

SHORT COMMUNICATION

HLA-DRB1 and multiple sclerosis in Argentina

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Background: The association of multiple sclerosis (MS) with HLA DR subtypes, and particularly human leukocyte antigen (HLA)-DRB1*15 has been a consistent finding across nearly all Caucasian MS populations. In South America, scarce data exist about this issue. As the complete characterization of the HLA association range around the world is important to understand the role of this locus in MS susceptibility, we analyzed the frequency of HLA-DRB1* allelic groups in an MS population in Argentina. **Methods:** HLA-DRB1 locus was genotyped using PCR and sequence-specific primer amplification in 61 MS patients born in Buenos Aires, Argentina and 1216 healthy controls. Allele frequencies were compared between groups. **Results:** The HLA-DRB1*15 allele frequency significantly differed between controls and patients (13.5% and 33.9% respectively, $P < 0.001$, OR 2.51, 95% CI: 1.7–3.0). The other allele frequencies did not show significant differences between patients and controls. **Conclusions:** The present HLA class II population study is in accordance with other Caucasian MS surveys which have found that HLA-DRB1*15 allele is strongly associated with MS disease. In Argentina, this is the first study performed to analyze the association of HLA-DRB1*15 and MS susceptibility in a Caucasian population and therefore contributes with new data to the immunogenomic global MS map.