinal obstructions (ICD-10: K56, K57, K60). The study was approved by the regional ethical committee of Asturias, and written consent was obtained from each participant. In 2010 the CAPUA Study was included in the ILCCO (International Lung Cancer Consortium, http://ilcco.iarc.fr) and SYNERGY group (http://SYNERGY.iarc.fr) from the International Agency for Research on Cancer [29, 30].

All 877 cases and 840 controls were Caucasian. Blood or buccal cell samples were obtained from 872 (99.43%) cases and 825 (98.21%) controls. After excluding samples because of problems in DNA extraction or difficulties in genotyping mainly because of poor quality DNA, a total of 402 cases and 383 controls were finally genotyped for the Ile349Val polymorphism in the *ADH3* gene, and included in final analysis of this study.

Data collection

Information about known or potential lung cancer risk factors was personally collected by trained using computer-aided interviewers structured questionnaires during the first admission to hospital diagnosis. questionnaires for The collected information from the participants about age, sex, sociodemographic characteristics, tobacco history, diet (including alcohol consumption), occupation, and personal and family (first-degree relatives) history of cancer.

Alcohol consumption and dietary intake were evaluated using a semi-quantitative food frequency questionnaire (FFQ) completed at an interview. The FFQ was an adapted version of the questionnaire by Willet et al. [31] and validated in an adult Spanish population [32-34]. The subjects were asked to report how often, on average, they had consumed 127 food items over the previous 5 years. Serving sizes were specified for each food item. The questionnaire offered nine options for the frequency of consumption for each food, ranging from never or less than once a month to six or more times per day. Nutrient values for each food in the questionnaire were obtained from the food composition tables of the US Department of Agriculture and other Spanish sources [35, 36]. Energy intake in kcals/day was estimated for each participant. Vegetable and fruit intakes in grams per day were derived from the FFQ by summing the items of these groups. The reproducibility and validity of this FFQ is comparable to other widely used FFQs [31, 37-40]. The average of correlation coefficients between nutrient intakes estimated using prospectively collected diet records and those estimated with the FFQ were 0.47 for validity and 0.40 for reproducibility [41]. This FFQ also showed satisfactory biochemical validity compared with plasma levels of carotenoids and vitamin C [33, 34]. Alcohol consumption and dietary intake were available on 297 cases and 292 controls among the study participants.

To measure total alcohol intake, the FFQ evaluated the following types of alcoholic drinks: red wine (125 mL), white wine (125 mL), beer (200 mL), sherry (50 mL), hard cider (125mL), sweet spirits (30 mL), and brandy, gin, rum, whiskey, and vodka (40 mL). The total alcohol intake in grams per day was obtained by summing the intake of alcoholic drinks and was grouped into four categories based on non-drinkers and tertiles of energy-adjusted intake of alcohol among controls. The energy-adjusted intake was computed using the residual method, in which each nutrient was regressed on total calories, and the population mean was then added back to the calculated residuals [31]. We excluded subjects with extreme values for mean daily energy intake (<500 and >3500 kcal/day for women, <800 and >4000 kcal/day for men) which indicate misreporting [40].

Study subjects were defined as never-smokers if they had smoked less than 100 cigarettes in their lifetime; under other conditions, they were defined as ever-smokers. Ever-smokers were additionally classified as current smokers if they had smoked at least one cigarette per day along the previous 6 months or longer. Participants who had smoked regularly in the past but had stopped smoking at least 1 year before they were interviewed were defined as former smokers; finally, individuals who had stopped smoking less than 1 year before the interview were defined as current smokers. Ever-smokers were asked about the duration (years) that they had smoked at least one cigarette a day and how many cigarettes they consumed on average per day. Besides, smoking was characterized in terms of pack-years (PY), which is defined as the number of packs of cigarettes smoked per day times the number of smoking years. Subjects were categorized as light (<36 PY) or heavy (≥36 PY) smokers based on mean cumulative tobacco consumption in the control group.

Genotype determination

Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) combined with restriction fragment length polymorphism was used to determine the ADH3 genotypes. Genomic DNA was extracted from peripheral blood samples or exfoliated buccal cells, as previously described [42]. For quality control, genotyping was repeated randomly in at least 5% of the samples, and two of the authors independently reviewed all the results. A quality control of 50 blood and mouthwash samples from the same participants was used to confirm the reliability of the genotyping results using the mouthwash samples. No differences were found in either of the quality controls. PCR reactions were performed in a total volume of 10 µL containing 20 ng of genomic DNA, 0.25 mM of deoxyribonucleotide triphosphate (Ecogen, Biologia Molecular S.L., Madrid, Spain), 0.2 units of Taq polymerase (Biotools, Inc., Madrid, Spain), and 2.5 pmol of each primer in 1 × PCR buffer (Sigma-Aldrich Co., Madrid, Spain). The primers used for the amplification of ADH3 were (F) CAG TTA TAG CAG TCT GGA ATG CA and (R) CCG CTA CTG TAG AAT ACA AAG CA, and the PCR conditions were 30 cycles of 94°C for 30 s, 68°C for 30 s, and 72°C for 1 min. The reverse primer was designed to introduce a recognition site for the restriction enzyme *SspI* (Quimigen S.L., Madrid, Spain) by replacing an A with a G. A 5-µL aliquot of each PCR product was digested overnight at 37°C with 0.4 units of SspI. The products were separated on agarose (CONDA Laboratories, Madrid, Spain) gels and stained with ethidium bromide (Merck KGaA, Madrid, Spain). To verify that the data obtained by restriction fragment length polymorphism were coincident with the allele sequence, representative fragments were sequenced (data not shown).

Statistical analysis

Tests for Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium among controls were conducted using observed genotype frequencies and a chi-square test with one degree of freedom. Univariate analysis was first performed to compare the distribution of age and sex and the frequencies of alleles and genotypes. The differences in the distribution between cases and controls were tested using the chi-square test for categorical variables and the t test for continuous variables.

Crude odd ratios (ORs) and confidence intervals Wolf's were calculated using method [43]. Multivariate unconditional logistic regression analysis with adjustment for age, sex, and cigarette smoking in PYs was performed to calculate adjusted ORs and 95% confidence intervals (CIs). The models were made based on the variables with a level of significance of p<0.2 in the univariate analysis while those with a level of significance of p<0.1 were maintained in the model as part of the likelihood ratio test. Variables were included in the final models if they modified the coefficients more than 10%. All statistical analyses were conducted using Stata 12.1 software (Stata Corporation, College Station, TX, USA).

Results

Table 1 shows the distribution of the main characteristics of cases and controls. Cases showed a markedly higher consumption of tobacco smoking than controls (61.93 vs. 35.35 mean of PY), higher mean daily energy (2434.49 vs. 2286.65 kcals/day) and lower vegetable intake (122.78 vs. 152.21 g/day). Squamous cell carcinoma was the main histological type of lung cancer (39.8%) and adenocarcinoma the second (28.1%) in cases.

 Table 1: Characteristics of lung cancer cases and control patients

 in CAPUA study.

Variable	Cases (402)	Controls (383)	p-value
	n (%)	n (%)	
Gender			
Male	354 (88.06)	332 (86.68)	
Female	48 (11.94)	51 (13.32)	0.562
Age (years), mean (SD)	65.77 (10.48)	63.15 (11.50)	0.001
Pack-years (PY), mean (SD)	61.93 (35.34)	35.35 (30.38)	< 0.001
Never	29 (7.21)	106 (27.68)	< 0.001
<36	75 (18.66)	165 (43.08)	
≥36	298 (74.13)	112 (29.24)	
Smoking status			
Never	29 (7.21)	106 (27.68)	
Ever	373 (92.79)	277 (72.32)	< 0.001
Former	188 (47.00)	159 (41.95)	
Current	182 (45.50)	114 (30.08)	< 0.001
Alcohol consumption (g/day) ^b ,	30.40 (50.89)	23.69 (38.47)	0.072
mean (SD)	. ,	. ,	
Non-drinker (<0.1)	65 (21.89)	57 (19.59)	
0.1-9.9	67 (22.56)	91 (31.27)	
10-29.9	76 (25.59)	76 (25.77)	
≥30	89 (29.97)	68 (23.37)	0.074
Calories ^b , mean (SD)	2434.49	2286.65	0.028
	(918.76)	(695.84)	
Vegetable intake (g/day) ^b , mean (SD)	122.78 (99.05)	152.21 (133.02)	0.002
Fruit intake (g/day) ^b , mean (SD)	260.63 (197.70)	248.95 (213.35)	0.492
Family history of cancer			
No	219 (57.03)	232 (61.87)	
Other cancer	128 (33.33)	119 (31.73)	
Lung cancer	37 (9.64)	24 (6.40)	0.186
Missing values	18	8	
Histological type			
Squamous cell	160 (39.80)		
carcinoma			
Adenocarcinoma	113 (28.11)		
Small cell carcinoma	77 (19.15)		
Large cell carcinoma	11 (2.74)		
Non-differentiated	31 (7.71)		
Others ^c	4 (1.00)		
Clinical diagnosis	6 (1 49)		

^a Chi-squared test (categorical variables), t- test (continuous variables).

^b Available on 297 (73.9%) cases and 292 (76.2%) controls.

^c Other histological types included: 1 Stage I Non-Small Cell Carcinoma; 1 Stage I nontypeable; 1 Little differentiated adenosquamous; and 1 Indicative of sarcoma.

We estimated the frequency of Ile349Val polymorphism in the *ADH3* gene in lung cancer patients and controls to evaluate its association with the risk of lung cancer. The genotype distribution for the single nucleotide polymorphism studied was consistent with the Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium. The proportion of the *ADH3* 349Val allele and the Val/Val genotype in *ADH3* was similar among cases and controls (Table 2). No association was found between the *ADH3* Ile349Val polymorphism and lung cancer risk; compared with the wild genotype Ile/Ile, the adjusted ORs for Val/Val genotype and Val-carriers were 0.95 (95% CI, 0.52–1.75) and 0.84 (95% CI, 0.57–1.24), respectively (Table 2).

 Table 2:
 Genotype
 distribution
 of
 ADH3
 Ile349Val

 polymorphism and adjusted ORs for lung cancer in CAPUA Study

ADH3 genotype	Cases (n=402) n (%)	Controls (n=383) n (%)	p-value ^a	Crude OR	Adjusted OR [95%CI] ^b
Ile/Ile	157 (39.05)	141 (36.81)		Reference	Reference
Ile/Val	194 (48.26)	196 (51.17)	0.518	0.89	0.82 [0.55–1.22]
Val/Val	51 (12.69)	46 (12.01)		1.00	0.95 [0.52–1.75]
Val-carriers	245 (60.95)	242 (60.95)		0.91	0.84 [0.57–1.24]
Frequency of Val allele	0.37	0.38			

^a Chi-squared test

^bAdjusted for age, gender, cigarette smoking in pack years (continuous), alcohol consumption (g/day), energy intake (calories).

Table 3 presents the association between alcohol consumption and lung cancer risk. An increased risk of lung cancer was observed in the highest category of alcohol consumption (\geq 30 g/day), although it was not statistically significant (OR=1.60, 95% CI, 0.91–2.83) (Table 3).

Table 3	: Alcohol	consumption	and lung	cancer	risk by	histology
type in C	CAPUA Sti	ıdy				

Alcohol consumption	Cases/Controls 1 Adjusted OR [95% CI]ª				
(g/day)	All cases	Squamous cell carcinoma	Adenocarcinoma	Small cell carcinoma	
Non drinker	65/57	24/57	23/57	10/57	
(<0.1)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
0.1-9.9	67/91	28/91	21/91	11/91	
	0.67	0.85	0.52 [0.24-1.10]	0.72	
	[0.38-1.18]	[0.39-1.84]		[0.25-2.05]	
10-29.9	76/75	23/75	23/75	21/75	
	0.89	0.74	0.72 [0.34-1.54]	1.54	
	[0.50 - 1.58]	[0.33-1.67]		[0.59-4.05]	
≥30	89/68	43/68	23/68	11/68	
	1.60	2.34	1.08 [0.51-2.30]	1.35	
	[0.91-2.83]	[1.10-4.96]		[0.47-3.89]	

^aAdjusted for age, gender, cigarette smoking in pack years (continuous), energy intake (calories).

When analyzing alcohol consumption according to cigarette smoking in pack years, a clear effect modification was observed, although the interaction between both variables was not statistically significant and the correlation was low. The highest increase in lung cancer risk was found for individuals in the higher categories of alcohol consumption (\geq 30 g/day) and tobacco (\geq 36 PY), being the risk increased 22.75-fold (OR = 22.75; 95% CI 7.92-65.36).

 Table 4: Alcohol consumption and lung cancer risk modified by pack-years in CAPUA Study

Alcohol consumption	Cases/Controls Adjusted OR [95% CI]ª				
(g/day)	Never	<36	≥36		
Non drinker (<0.1)	12/23	10/19	43/15		
	1.00	1.91 [0.61-6.01]	14.49 [4.94-42.50]		
0.1-9.9	6/27	14/42	47/22		
	0.49 [0.15-1.64]	1.13 [0.40-3.22]	9.46 [3.28-27.30]		
10-29.9	3/19	14/30	59/26		
	0.43 [0.10-1.86]	2.45 [0.80-7.47]	10.68 [3.81-29.93]		
≥30	2/17	18/34	69/17		
	0.58 [0.10-3.22]	3.03 [1.03-8.89]	22.75 [7.92-65.36]		

^aAdjusted for age, gender, energy intake (calories).

When the association between alcohol consumption and lung cancer was analyzed by the Ile349Val polymorphism (Table 5), we found a statistically significant higher risk of lung cancer among Ile/Val heterozygotes in the highest category of alcohol consumption (reference category Ile/Ile category) (OR=2.35, 95% CI, 1.04–5.33). A higher risk of lung cancer was also found among Val-carriers, although the risk was not statistically significant (OR=1.89, 95% CI, 0.92–3.88).

 Table 5: Alcohol consumption and lung cancer risk stratified

 byAHD3 genotype in CAPUA Study

Alcohol consumption	Cases/Controls Adjusted OR [95% CI] ^a				
(g/day)	Ile/Ile	Ile/Val	Val/Val	Val carriers	
Non drinker	29/21	29/30	7/6	36/36	
(<0.1)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
0.1-9.9	22/32	37/52	8/7	45/59	
	0.52	0.81	0.58	0.77	
	[0.20-1.38]	[0.36-1.84]	[0.11-3.20]	[0.38-1.59]	
10-29.9	31/30	32/36	13/9	45/45	
	0.58	1.20	0.90	1.15	
	[0.23-1.47]	[0.51-2.80]	[0.18-4.51]	[0.55-2.41]	
≥30	36/20	46/35	7/13	53/48	
	1.21	2.35	0.56	1.89	
	[0.47-3.15]	[1.04-5.33]	[0.11-2.95]	[0.92-3.88]	

^aAdjusted for age, gender, cigarette smoking in pack years (continue), energy intake (calories).

Discussion

In this study, we show some evidence that alcohol consumption at levels higher than 30 g/day might increase the risk of lung cancer independently of tobacco smoking. In view of our results, we cannot confirm or rule out a possible association between Ile349Val polymorphism in ADH3 gene and lung cancer risk by alcohol consumption.

The Val variant allele results in a 2.5-fold reduction in the oxidation rate of alcohol to acetaldehyde [11]. Thus, the wild-type allele and wild-type genotype Ile/Ile could be related to an increased risk of developing lung cancer because of increased levels of exposure of acetaldehyde, to tissues. In addition, it has also been reported that after alcohol intake, blood acetaldehyde concentrations were significantly higher in individuals with the wild-type allele Ile compared to individuals lacking this allele and it has been shown that acetaldehyde breath levels were proportional to acetaldehyde blood levels [11, 44]. Therefore, exposure to a higher acetaldehyde concentration in the lower respiratory tract may play a critical role in alcohol-related carcinogenesis. This hypothesis is consolidated by the results obtained by Yang et al. [45], where Caucasians with wild-type genotype Ile/Ile showed higher pulmonary ADH activity and increased acetaldehyde-DNA adduct levels than individuals with variant genotype Val/Val. Thus, Yang et al. suggested that wild-type allele Ile could be considered a risk factor for lung cancer.

Several studies have reported that the wild-type genotype of the ADH3 gene may increase the risk of different tumor types, including cancer of the oropharynx, larynx, esophagus, liver, head, and neck [15, 16, 46]. Other studies, however, did not find such an association [18, 19, 47, 48]. The number of studies in lung cancer is very limited. One case-control study in western New York did not find any association between the Ile349Val polymorphism in the ADH3 gene and the risk of developing lung cancer [7]. Another case-control study in Japan failed to confirm a connection between the Ile349Val polymorphism in the ADH3 gene and the development of lung cancer [21]. The results of the present study were likewise unable to demonstrate an association between the Ile349Val polymorphism in the ADH3 gene and lung cancer risk.

On the other hand, a non-significant higher risk of lung cancer was suggested in the highest category of alcohol consumption (\geq 30 g/day). This result is in agreement with the findings of Minegishi et al. [21] and Rohrmann et al. [49]. Before confirming an effect of alcohol consumption, we should take into account a potential residual confounding effect by cigarette smoking, bearing in mind the clear effect-modification found. We were not able to evaluate the effect of alcohol in nonsmokers owing to the insufficient sample size in our population subgroup. Thus, according to two reviews [12, 50], one meta-analysis [51], and one pooled analysis [52], the current evidence is insufficient to confirm an association between alcohol and lung cancer risk.

Furthermore, our results showed an association between lung cancer and the Ile/Val genotype, however we cannot rule out the possibility that this result could be due to chance because of the multiple comparisons considered or by tobacco residual confounding. Studies carried out by Minegishi et al. [21] and Freudenheim et al. [7] did not find a clear association between Ile349Val polymorphism in ADH3 gene and lung cancer risk by alcohol consumption. These findings should be investigated in more detail in further studies, considering larger sample sizes and alternative genotyping techniques.

The main strengths of our study are the high number of eligible cases, the reasonably large sample size from a homogeneous population of comparable descent, and the fact that all of our control subjects were under Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. Furthermore, the whole of our cases were pathologically confirmed with the exception of 6 treated as lung cancer without need of pathologic confirmation, and high quality control for genotyping was applied. Our estimates for alcohol consumption were adjusted for smoking consumption and several other factors, such as energy and vegetable intake, were estimated by validated FFQ. Our study may also have some limitations. The observational design of the study and the use of hospital-based subjects may make our results more susceptible to bias (e.g., recall smoking bias in collecting information on retrospectively; underreporting of alcohol consumption; or selection bias). In order to minimize the potential selection bias, controls were selected among patients admitted with diagnoses in principle unrelated to exposures of interest. Even so, Campbell et al (2005) stated that European populations might show different levels of genetic substructure that could lead to false-positive associations as the result of population stratification [53]. In our study we controlled for that possibility with the inclusion of individuals from the same European ancestry (Caucasians). Regarding a potential misreporting of alcohol intake among cases and controls, if any, it should be non-differential and our effect estimates for alcohol consumption should be even stronger. The lack of information on alcohol consumption and dietary intake on one quarter of the study population was not related to the outcome and missing values were randomly distributed. However, it had reduced statistical power and the accuracy of estimates. Finally, the quite small sample size of some subgroups when analysis was stratified has prevented us from scoring statistically significance in them.

This work represents one of the few studies in which the effect of alcohol consumption on lung cancer risk was investigated beyond the tobacco smoking effect, and taking into account the Ile349Val polymorphism. To confirm or disregard our findings for the Ile349Val polymorphism, future studies should evaluate the effect of alcohol on lung cancer risk, undertaking assays of ADH activity and, if possible, exploring other polymorphisms potentially implicated in alcohol metabolism.

Conclusions

High alcohol consumption might have a slight effect on lung cancer development as well as a synergistic effect with tobacco. No clear association was found between alcohol consumption and lung cancer according to the Ile349Val polymorphism in *ADH3* gene.

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Competing Interests

The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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