

# CTLA-4 CT-60 A/G and CTLA-4 1822 C/T Gene Polymorphisms in Indonesians with Type I Diabetes Mellitus

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**Introduction:** CTLA-4 gene polymorphism plays an important role in children with type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM). However, data on this subject vary among different races and ethnics.

**Purpose:** To analyze CTLA-4 CT-60 A/G and CTLA-4 1822 C/T gene polymorphism among children with T1DM compared to control.

**Patients and Methods:** The CTLA-4 CT-60 A/G and CTLA-4 1822 C/T gene polymorphism in children with T1DM using polymerase chain reaction-restriction fragment length polymorphism in 25 T1DM and 25 controls. The inclusion criteria were patients regularly controlled at the Pediatric Endocrine Outpatient Clinic of Dr. Soetomo Hospital, aged 4–18 years and willing to join this study and the exclusion criteria were T1DM patients hospitalized in the pediatric intensive care unit. In the control group, the inclusion criteria were healthy children, aged 4–18 years and willing to join this study. The exclusion criteria included children with ongoing infection, history of other autoimmune diseases, allergies, or malignancy.

**Results:** The mean age was 12.48 years old, and the mean of T1DM onset was 9.28 years old. The CTLA-4 1822 T allele observed in 62% T1DM and 56% in control ( $p = 0.388$ , OR = 0.78, 95% CI = 0.44–1.37) and CTLA-4 CT-60 G allele observed in 52% T1DM and 58% in control ( $p = 0.393$ , OR = 1.27, 95% CI = 0.73–2.22). The C/T genotypes was significantly higher in control group ( $p = 0.045$ , OR = 3.27, 95% CI = 1.00–10.62). The A/G genotypes was commonly found in control group ( $p = 0.765$ , OR = 1.20, 95% CI = 0.37–3.86). The Javanese was the dominant ethnic group in our study.

**Conclusion:** The frequency of CTLA-4 CT-60 A/G polymorphism almost equivalent in T1DM and control group. However, CTLA-4 1822 C/T polymorphism was more prevalent in the control group; thus, this genotype may have a protective effect against T1DM.

**Keywords:** type 1 diabetes mellitus, CTLA-4

## Introduction

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a disorder characterized by persistent hyperglycemia. Several types of DM often occur in children and adolescents: type 1 DM (T1DM), an organ-specific autoimmune disease in which CTLA-4 gene polymorphism plays an important role, especially in the T-cell mediated destruction of pancreatic islets, Type 2 DM, also called non-insulin-dependent DM and other types including maturity-onset diabetes of the young (MODY), neonatal diabetes (NDM) and drug-induced diabetes.<sup>1–3</sup> All the forms of DM are caused by a combination of genetic and environmental risk factors.<sup>2</sup> Cytotoxic-T-lymphocyte-antigen-4 (CTLA-4) has a higher affinity to bind with the B7 molecule on antigen-presenting cells and it down-regulates T-cell function and stops the ongoing immune response. This mechanism plays an important role in the susceptibility of T1DM.<sup>2,4–8</sup> In recent years, many studies related to the genetic and immunological aspects of T1DM pathogenesis have been reported.<sup>9</sup> The polymorphism of CTLA-4 that is related to autoimmune diseases (AITD and T1DM) particularly are CT 60 and CT 1822.<sup>10–14</sup>

T1DM comprises 10% of all the incidences of existing DM.<sup>2</sup> Although T1DM prevalence is <1% in most populations, its incidence differs among different races and ethnic groups; the incidence of T1DM is 0.1/100,000 per year in China, 1.4/100,000 per year in Japan, and 43/100,000 per year in Finland, whereas the estimated incidence in Indonesia is around 0.3/100,000 per year.<sup>2</sup> The global T1DM incidence is increasing at a rate of about 3% per year.

In the Asian population, the study of CTLA-4 polymorphism in T1DM is still limited. Meanwhile, the prevalence of CTLA-4 CT-60 and CT1822 in Indonesia remains unknown. Therefore, we investigated the association between CTLA-4 CT-60 A/G, CTLA-4 1822 C/T polymorphism, and T1DM risk in the Indonesian population.

## Materials and Methods

### Study Participants

This case-control study was held between March 2021 and July 2021 at the pediatric endocrine clinic at Dr. Soetomo General Hospital in Surabaya. Twenty-five children were diagnosed with T1DM (according to the International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes Guidelines) and 25 controls are included. In the T1DM group, the inclusion criteria were patients regularly visiting the hospital during the study, aged 4–18 years, and willing to join this study. The exclusion criteria were T1DM patients hospitalized in the pediatric intensive care unit. For the control groups, the inclusion criteria were healthy children without a history of T1DM, aged 4–18 years and want to participate in the study and the exclusion criteria were children with an ongoing acute infection such as common cold who control pediatric OPC (outpatient clinic), history of other autoimmune diseases, allergies, or malignancy. This research was granted by the Clinical Research Unit at Dr. Soetomo Hospital, Surabaya, Indonesia with ethical number 1889/KEPK/III/2020.

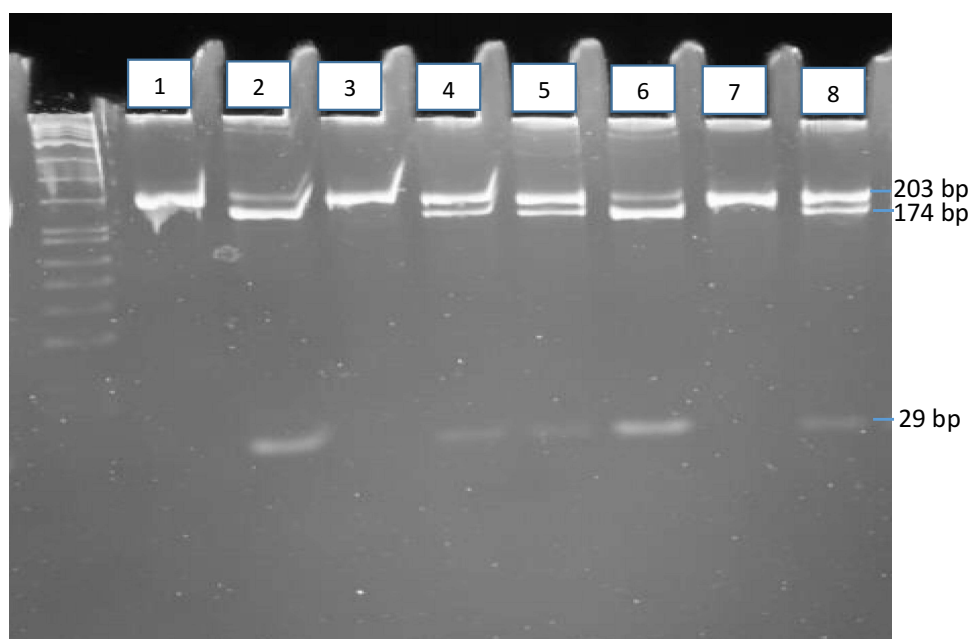
### Genetic Analysis of CTLA-4 CT 60 A/G and 1822 C/T

Human CTLA-4 is located in band q33 of chromosome 2 with 4 exons and 3 introns. The CTLA-4 polymorphism that is associated with T1DM susceptibility is CTLA-4 1822 located in intron 1 and CTLA-4 CT-60 in 3' Untranslated Regions (UTR).<sup>13,15</sup> The CTLA-4 CT-60 A/G and CTLA-4 1822 C/T polymorphisms were analyzed using QIAmp DNA Mini Kit (Qiagen©) from the peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) sample and detected by PCR-RFLP. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was performed using specific primers (CTLA-4 CT-60A/G: forward, 5'GATTTCCTCACCACCTATTGTTGGGATATTAC3' and reverse, 5'AGATCAAAATGGCTGCAAGG3'; CTLA-4 1822 C/T: forward, 5'TCAAAGGGATTGAGCAGATG3' and reverse, 5'TCCCATGCTCTTTGTTCTC3').<sup>4,8</sup> The RFLP analysis of CTLA-4 genes was performed using restriction enzymes BsaAI and BsmAI for CTLA-4 CT-60A/G and CTLA-4 1822 C/T, respectively.<sup>8</sup>

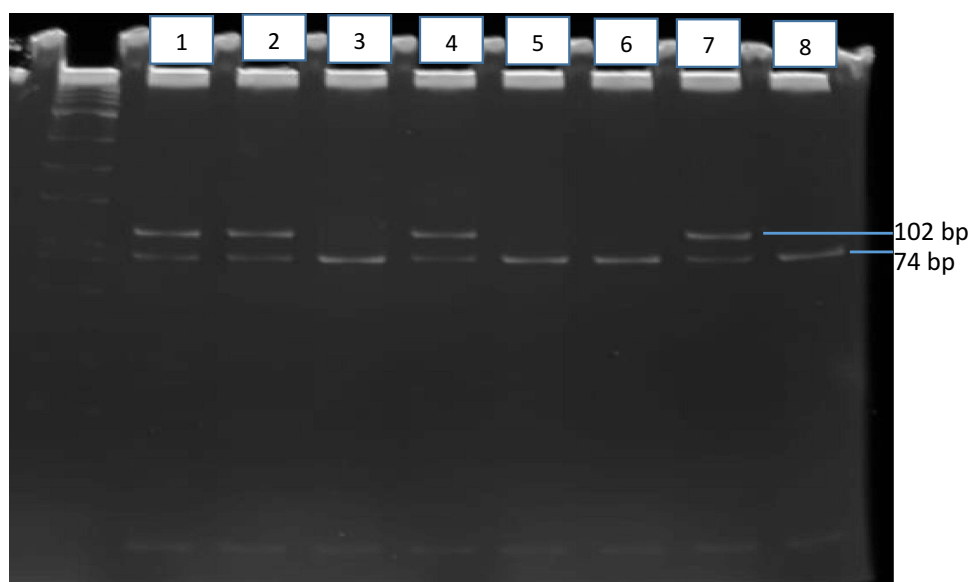
Genomic DNA sequences containing the polymorphic region, ie, restriction enzyme, were amplified by PCR (Thermal cycler PC-818; ASTEC, Fukuoka, Japan), in a total reaction volume of 10 µL (5 µL Amplitaq Gold, 0.25 µL MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 2.25 µL H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.25 µL of each primer, and 2 µL template DNA). The following cycling conditions were applied: an initial denaturation of 2 min at 94°C, 35 cycles of annealing for 45 s at 58°C and extension for 1 min at 72°C, and a final extension of 3 min at 72°C.<sup>4,8</sup> Approximately 11 µL of each final PCR product was incubated at 37°C for 6 h with 1 U of restriction enzyme at a total volume of 20 µL.<sup>4,8</sup> The PCR-RFLP products (11 µL) were separated using 6% acrylamide gel at 5 V/cm for 1 h in 1× TBE (Tris/Borate/EDTA) buffer and observed under UV light (IWASAKI ASAHI TECHNO GLASS). The length of PCR-RFLP products evaluated using One Step Marker 9 were as follows: 1) CTLA 4 CT-60 A/G: 203 bp for A/A, 176 bp, and 29 bp for G/G, and both products for A/G genotype and 2) CTLA4 1822 C/T: 102 bp for T/T, 74 bp for C/C, and both products for C/T genotype. See Figures 1 and 2 for the PCR results.

### Statistical Analysis

The data analysis of this study used Statistical Package for Social Sciences, version 20.0. The distribution of the subject characteristics was explained using descriptive analysis. The genotypes polymorphisms and allele distribution differences between T1DM and controls were measured by chi-square test. Data were presented as mean or a percentage (%). Statistical significance was defined as a *p*-value <0.05.



**Figure 1** CTLA 4 CT-60 A/G: 203 bp for A/A, 176 bp and 29 bp for G/G, and both products for A/G genotype. Line 1,3,7- homozygous A/A with type I diabetes, line 2,4,5,6,8 - heterozygous A/G with type I diabetes.



**Figure 2** CTLA4 1822 C/T: 102 bp for T/T, 74 bp for C/C, and both products for C/T genotype. Line 1,2,4,7 - heterozygous C/T with type I diabetes, line 3,5,6,8 - homozygous C/C with type I diabetes.

## Results

The study included 50 (25 T1DM and 25 Control) subjects. The characteristics of all subjects are presented in Table 1. The mean age of the study participants was 12.48 years. A majority of participants in the T1DM and control groups belonged to the Java ethnic group (88% and 100%, respectively). Childhood-onset of T1DM was reported in 20% of subjects.

The frequency of CTLA-4 CT-60 A/G in T1DM subjects was 64%, and the control was 68%. The analysis showed that A/G genotypes did not significantly differ between T1DM and control ( $p = 0.765$ ; OR = 1.20). The CTLA-4 CT-60 G allele was frequently observed in the control group (58%). The CTLA-4 CT-1822 C/T genotype frequency in T1DM

**Table 1** Characteristics of Subjects

Characteristics	Case (n = 25) n (%)	Control (n = 25) n (%)	Total (n = 50) n (%)
Age groups			
0 to <12 years	5 (20.0)	17 (68.0)	22 (44.0)
12–18 years	20 (80.0)	8 (32.0)	28 (56.0)
Sex			
Male	9 (36.0)	13 (52.0)	22 (44.0)
Female	16 (64.0)	12 (48.0)	28 (56.0)
Ethnicity			
Javanese	22 (88.0)	25 (100.0)	47 (94.0)
Madurese	1 (4.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (2.0)
Chinese	1 (4.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (2.0)
Malay	1 (4.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (2.0)
T1DM Onset			
0 to <12 years	22 (88.0)		
12–18 years	3 (12.0)		

subjects was 44% and the control was 72%. The CTLA-4 1822 C/T genotype was significantly more frequent in the control (OR = 3.27, 95% CI = 1.00–10.62). The T allele is more frequent in T1DM subjects (62%) (Table 2).

The CTLA-4 CT-60 A/G and CTLA-4 1822 C/T genotypes mostly observed in age 12–18 years old in T1DM subject (87.5% and 81.8%, respectively). In control group, CTLA-4 CT-60 A/G and CTLA-4 1822 C/T genotypes frequently observed in age 5–11 years old (52.9% and 61.1%, respectively) ( $p = 0.222$ ;  $p = 0.068$ ).

In T1DM group, the frequencies of CTLA-4 CT-60 and CTLA-4 1822 polymorphisms in the Java ethnic group were 88% (16% A/A; 52% A/G; 20% G/G) and 88% (12% C/C; 36% C/T; 40% T/T), respectively ( $p = 0.858$ ;  $p = 0.364$ ). In control group, the frequencies of both polymorphisms were 100% (8% A/A; 68% A/G; 24% G/G; 8% C/C; 72% C/T; 20% T/T, respectively).

**Table 2** The CTLA-4 CT-60 and CTLA-4 CT-1822 genotypes and alleles in T1DM

Variables	T1DM (n = 25)	Control (n = 25)	Value of <i>p</i>	Odd Ratio (CI ≥ 95%)
<b>Genotypes CT-60</b>			0.670	
A/A	4 (16.0)	2 (8.0)	0.667	0.46 (0.07–2.75)
A/G	16 (64.0)	17 (68.0)	0.765	1.20 (0.37–3.86)
G/G	5 (20.0)	6 (24.0)	0.733	1.26 (0.33–4.83)
<b>Alleles</b>				
A	48 (48.0)	42 (42.0)	0.393	1.27 (0.73–2.22)
G	52 (52.0)	58 (58.0)	0.393	1.27 (0.73–2.22)
<b>Genotypes CT-1822</b>			0.130	
C/C	4 (16.0)	2 (8.0)	0.667	0.46 (0.08–2.76)
C/T	11 (44.0)	18 (72.0)	0.045*	3.27 (1.00–10.62)
T/T	10 (40.0)	5 (20.0)	0.343	0.54 (0.15–1.97)
<b>Alleles</b>				
C	38 (38.0)	44 (44.0)	0.388	0.78 (0.44–1.37)
T	62 (62.0)	56 (56.0)	0.388	0.78 (0.44–1.37)

**Note:** Chi-Square Test. \*  $p < 0.05$ .

## Discussion

In this study, we found that the CTLA-4 CT-60 A/G polymorphism was frequently observed in the control group (68%) and the distributions did not significantly differ between the T1DM and control group. In some studies, CTLA-4 CT-60 G allele plays a risk factor, and the A allele plays a protective factor against autoimmune disease.<sup>16,17</sup> Previous studies on the Chinese and Spanish populations have demonstrated that the G allele of CTLA-4 CT60A/G increased the risk of Graves' disease and systemic lupus erythematosus.<sup>18</sup> The CT60 polymorphism of the CTLA-4 gene is one of the strongest candidates that may involve T-cell mediated autoimmune disease. This variant has been associated with a lower mRNA level of the soluble form of CTLA-4 (sCTLA-4).<sup>34</sup> While the association between CT 60 with T1DM risk is still controversial, the previous study showed that CT60 polymorphism has an association with T1DM in Belgian, French, Italian, Korean, Mexican, Spanish-American and Japanese, Russian, British, Moroccan, Estonian, and Croatian populations and no association in Chinese, Czech, Iranian, Argentinean, Chilean, Portuguese, and Turkish children. The difference pattern of CTLA-4 in different populations showed that CTLA-4 haplotypes may vary between races.<sup>19</sup> Based on ethnicity, a meta-analysis study by Wang et al reported that in Caucasian, Middle Eastern, and Indian populations CT60 polymorphism showed a significantly increased risk of T1DM. In the East Asian population, the study showed only marginally significant results with a per-allele OR of 1.33 (95% CI = 1.03–1.71).<sup>13</sup>

CTLA-4 immunological pathway remains unclear. However, several mechanisms of CTLA-4 in immune homeostasis have been explained through the T cell-intrinsic and T-cell extrinsic pathways. In intrinsic models, there are 4 functions: 1) CTLA-4 delivers a negative signal which may disturb the signal generated by CD28, 2) Inhibitor signal ligand-independent, 3) Competitive inhibition for CD80 and CD86 ligands to prevent CD28 signal, 4) CTLA-4 controlled adhesion and motility between APCs and T-cell. In extrinsic models, there are also 4 functions: 1) CTLA-4 inhibit T-cell proliferation mediated by indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase (IDO), 2) CTLA-4 induced the production of transforming growth factor  $\beta$  (TGF $\beta$ ) and interleukin-10 (IL-10), 3) T-cells produced soluble CTLA-4 splice variant to blocking other T-cells receiving stimulatory signals, 4) CTLA-4 inhibit APCs by inducing trans-endocytosis of CD80 and CD86.<sup>20</sup>

In this study, the CTLA-4 1822 C/T polymorphism frequency in the T1DM subject was 44% and significantly lower than control (OR = 3.27, 95% CI: 1.00–10.62). Several studies have confirmed the association between CTLA-4 polymorphism (CT-1822, CT-60, and 49 A/G) and autoimmune thyroid diseases.<sup>21</sup> A study on the Japanese population reported that the frequency of CTLA-4 49 A/G polymorphism in T1DM subjects was 37.1% and that of the G allele was 63.9%.<sup>8</sup> However, the association between CTLA-4 CT 1822 and T1DM remains unknown. Another study on the Japanese population revealed that 4.1% of T1DM also suffered from autoimmune thyroid diseases.<sup>8</sup> T1DM patients were at risk of developing other autoimmune diseases; it has been estimated that 1 out of 5 children with T1DM develop thyroid autoantibodies.<sup>1</sup>

The frequency of CTLA-4 CT-60 A/G polymorphism and G allele in Egyptian patients with T1DM have been reported as 49% and 44%, respectively.<sup>19</sup> Another study on the European population has reported CTLA-4 49 A/G polymorphism and G allele frequencies of 56.8% and 52.9%, respectively, in T1DM subjects.<sup>7</sup> Several studies in Europe, Egypt, Japan, and China have revealed a significant relationship between CTLA-4 gene polymorphisms and T1DM incidence.<sup>7,8,18,22</sup>

T1DM subjects in Chile reportedly had a CTLA-4 49 A/G gene polymorphism and G allele frequency of 45.3% and 35.6%, respectively.<sup>23</sup> In the aforementioned study, 16.6% of T1DM subjects had CTLA-4 318C/T gene polymorphism, and the frequency of the C allele was 89.5%.<sup>23</sup> Furthermore, a study in Turkey revealed that 43.9% of T1DM subjects had CTLA-4 49 A/G gene polymorphism, and the frequency of the G allele was 36.7%.<sup>22</sup> The frequency of CTLA-4 49 A/G gene polymorphism and G allele in the Chinese population has been reported to be 33.6% and 76.1%, respectively.<sup>24</sup>

A study in Palembang reported the CTLA-4 49 A/G gene polymorphism to be prevalent in 36% T1DM subjects; the frequency of G and C allele was 71.6%.<sup>24</sup> Unlike our study, Tanhapour et al showed that the correlation between CTLA-4 CT60 A/G polymorphism and autoimmune disorders is inconclusive.<sup>20</sup>

In this study, the mean of T1DM onset was 9.28 years old. In the T1DM subject, the CTLA-4 CT-60 A/G and 1822 C/T genotypes polymorphism was mostly found at age 12–18 years old (87.5% and 81.8%, respectively). A study on the Sudanese population revealed that the onset of T1DM occurred between 3 and 16 years of age.<sup>25</sup> A previous study in

Palembang has reported that T1DM was diagnosed at <11 years of age.<sup>20</sup> The peak onset of T1DM occurs during childhood.<sup>26</sup>

Our study reported that both frequency of CTLA-4 CT-60 and CTLA-4 1822 polymorphisms in Java ethnic was 88% ( $p = 0.858$ ;  $p = 0.0364$ ). The frequency of polymorphism of CTLA-4 49 A/G in Palembang ethnic was 46.7%.<sup>24</sup> A significant risk of CTLA-4 49 A/G, otherwise reported in the Indian and African populations, has been reported in the Middle East and Caucasian populations.<sup>20</sup>

The limitation of this study is the small size of the sample, although this study was conducted at a referral hospital in East Indonesia. In the Asian population, the number of T1DM cases is more limited than that of Caucasians as mentioned by several studies.<sup>27–33</sup> Another limitation is that this study is a single-center, future multi-center study, which is important to obtain more data on Indonesian races.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the CTLA-4 CT-60 A/G gene polymorphism in T1DM groups is almost equivalent to the control group. The CTLA-4 1822 C/T genotype was more common in the control group. Therefore, this genotype may have a protective factor against T1DM. In the Javanese ethnic group, CTLA-4 CT-60 A/G and 1822 C/T genotypes occur often.

## Ethical Approval

This research was granted by the Clinical Research Unit at Dr. Soetomo Hospital, Surabaya, Indonesia, with ethical number 1889/KEPK/III/2020. All participants in this study were following the Declaration of Helsinki. The informed consent was signed by all participant's parents or legal guardians.

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## Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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