Involvement of the **CLEC3B** gene in osteoarthritis

Dear sir,

In the April 2010 issue of Osteoarthritis and Cartilage Karlsson and co-workers described results from whole genome microarray analysis and identified several genes differentially expressed in osteoarthritis (OA) cartilage compared to normal cartilage.

In this study, the authors report a number of new candidate genes not previously associated with OA that display significantly higher expression in OA cartilage than in normal donor cartilage and which were further verified using real-time PCR and immunohistochemistry. Among the genes that the authors list as not previously associated with OA they include the C-type lectin domain family 3, member B gene (**CLEC3B**) which is also known as tetranectin (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gene/7123) with the unofficial symbol TNA.

Overexpression of **CLEC3B** (TNA) in OA cartilage compared to normal donors had already been reported and an amino acid change Ser106Gly was found to be associated with genetic susceptibility to knee OA in a population-based cohort from the UK. This amino acid change was found to be associated in a case-control study also from knee OA in a population-based cohort from the UK. This amino acid Ser106Gly was found to be associated with genetic susceptibility to among which are ovarian cancer, Parkinson disease, and apolipoprotein A1 in cerebrospinal fluid as potential biomarkers for Parkinson’s disease. Acta Neurol Scand 2010 Jan 19 [Epub ahead of print].

As Karlsson et al. point out, the **CLEC3B** gene has been implicated in osteogenesis and bone mineralization. In addition, however, there is considerable literature on the use of serum and cerebral spine fluid tetranectin as a biomarker for a number of very different disorders among which are ovarian cancer, Parkinson’s disease, and epilepsy. Future investigation into the role of **CLEC3B**/tetranectin in OA should reveal if tetranectin might also be used as a biomarker for OA.

**Competing interest**

None.

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**References**


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