**Twin Research and Human Genetics**

**Supplementary material**

**Are the Variants of the Circle of Willis Determined by Genetic or Environmental Factors? Results of a Twin Study and Review of the Literature**

Bianka Forgo, Adam Domonkos Tarnoki, David Laszlo Tarnoki, Daniel Tamas Kovacs, Laszlo Szalontai, Aliz Persely, Anita Hernyes, Marcell Szily, Levente Littvay, Emanuela Medda, Adam Szabo, Lajos Rudolf Kozak, Gabor Rudas, Attila Sas, Marianna Sepsi, Laszlo Kostyal, and Csaba Olah

Table S1

Variants of the anterior CW. A: ‘Normal’ variant with single, non-hypoplastic ACOA and ACAs. B: Two ACOAs. C: Unilateral ACA A1 segment hypoplasia. D: hypoplastic ACOA. E: Absent ACOA. F: Medial artery of the corpus callosum arising from the ACOA. G: Two ACOAs with medial artery of the corpus callosum arising from the distal of the ACOA.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Anterior CW variants | Variant | *n* (total) | % (total) | *n* (MZ) | % (MZ) | *n* (DZ) | % (DZ) |
| A | 54 | 45.0 | 33 | 43.4 | 21 | 47.7 |
| B | 9 | 7.5 | 6 | 7.9 | 3 | 6.8 |
| C | 6 | 5.0 | 4 | 5.2 | 2 | 4.5 |
| D | 31 | 25.8 | 19 | 25.0 | 12 | 27.3 |
| E | 13 | 10.8 | 8 | 10.5 | 5 | 11.4 |
| F | 6 | 5.0 | 5 | 6.6 | 1 | 2.3 |
| G | 1 | 0.1 | 1 | 1.3 | 0 | 0.0 |

Table S2

Variants of the posterior CW. A: ‘normal’ configuration with non-hypoplastic PCOAs present on both sides. B: PCOA hypoplasia on one side, absent contralateral PCOA. C: Unilateral fetal-type variant with ipsilateral dominant PCOA and hypoplastic PCA P1 segment. D: Unilateral fetal-type variant with absent ipsilateral PCA P1 segment and contralateral PCOA hypoplasia. E: Bilaterally absent PCOAs. F: Bilaterally hypoplastic PCOAs. G: Absent unilateral PCOA. H: Hypoplastic unilateral PCOA. I: Unilateral fetal-type variant with ipsilateral absent PCA P1 segment. J: Unilateral fetal-type variant with ipsilateral hypoplastic PCA P1 segment and contralateral hypoplastic PCOA. K: Unilateral fetal-type variant with ipsilateral hypoplastic PCA P1 segment and contralateral absent PCOA. L: Bilateral fetal-type variant with bilaterally absent PCOAs. ACA: anterior cerebral artery, ACOA: anterior communicating artery, PCA: posterior cerebral artery, PCOA: posterior communicating artery.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Posterior CW variants | Variant | *n* (total) | % (total) | *n* (MZ) | % (MZ) | *n* (DZ) | % (DZ) |
| A | 21 | 17.5 | 15 | 19.7 | 6 | 13.6 |
| B | 11 | 9.2 | 7 | 9.2 | 4 | 9.1 |
| C | 4 | 3.3 | 2 | 2.6 | 2 | 4.6 |
| D | 2 | 1.7 | 1 | 1.3 | 1 | 2.3 |
| E | 27 | 22.5 | 20 | 26.3 | 7 | 15.9 |
| F | 18 | 15.0 | 7 | 9.2 | 11 | 5.0 |
| G | 14 | 11.7 | 9 | 11.8 | 5 | 11.4 |
| H | 14 | 11.7 | 9 | 11.8 | 5 | 11.4 |
| I | 2 | 1.7 | 2 | 2.6 | 0 | 0.0 |
| J | 2 | 1.7 | 1 | 1.3 | 1 | 2.3 |
| K | 3 | 2.5 | 1 | 1.3 | 2 | 4.6 |
| L | 3 | 2.5 | 3 | 4.0 | 0 | 0.0 |

Table S3

Monozygotic discordant twins: association between the anterior and posterior CW variants and cardiovascular risk factors. BMI: body mass index, CW: Circle of Willis. *n*\* refers to the number of MZ discordant twin pairs.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Normal anterior or posterior CW(*n*\*=6) | Variant anterior or posterior CW(*n*\*=40) | p-value |
| BMI, mean±SD | 26.3±6.0 | 27.0±11.7 | 0.87 |
| Smoking, *n*(%) | 0(0.0) | 12(30.0) | 0.12 |
| Diabetes, *n*(%) | 0(0.0) | 1(2.5) | 0.70 |
| Hypertension, *n*(%) | 2(33.3) | 6(15.0) | 0.27 |
| Hypercholesterolemia, *n*(%) | 0(0.0) | 3(7.5) | 0.49 |

Table S4

Monozygotic discordant twins: intrapair comparison of transcranial Doppler parameters. *n*\* refers to the number of MZ discordant twin pairs. BA: basilar artery, LACA: left anterior cerebral artery, LMCA: left middle cerebral artery, LPCA: left posterior cerebral artery, MFV: mean flow velocity, PI: pulsatility index, RACA: right anterior cerebral artery, RMCA: right middle cerebral artery, RPCA: right posterior cerebral artery.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Total (*n*\*) | Mean±SDTwin A | Mean±SDTwin B | p-value |
| RMCA MFV (cm/s) | 15 | 69.1±12.5 | 67.9±15.4 | 0.72 |
| RMCA PI | 15 | 0.8±0.2 | 0.86±0.1 | 0.12 |
| RACA MFV (cm/s) | 9 | 56.9±9.1 | 48.1±5.7 | 0.04 |
| RACA PI | 9 | 0.90±0.2 | 0.94±0.2 | 0.50 |
| RPCA MFV (cm/s) | 6 | 42.2±3.3 | 44.8±6.4 | 0.42 |
| RPCA PI | 5 | 0.94±0.1 | 0.83±0.2 | 0.30 |
| LMCA MFV (cm/s) | 11 | 71.3±12.7 | 67.2±13.1 | 0.18 |
| LMCA PI | 11 | 0.83±0.2 | 0.81±0.2 | 0.70 |
| LACA MFV (cm/s) | 9 | 52.7±9.6 | 50.2±7.6 | 0.54 |
| LACA PI | 9 | 0.86±0.1 | 0.87±0.2 | 0.80 |
| LPCA MFV (cm/s) | 7 | 40.3±6.4 | 39.4±3.7 | 0.56 |
| LPCA PI | 7 | 0.93±0.2 | 0.88±0.1 | 0.34 |
| BA MFV (cm/s) | 18 | 42.6±7.1 | 43.6±8.5 | 0.63 |
| BA PI | 18 | 0.85±0.1 | 0.86±0.2 | 0.85 |