

LOXLI variants in elderly Japanese patients with exfoliation syndrome/glaucoma, primary open-angle glaucoma, normal tension glaucoma, and cataract

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Purpose: To evaluate the association of lysyl oxidase like 1 (*LOXLI*) gene variants in Japanese patients with open-angle glaucoma.

Methods: We evaluated the association of three *LOXLI* variants ([rs1048661](#), [rs3825942](#), and [rs2165241](#)) in 142 Japanese patients with exfoliation syndrome (EX; n=59) and exfoliation glaucoma (EG; n=83) as well as in 251 control patients aged 70 years or older with primary open-angle glaucoma (PG; n=40), normal tension glaucoma (NG; n=54), and cataract (CT; n=157).

Results: In comparison with the CT group, the single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) showed significant association with EX, EG, and EX+EG. The odds ratio (OR)=19.71–28.23 and $p=1.69 \times 10^{-23}$ – 3.00×10^{-45} for allele T of [rs1048661](#); OR=28.21–39.78 and $p=1.77 \times 10^{-8}$ – 2.42×10^{-22} for allele G of [rs3825942](#); and OR=16.59–23.40 and $p=4.79 \times 10^{-5}$ – 1.08×10^{-9} for allele C of [rs2165241](#). In comparison with the controls (CT+PG+NG), the haplotype [rs1048661/rs3825942](#) (T/G) was significantly associated with EX+EG ($p=8.27 \times 10^{-44}$), and haplotype G/A had a significant protective effect ($p=2.25 \times 10^{-14}$). None of the three SNPs showed significant differences between the EX and EG groups or between the PG and NG groups.

Conclusions: These SNPs are associated with exfoliation syndrome/glaucoma in the Japanese population. The risk alleles in [rs1048661](#) and [rs2165241](#) are different from other populations. Additional genetic or environmental risk factors other than these *LOXLI* SNPs could be associated with the development of exfoliation syndrome as well as exfoliation glaucoma among exfoliation syndrome patients.

Exfoliation syndrome is the most common identifiable cause of open-angle glaucoma worldwide. It is an age-related, generalized disorder of the extracellular matrix that is characterized by the production and progressive accumulation of a fibrillar extracellular material in many ocular tissues [1]. A recent genome-wide association study demonstrated that one intronic single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP, [rs2165241](#)) and two exonic SNPs ([rs1048661](#) [R141L] and [rs3825942](#) [G153D]), which are located in the first exon of the lysyl oxidase like1 (*LOXLI*) gene on chromosome 15q24.1, are highly associated with exfoliation syndrome in Icelandic and Swedish populations while none of these SNPs were associated with primary open-angle glaucoma in either of the two populations [2].

Until now, several lines of studies have reported significant associations of these *LOXLI* SNPs with exfoliation syndrome [3–16] or the lack of associations of these SNPs with primary open-angle glaucoma [16–18] in various populations. In these studies, subjects in their 40s and 50s are sometimes recruited as controls. The prevalence of clinical exfoliation syndrome increases with age, particularly after the age of 60 years [1]. However, preclinical exfoliation syndromes in younger generations are able to distinguish from normal subjects until patients become older. Accordingly, the level of statistical significance between exfoliation syndrome and controls could be underestimated in studies that include younger patients in the control group. In this study, we evaluated the association of three *LOXLI* SNPs in Japanese patients with exfoliation syndrome/glaucoma, primary open angle glaucoma, normal tension glaucoma, and cataract. To reduce the chance of misclassifying latent syndromes within the control group, only patients aged 70 years or older were recruited as primary open-angle glaucoma, normal tension glaucoma, or cataract subjects in this study. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study reporting an association of

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TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF STUDY POPULATIONS.

Parameter	Exfoliation syndrome or glaucoma			Primary glaucoma			CT	p value
	EX	EG	EX+EG	PG	NG	PG+NG		
No. of subjects	59	83	142	40	54	94	157	
Male:Female								
N	12:47	42:41	54:88	14:26	18:36	32:62	45:112	0.2264*
%	20.3:79.7	50.6:49.4	50.6:49.4	35.0:65.0	33.3:66.7	34.0:66.0	28.7:71.3	
Age (years)								
mean±SD	78.2±8.0	78.8±8.5	78.5±8.2	75.6±5.3	78.3±4.8	77.2±5.1	77.2±5.0	0.1271**
Range	55–95	57–95	55–95	70–87	70–91	70–91	70–90	

The asterisk and double asterisk indicate that the p values were obtained by Pearson's χ^2 test and one-way ANOVA, respectively, among three (EX+EG, PG+NG, and CT) groups. EX, exfoliation syndrome; EG, exfoliation glaucoma; PG, primary open-angle glaucoma aged 70 years or older; NG, normal tension glaucoma aged 70 years or older; CT, cataract aged 70 years or older.

LOXLI SNPs with exfoliation syndrome/glaucoma using age-controlled subjects. This is also the first study reporting the association of *LOXLI* SNPs with normal tension glaucoma.

METHODS

Subjects: Three hundred and ninety-three unrelated Japanese subjects presenting exfoliation syndrome without glaucoma (EX), exfoliation syndrome with glaucoma (EG), primary open-angle glaucoma (PG), normal tension glaucoma (NG), and cataract (CT) were recruited at the Shimane University Hospital and Iinan Hospital in Shimane, Japan. This study adhered to the tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki. The research was reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Boards of both hospitals. Written informed consent was obtained from all of the subjects. All of the subjects underwent a dilated pupil examination of the anterior segments, ocular media, and fundus using a slit-lamp and a funduscope. The subjects with EX and EG exhibited the typical pattern of exfoliation material on the anterior lens surface and/or pupillary margin during slit-lamp examination. The subjects with EG and PG had a history of intraocular pressure (IOP) greater than or equal to 21 mmHg, and the subjects with EX, NG, and CT had a history of IOP never exceeding 20 mmHg. The subjects with PG, NG, and EG presented a typical glaucomatous optic disc cupping or rim thinning and visual field loss. The patients who had a history of IOP greater than or equal to 21 mmHg but no glaucomatous optic disc changes nor visual field loss were assigned as EG in this study. To avoid possible misclassification of latent exfoliation syndromes as PG, NG, or CT, patients younger than 70 years old were not recruited. The number of subjects, each gender, and the mean and range of ages in each group are summarized in Table 1.

DNA genotyping: Genomic DNA was extracted from the peripheral white blood cells of each subject. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was performed using primers designed to amplify the genomic region containing both [rs1048661](#) and [rs3825942](#) (forward primer: 5'-AGG TGT ACA GCT TGC

TCA ACT C-3' and reverse primer: 5'-TAG TAC ACG AAA CCC TGG TCG T-3') or just [rs2165241](#) (forward primer: 5'-AGA ATG CAA GAC CTC AGC ATG AG-3' and reverse primer: 5'-TAG TGG CCA GAG GTC TGC TAA G-3'). The sequence was determined based on the dideoxy terminator method using an ABI PRISM 3130xl Genetic Analyzer (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA) according to the manufacturer's protocol. We used SeqScape Software version 2.5 (Applied Biosystems) to analyze the sequence alignment. **Statistical analysis:** The deviation of the genotype distributions from the Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium was assessed in the case and control samples using [HAPLOVIEW](#) version 4.0 [19]. Statistical analysis was performed using [R version 2.6.2](#). Fisher's exact test was used to compare the allele or genotype frequencies of each case group with the controls. The odds ratio (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were calculated by the logistic regression method. Individual haplotypes and their estimated population frequencies were inferred using [HAPLOVIEW](#) version 4.0 [19] with all of the parameters set at the default values.

RESULTS

The allelic and genotypic counts and frequencies of SNPs [rs1048661](#), [rs3825942](#), and [rs2165241](#) within *LOXLI* are shown in Table 2. The ORs and p values for the allelic and genotypic frequencies of the three SNPs in comparison between the cases (EX, EG, and EX+EG) and controls (CT, PG, NG, and PG+NG) are shown in Table 3. In comparison with the CT group, the SNPs showed a significant association with EX, EG, and EX+EG for the T allele of [rs1048661](#) at OR=19.71–28.23 and $p=1.69 \times 10^{-23}$ – 3.00×10^{-45} , the G allele of [rs3825942](#) at OR=28.21–39.78 and $p=1.77 \times 10^{-8}$ – 2.42×10^{-22} , and the C allele of [rs2165241](#) at OR=16.59–23.40 and $p=4.79 \times 10^{-5}$ – 1.08×10^{-9} (Table 3). The genotypes, TT of [rs1048661](#) ($p=4.11 \times 10^{-25}$ – 3.78×10^{-43}), GG of [rs3825942](#) ($p=3.53 \times 10^{-11}$ – 2.10×10^{-33}), and CC of [rs2165241](#) ($p=1.95 \times 10^{-4}$ – 1.07×10^{-8}), also showed significant

TABLE 2. ALLELIC AND GENOTYPIC COUNTS AND FREQUENCIES OF [rs1048661](#), [rs3825942](#), AND [rs2165241](#) IN EXFOLIATION SYNDROME/GLAUCOMA (EX, EG, AND EX+EG), PRIMARY GLAUCOMA (PG, NG, PG+NG), AND CATARACT (CT).

	Exfoliation syndrome or glaucoma						Primary glaucoma					
	EX	EG	EX+EG	PG	NG	CT	EX	EG	EX+EG	PG	NG	CT
Allele	Count	Frequency	Count	Frequency	Count	Frequency	Count	Frequency	Count	Frequency	Count	Frequency
rs1048661												
T	111	0.941	159	0.958	270	0.951	39	0.488	89	0.463	140	0.446
G	7	0.059	7	0.042	14	0.049	41	0.513	99	0.537	174	0.554
Genotype												
TT	54	0.915	76	0.916	130	0.916	10	0.25	18	0.148	25	0.159
TG	3	0.051	7	0.084	10	0.070	19	0.475	53	0.630	90	0.573
GG	2	0.034	0	0	2	0.014	11	0.275	23	0.222	42	0.268
rs3825942												
G	117	0.992	165	0.994	282	0.993	64	0.800	150	0.796	253	0.806
A	1	0.009	1	0.006	2	0.007	16	0.200	38	0.204	61	0.194
Genotype												
GG	58	0.983	82	0.988	140	0.986	25	0.625	58	0.611	100	0.637
AG	1	0.017	1	0.012	2	0.014	14	0.350	34	0.370	53	0.338
AA	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.025	2	0.019	4	0.026
rs2165241												
C	117	0.992	165	0.994	282	0.993	77	0.963	170	0.861	275	0.876
T	1	0.009	1	0.006	2	0.007	3	0.038	18	0.139	39	0.124
Genotype												
CC	58	0.983	82	0.988	140	0.986	37	0.925	77	0.741	122	0.777
CT	1	0.017	1	0.012	2	0.014	3	0.075	16	0.241	31	0.198
TT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.019	4	0.026

EX, exfoliation syndrome; EG, exfoliation glaucoma; PG, primary open angle glaucoma aged 70 years or older; NG, normal tension glaucoma aged 70 years or older; and CT, cataract aged 70 years or older.

TABLE 3. ODDS RATIOS AND P VALUES FOR ALLELIC AND GENOTYPIC FREQUENCIES OF [rs1048661](#), [rs3825942](#), AND [rs2165241](#) IN COMPARISON BETWEEN CASES (EX, EG, AND EX+EG) AND CONTROLS (CT, PG, NG, AND PG+NG).

Parameter	EX				EG				EX+EG			
	Versus CT	Versus PG	Versus NG	Versus PG+NG	Versus CT	Versus PG	Versus NG	Versus PG+NG	Versus CT	Versus PG	Versus NG	Versus PG+NG
rs1048661												
Allele												
p value	1.69x 10 ⁻²³	3.23x 10 ⁻¹³	2.55x 10 ⁻¹⁶	4.08x 10 ⁻¹⁹	5.65x 10 ⁻³³	1.92x 10 ⁻¹⁷	1.32x 10 ⁻²¹	4.71x 10 ⁻²⁶	3.00x 10 ⁻⁴⁵	2.61x 10 ⁻²⁰	4.40x 10 ⁻²⁶	1.18x 10 ⁻³³
OR	19.71	16.67	18.39	17.64	28.23	23.88	26.35	25.27	23.97	20.27	22.37	21.45
95% CI	8.90-43.67	6.91-40.22	7.84-43.14	7.80-39.88	12.83-62.14	9.96-57.27	11.31-61.41	11.25-56.76	13.40-42.87	10.14-40.56	11.60-43.16	11.67-39.43
Genotype												
p value	4.11x 10 ⁻²⁵	1.16x 10 ⁻¹¹	1.91x 10 ⁻¹⁷	2.31x 10 ⁻¹⁹	4.80x 10 ⁻³²	2.12x 10 ⁻¹⁴	6.50x 10 ⁻²¹	3.42x 10 ⁻²⁴	3.78x 10 ⁻⁴³	1.04x 10 ⁻¹⁶	2.74x 10 ⁻²⁵	3.57x 10 ⁻³¹
rs3825942												
Allele												
p value	1.77x 10 ⁻⁸	2.10x 10 ⁻³³	2.10x 10 ⁻³³	2.10x 10 ⁻³³	2.42x 10 ⁻²²	6.48x 10 ⁻⁸	4.72x 10 ⁻⁹	1.23x 10 ⁻¹⁰	3.98x 10 ⁻¹⁶	8.68x 10 ⁻¹⁰	1.47x 10 ⁻¹¹	1.84x 10 ⁻¹⁴
OR	28.21	29.25	29.93	29.64	39.78	41.25	42.21	41.8	34	35.25	36.07	35.72
95% CI	3.86-205.97	3.79-225.66	3.96-226.36	4.01-219.07	5.46-289.78	5.36-317.49	5.59-318.47	5.67-308.20	8.23-140.45	7.91-157.16	8.31-156.49	8.50-150.11
Genotype												
p value	2.10x 10 ⁻³³	2.10x 10 ⁻³³	2.10x 10 ⁻³³	2.10x 10 ⁻³³	3.53x 10 ⁻¹¹	7.19x 10 ⁻⁸	2.88x 10 ⁻⁹	1.11x 10 ⁻¹⁰	6.37x 10 ⁻¹⁶	1.20x 10 ⁻⁹	1.00x 10 ⁻¹¹	1.17x 10 ⁻¹⁴
rs2165241												
Allele												
p value	4.79x 10 ⁻⁵	0.3051	1.03x 10 ⁻³³	1.20x 10 ⁻³	7.87x 10 ⁻⁷	0.1022	4.87x 10 ⁻⁶	8.28x 10 ⁻⁵	1.08x 10 ⁻⁹	0.0729	1.52x 10 ⁻⁷	3.02x 10 ⁻⁶
OR	16.59	4.56	18.87	12.39	23.4	6.43	26.61	17.47	20	5.49	22.74	14.93
95% CI	2.25-122.20	0.47-44.63	2.45-145.49	1.63-94.08	3.18-171.92	0.66-62.81	3.46-204.70	2.31-132.36	4.78-83.62	0.90-33.46	5.11-101.30	3.42-65.14
Genotype												
p value	1.95x 10 ⁻⁴	0.3	1.59x 10 ⁻⁴	2.82x 10 ⁻³	5.14x 10 ⁻⁶	0.1004	7.16x 10 ⁻⁶	1.23x 10 ⁻⁴	1.07x 10 ⁻⁸	0.0715	2.79x 10 ⁻⁷	4.71x 10 ⁻⁶

OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval; NA, not applicable; EX, exfoliation syndrome; EG, exfoliation glaucoma; PG, primary open-angle glaucoma aged 70 years or older; NG, normal tension glaucoma aged 70 years or older; and CT, cataract aged 70 years or older. p values were obtained by Fisher's exact probability test.

TABLE 4. ODDS RATIOS AND P VALUES FOR THREE SNPs IN COMPARISON BETWEEN EX AND EG.

	EX versus EG		
	rs1048661	rs3825942	rs2165241
	Allele		
p value	0.5829	1	1
OR	1.43	1.41	1.41
95% CI	0.49–4.20	0.09–22.78	0.09–22.78
	Genotype		
p value	0.2005	1	1

No significant association was found between EX and EG. OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval; EX, exfoliation syndrome; and EG, exfoliation glaucoma. p values were obtained by Fisher's exact probability test.

associations with EX, EG, and EX+EG when they were compared to the CT group (Table 2 and Table 3). Significant associations with EX, EG, and EX+EG were detected in comparisons with the primary glaucoma groups (PG, NG, and PG+NG) for the alleles, T of rs1048661, G of rs3825942, and C of rs2165241, as well as the genotypes, TT of rs1048661, GG of rs3825942, and CC of rs2165241, with the exception of the comparisons between EX, EG, or EX+EG and the PG groups for allelic (OR=4.56–6.43 and p=0.3051–0.0729) and genotypic (p=0.3000–0.0715) frequencies in rs2165241 (Table 3).

None of the three SNPs showed a significant difference between the EX and EG groups in these allelic or genotypic frequencies (Table 4). In addition to this, none of the three SNPs showed significant differences in their allelic or genotypic frequencies in comparisons between the primary glaucoma (PG, NG, or PG+NG) and CT groups or between the PG and NG groups (data not shown), excepted for the allele C of rs2165241 (p=0.0233) and the genotype CC of rs2165241 (p=0.0294) in comparison between the PG and NG groups.

The two SNPs, rs1048661 and rs3825942, were in linkage disequilibrium ($D'=1$). In our study populations, only three of the four possible haplotypes in rs1048661/rs3825942 were detected (Table 5 and Table 6). In the comparisons between cases (EX, EG, or EX+EG) and controls (CT+PG+NG), the T and G were significantly associated with EX, EG, and EX+EG, and the G and A had a significant protective effect (Table 5 and Table 6).

DISCUSSION

Based on this study among 393 elderly Japanese patients with exfoliation syndrome, exfoliation glaucoma, primary open-angle glaucoma, and cataract, we confirmed the findings of Thorleifsson and colleagues [2] that three SNPs within *LOXLI* are strongly associated with exfoliation syndrome and glaucoma. In addition to the original study in Icelandic and Swedish populations, allele G of rs3825942 has been consistently suggested as a risk-associated allele of

exfoliation syndrome/glaucoma in five studies from the United States [3-7], two studies from Europe [8,9], one study from India [10], one study from Australia [11], and six studies including this one from Japan [12-16]. In this study, we found that allele T of rs1048661 is associated with exfoliation syndrome/glaucoma, which is consistent with other studies in the Japanese population [12-16], while allele G is reported to be risk-associated in studies from other countries [2-4,6-11]. We also found that allele C of rs2165241 is associated with exfoliation syndrome/glaucoma, which is consistent with one study from Japan [13], while allele T is risk-associated in other populations [2,4,5,7,8]. Allelic frequencies of the three SNPs reported in previous studies and the current study are summarized in Figure 1. These results suggest a possibility that the missense changes in *LOXLI* are not actually causative but mark a haplotype that carries variants that may indeed be causative.

This study revealed extremely high ORs and significant p values for the three SNPs in the comparisons between the exfoliation syndrome/glaucoma groups and cataract groups. Only patients aged 70 years or older were recruited as control subjects in this study, enabling us to reduce the chance of misclassifying latent or preclinical exfoliation syndromes into the control group. Accordingly, the inclusion criteria of the control group might contribute to the extremely significant association of the *LOXLI* SNPs with exfoliation syndrome in this study. In contrast, the significance of the association of the SNPs with exfoliation syndrome/glaucoma was relatively low when the PG group was used as a control comparison compared to when the NG or CT groups were used as control comparisons. Although the level of significance was relatively low, we found differences in frequencies between PG and NG for allele C of rs2165241 (p=0.0233) and the genotype CC of rs2165241 (p=0.0294). These may suggest the possible inclusion of late onset exfoliation syndrome in the PG group. Previously, a lack of association between *LOXLI* polymorphisms and primary open-angle glaucoma or primary angle-closure glaucoma were reported in Caucasian, African American, Ghanaian, and Indian populations [17,18]. We did

TABLE 5. COUNTS AND FREQUENCIES OF HAPLOTYPE RS1048661/RS3825942 IN CASES (EX, EG, AND EX+EG) AND CONTROLS (CT, NG, PG+NG, CT+NG, AND CT+PG+NG).

Cases	EX		EG		EX+EG		CT		NG		PG+NG		CT+NG		CT+PG+NG		
	Count	Frequency	Count	Frequency	Count	Frequency	Count	Frequency	Count	Frequency	Count	Frequency	Count	Frequency	Count	Frequency	
TG	111	0.941	159	0.958	270	0.951	140	0.443	50	0.463	89	0.473	190	0.448	229	0.454	
GG	6	0.051	6	0.036	12	0.042	115	0.364	36	0.333	61	0.324	151	0.356	176	0.349	
GA	1	0.008	1	0.006	2	0.007	61	0.193	22	0.204	38	0.202	83	0.196	99	0.196	
Controls																	
TG	140	0.443	50	0.463	89	0.473	140	0.443	50	0.463	89	0.473	190	0.448	229	0.454	
GG	115	0.364	36	0.333	61	0.324	115	0.364	36	0.333	61	0.324	151	0.356	176	0.349	
GA	61	0.193	22	0.204	38	0.202	61	0.193	22	0.204	38	0.202	83	0.196	99	0.196	

EX, exfoliation syndrome; EG, exfoliation glaucoma; PG, primary open angle glaucoma aged 70 years or older; NG, normal tension glaucoma aged 70 years or older; and CT, cataract aged 70 years or older.

TABLE 6. P VALUES FOR HAPLOTYPE **rs1048661/rs3825942** IN COMPARISONS BETWEEN CASES (**EX, EG, AND EX+EG**) AND CONTROLS (**CT, NG, PG+NG, CT+NG, AND CT+PG+NG**).

EX					
	Versus CT	Versus NG	Versus PG+NG	Versus CT+NG	Versus CT+PG+NG
TG	9.56x10 ⁻²¹	NA	9.56x10 ⁻²¹	6.19x10 ⁻¹⁷	1.27x10 ⁻²¹
GG	9.69x10 ⁻¹¹	NA	9.69x10 ⁻¹¹	1.76x10 ⁻¹⁰	1.43x10 ⁻¹⁰
GA	1.01x10 ⁻⁶	NA	1.01x10 ⁻⁶	5.63x10 ⁻⁷	5.63x10 ⁻⁷
EG					
	Versus CT	Versus NG	Versus PG+NG	Versus CT+NG	Versus CT+PG+NG
TG	1.83x10 ⁻²⁸	4.95x10 ⁻²¹	3.06x10 ⁻²³	9.77x10 ⁻³⁰	4.40x10 ⁻²⁰
GG	3.12x10 ⁻¹⁵	2.51x10 ⁻¹¹	4.82x10 ⁻¹²	2.60x10 ⁻¹⁵	3.70x10 ⁻¹⁵
GA	5.63x10 ⁻⁹	8.10x10 ⁻⁹	4.08x10 ⁻⁹	3.02x10 ⁻⁹	2.36x10 ⁻⁹
EX+EG					
	Versus CT	Versus NG	Versus PG+NG	Versus CT+NG	Versus CT+PG+NG
TG	1.23x10 ⁻⁴⁰	7.84x10 ⁻²⁹	1.24x10 ⁻³²	5.89x10 ⁻⁴³	8.27x10 ⁻⁴⁴
GG	5.93x10 ⁻²²	4.01x10 ⁻¹⁵	1.03x10 ⁻¹⁶	2.39x10 ⁻²²	2.83x10 ⁻²²
GA	1.17x10 ⁻¹³	3.98x10 ⁻¹³	9.33x10 ⁻¹⁴	3.68x10 ⁻¹⁴	2.25x10 ⁻¹⁴

Significant association was found between cases and controls. EX, exfoliation syndrome; EG, exfoliation glaucoma; PG, primary open angle glaucoma aged 70 years or older; NG, normal tension glaucoma aged 70 years or older; and CT, cataract aged 70 years or older. NA, not available due to a small number of samples.

not find any significant associations between any of the three SNPs with primary open-angle glaucoma, reconfirming the previous observations in our Japanese population. Most recently, one study from Japan reported a lack of association between *LOXLI* polymorphisms and primary open-angle glaucoma in two of three SNPs (e.g., **rs1048661** and **rs3825942**) [16]. In addition to this, the current study suggests a lack of association between **rs2165241** and primary open-angle glaucoma as well as a lack of association between any of the three SNPs with normal tension glaucoma.

In this study, none of the SNPs exhibited significant differences in their allelic and genotypic frequencies between exfoliation syndrome and glaucoma, suggesting that these SNPs are associated with exfoliation glaucoma through their association with exfoliation syndrome as reported previously [2]. Accordingly, our data suggest that additional genetic or environmental risk factors are associated with the development of exfoliation glaucoma among exfoliation syndrome patients. Further study is required to clarify these risks.

In summary, we have demonstrated significant associations of *LOXLI* variants with Japanese patients who have exfoliation syndrome/glaucoma. Compared to other populations, the risk alleles in **rs1048661** and **rs2165241** are unique in this population. The *LOXLI* association of exfoliation glaucoma is through the association of exfoliation syndrome. *LOXLI* lacked any association with primary open-angle glaucoma or normal tension glaucoma in this population. Additional genetic or environmental risk factors

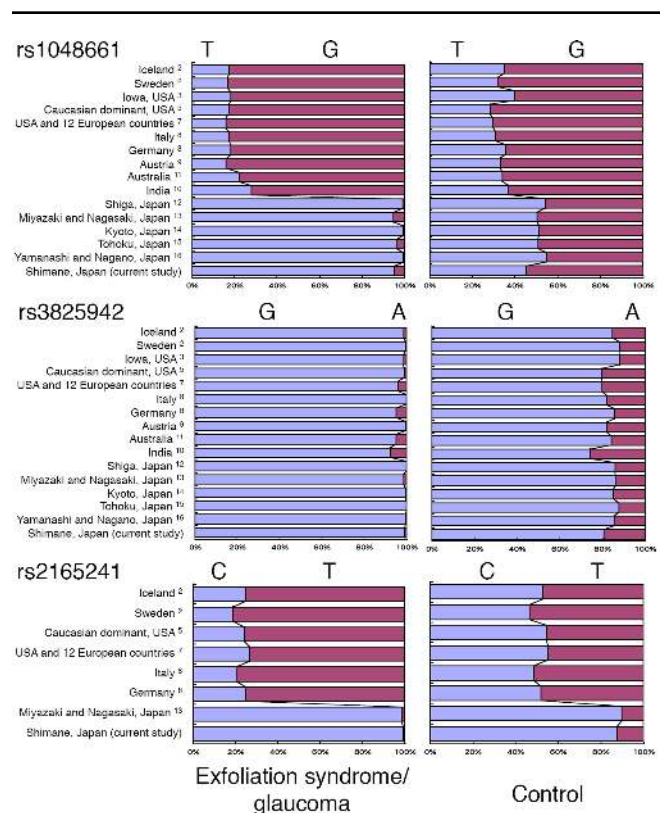


Figure 1. Allelic frequencies of the three SNPs reported in previous studies and the current study. Allelic frequencies of three SNPs in cases (exfoliation syndrome and exfoliation glaucoma) and controls (cataract or normal population) that have been reported in literatures are summarized.

other than *LOXL1* are likely to be associated with an increase in exfoliation glaucoma among exfoliation syndrome patients.

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