Title: Association of physical signs with genotype, lipid-and inflammation-related markers, coronary stenosis or calcification, and outcomes in patients with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia

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## Background

Although several previous studies indicated that the existence of physical signs [tendon xanthomas or corneal arcus (TX/CA)] was associated with the risk of coronary artery disease (CAD) in patients with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (HeFH), its relations genotypes and clinical to characteristics have not been fully determined. The present study aims to examine the association of TX/CA with genetic mutation, inflammation-related lipid and markers. coronary calcification, coronary severity and cardiovascular events (CVE) in Chinese patients with HeFH.

### Methods

A total of 489 HeFH patients diagnosed with Dutch Lipid Clinic Network (DLCN) criteria and/or genetic testing were consecutively recruited.

To compare the patients with TX/CA versus those without, propensity score matching (1:4 matched) was performed to adjust for age and sex. Patients were finally divided into the TX/CA group (n=50) and non-TA/CA group (n=200). Data including genetic mutation [low-density lipoprotein receptor (LDLR), apolipoprotein B (APOB), and proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9 (PCSK9)] and laboratory analysis including lipoprotein (a), PCSK9, high-sensitivity C-reactive (hsCRP), computed protein tomography angiography, coronary angiography, and follow up CVEs were compared.

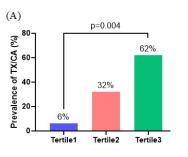
### Results

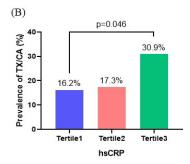
with physical signs **Patients** presented significantly higher LDL cholesterol levels  $(8.65\pm2.53 \text{ vs. } 7.70\pm2.18 \text{ mmol/L}, p=0.025), \text{more}$ LDLR (+) mutations (OR 2.896, 95%CI 1.295-6.473, p=0.010), higher prevalence of high tertiles of Gensini, SYNTAX and Jeopardy score, and coronary artery calcium scores compared to those without. In addition, patients in the TX/CA group had a higher prevalence of high PCSK9 and hsCRP tertiles compared with those without signs. Over an average of 3.7 years of follow-up, patients with TX/CA were at a significantly greater risk of CVE (multivariate adjusted hazard ratio [HR] 2.81, 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.14-6.90, p=0.024).

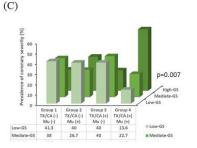
#### **Conclusions**

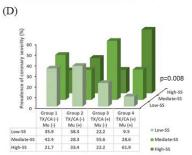
The physical signs were associated with positive genetic mutation, higher PCSK9 or hsCRP concentration and worse outcomes in patients with HeFH, suggesting that these signs may help to risk stratification in patients with HeFH.

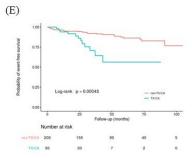
# **Figures**

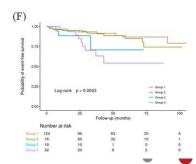












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