

Genes-4U

Tumor Necrosis factor α G-238A, G-308A and Tumor Necrosis factor β A329G

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The two promoter polymorphisms in the Tumor Necrosis factor α gene are relatively frequent : G-238A is found in about 5 %, G-308A in about 30 % of caucasians, and both modulate in vitro production of Tumor Necrosis factor α by mononuclear cells (1). The Tumor Necrosis factor β A329G polymorphism, identical to the NcoI RFLP in intron 1, is even more common (40-45%). Clinically, these polymorphisms have so far been associated with survival of sepsis (2), various autoimmune diseases (6-10), atopy and asthma (3-5), hyperandrogenism (11), and the response to pathogens like hepatitis B and C virus and chlamydia trachomatis (12-16).

Recently, TNF α polymorphisms have been implicated as modifiers of the phenotypic expression of hereditary haemochromatosis (17) [link to HFE-1].

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