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Insulin-like Growth Factor 2 Binding Protein 2 Gene Polymorphism in Egyptian Patients with Type 2 Diabetes

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ABSTRACT

Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) identified novel genes associated with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) which have been replicated in different ethnic populations and yielded inconsistent results. The insulin-like growth factor mRNA-2 binding protein 2 (IGF2BP2) is highly expressed in pancreatic islets, which play roles in normal embryonic growth and development. Our study aimed to replicate the association between insulin growth factor 2 mRNA binding protein 2 (IGF2BP2) gene (rs4402960) variant and T2DM in Egyptian diabetic patients resident in Ismailia city. The study included 152 subjects (76 unrelated T2DM patients and 76 control subjects) who were genotyped by polymerase chain reaction-restriction fragment length polymorphism technique (PCR-RFLP). Age, sex. blood pressure, BMI and Waist Circumference were recorded, and blood glucose, serum triglyceride, total cholesterol (TC), low-density lipoprotein-cholesterol (LDL-C), high-density lipoprotein-cholesterol (HDL-C) and homeostatic model assessment (HOMA) indices were determined. Fasting serum insulin and IGF2BP2 protein levels were analyzed by ELISA. For rs440960 variant of IGF2BP2 gene, risk allele T frequency was associated with T2DM [OR (95% CI)=1.82 (1.14- 2.93), P= 0.012]. The frequency of T/T genotype versus (GG+G/T) genotypes was significantly higher in T2DM patients compared to controls (22.4% vs. 77.6% and 5.3% vs. 94.7%, respectively), (P=0.002). This association remained significant under additive (P=0.003) and co-dominant (P=0.009) genetic models. From this study, it could be concluded that IGF2BP2 rs4402960 polymorphism was found to be significantly associated with the

increased risk of T2DM.

Keywords: Type 2 diabetes mellitus, Single nucleotide polymorphism, IGF2BP2.

INTRODUCTION

Diabetes mellitus is a worldwide medical issue with a an enormous effect on morbidity and premature mortality worldwide. The estimated global prevalence of diabetes among adults (aged 20-79 years old) will be 8.8%, influencing 425 million adults in 2017 and will increment to 9.9 %, and 629 million adults by the 2045 (**International Diabetes Federation, 2017**).

T2DM is a disease characterized by high blood glucose levels as a result of a pancreatic β -cell dysfunction, impaired insulin secretion and insulin resistance and is caused by the perplexing interaction between genetic, epigenetic, and environmental factors. T2DM is a complex metabolic syndrome with a strong genetic components play a role in the pathogenesis of T2DM (**Ding et al., 2015**).

The IGF2BP2 is RNA-binding protein in humans that is encoded by the *IGF2BP2* gene (**Hafner et al., 2010**) and implicated in mRNA localization, stability, and translational control (**Ye et al., 2016**). IGF2BP2 binds to and regulates the translation of a set of mRNA including IGF2, which thusly is engaged with the improvement of insulin function (**Boudoukha et al., 2010**; **Li et al., 2013**).

The IGF2BP2 gene variants are arranged on the chromosome (3q27.2). The intron 2 is the location of (rs44020960) and (rs1470579) SNPs, which have been observed to be related to an increased risk for T2DM (Chistiakov et al., 2012). IGF2BP2 has seen to be identified with decreased insulin secretion, which assumes a part of T2DM. IGF2BP2 gene variant may end up impacting the levels of IGF2 in β -cells. IGF2 overexpression induces β -cell dysfunction and increases β -cell susceptibility to damage (Casellas et al., 2015). In this study, we intended to evaluate the presence of IGF2BP2 gene polymorphism and to assess whether it associated with T2DM risk in Egyptian patients resident in Ismailia city.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This case-control study included 152 subjects, (76 unrelated T2DM patients and 76 healthy control subjects). The T2DM patients were recruited from the diabetes clinic at Suez Canal University Hospital,

based on their medical record and fulfilling the diagnostic criteria of American Diabetes Association that specifies fasting plasma glucose (FPG) ≥ 126 mg/dl or 2h postprandial plasma glucose (PPG) ≥ 200 mg/dl (American Diabetes Association, 2017). Full medical history and anthropometric measurements were recorded. Patients with type 1 diabetes mellitus, ischemic heart disease, kidney or liver diseases and pregnant women were excluded from this study. Dyslipidemia was diagnosed if fasting total serum cholesterol (> 200 mg/dl), (LDLcholesterol ≥ 130 mg/dl), fasting serum triglycerides(≥ 150 mg/dl) or HDL-C (<40 mg/dl) in men or (<50 mg/dl in women) or treated by statins (National Cholesterol Education Program (NCEP), 2002). Patients were considered obese when BMI was >25 (the weight in kilograms divided by the square of the height in meters) (Yamada et al., 2002). Informed consent was obtained from all subjects and the study protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of Faculty of Medicine in Suez Canal University.

Biochemical Measurements Venous blood samples were collected from all subjects after overnight fasting (fasting plasma glucose was after 8 hours and lipid profile was after 12 hours). Fasting plasma glucose and lipid profile levels; total cholesterol (TC), triglycerides (TG), high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) and low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) were determined according to manufacturer's protocol (Biosystem S.A, Spain) and assayed on Novaspec II Spectrometer (Biochrom, UK). Fasting serum insulin (DRG Insulin ELISA kit, DRG International, Inc., USA) and IGF2BP2 protein (IGF2BP2 ELISA Kit, Cusabio Biotech Co., Ltd, China) levels were determined according to

manufacturer's protocol and measured by using microplate reader (Stat Fax 2100, Awareness Technology, Inc., USA). Homeostasis assessment model assay (HOMA) indices were calculated as well. The following equations were used: HOMA-IR = (fasting insulin (μ U/ml) x Fasting blood glucose (mmol/l) / 22.5, HOMA- β % = (20x fasting insulin (μ U/ml))/ Fasting blood glucose (mmol/l) (**Matthews** et al.,1985). Genotyping of IGF2BP2 SNP(rs4402960)

Genomic DNA was purified from whole blood by using a QIAamp DNA Blood Mini Kit (Qiagen, UK) according to manufacturer's protocol. Genotypes for the *IGF2BP2* rs4402960 polymorphism were analyzed using a polymerase chain reaction-restriction fragment length polymorphism (PCR-RFLP) assay. All primers designed by

Biosearch Technologies Inc (USA). The primers sequence were Forward5'-AGACCAGCCTTGGCAATGTAGTG-3'and reverse5'CTAAAGCACTGAGAGAAACAGCCCT-3'. DNA was initially denatured at 95°C for 5 min prior to amplification. then 30 cycles, consisting of 2 min denaturation at 95°C, 45 sec annealing at 62°C, and 1 min extension at 72°C and the final extension for 1 min at 72°C. Restriction digestion was performed in a total volume of 10 μl amplicons, 1μl NE buffer and 8 units of Mbo II enzyme (New England Bio-labs, Beverly, Mass, USA). Samples were then incubated for 5 hrs at 37°C and the digested PCR products were separated by

2.0% agarose gel electrophoresis. Thus, the following genotypes were identified by bands of the following sizes; GG (Homozygous): 2 bands (282 bp and 157 bp), GT (Heterozygous): 3 bands (439 bp, 282 bp and 157 bp) and TT (variant Homozygote): one band at 439 bp

(figure 12), (Huang et al., 2010). Statistical Analysis Statistical analyses were performed with SPSS software version 22.0 for Windows (Chicago, IL, USA). Data were expressed as mean \pm SD for continuous variables and as percentages of the total for categorical variables. Intergroup significance was assessed by Student's t-test for continuous variables and Chi-square (γ 2) test for categorical variables.

The Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium was estimated by $\chi 2$ test. $\chi 2$ was used to test the difference in alleles and genotypes frequency between groups.

RESULTS

Clinical and biochemical characteristics of the studied subjects:

The clinical and biochemical characteristics of studied subjects were summarized in Table (1). T2DM patients had significantly higher BMI, fasting plasma glucose, Triglycerides, Total Cholesterol, HOMA-IR and IGF2BP2 protein and significantly lower HOMA- β % and HOMA-S% compared to healthy controls (P<0.05).

Genotyping analysis and allelic frequencies:

Diabetic patients and controls were genotyped for *IGF2BP2* gene (rs4402960) polymorphism (figure 1). The genotypic distributions of (rs4402960) SNP were in agreement with Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (P>0.05). The risk T allele frequency was significantly higher in T2DM patients than in controls (43.4 % vs. 29.6 %) [OR (95% CI)=1.82 (1.14- 2.93), P= 0.012]. The frequency of T/T

genotype versus (GG+G/T) genotypes was significantly higher in T2DM patients compared to controls (22.4% vs. 77.6% and 5.3% vs. 94.7%, respectively), (P=0.002). Distribution of *IGF2BP2* (rs4402960) variant genotypes and alleles in T2DM patients and controls and their association analyses under additive (TT vs. GG), dominant (GG vs. GT+TT), recessive (TT vs. GG+GT) and codominant (GG vs. GT vs. TT) genetic models also were summarized in Tables (2 and 3).

Table (4) shown the effect of the IGF2BP2 variant (rs4402960) genotypes on risk factors of T2DM in patients group and indicated that fasting plasma glucose level and HOMA- β % were statistically significant higher (P<0.05) in T2DM patients with (GT+TT) genotype compared to T2DM patients with (GG) genotype, while no statistically significant difference in T2DM patients regarding other measured risk factors .

Table 1. Clinical and Biochemical characteristics of T2DM patients and healthy controls

Variable	Patient (n=76)	Control (n=76)	P value
n (male/female)	76 (38/38)	76 (39/37)	-
Age (Years)	56.51 ± 7.20	54.47 ± 7.70	0.094
SBP (mmHg)	133.07 ± 18.67	122.37 ± 14.32	*0.0001
DBP (mmHg)	93.55 ± 13.66	82.89 ± 8.46	0.0001*
BMI (kg/m2)	31.78 ± 5.71	29.76 ± 6.41	0.042*
Waist Circumference(cm)	109.82 ± 11.76	106.26 ± 15.63	0.116
Fasting plasma glucose (mg/dl)	206.58 ± 83.91	92.84 ± 12.71	0.0001*
Total Cholesterol (mg/dl)	188.49 ± 56.817	168.03 ± 51.87	0.022*
Triglyceride (mg/dl)	181.28 ± 93.77	121.24 ± 58.98	0.0001*
HDL-C (mg/dl)	42.58 ± 10.73	45.63 ± 12.18	0.103
LDL-C (mg/dl)	109.55 ± 53.25	98.18 ± 46.80	0.164
Fasting serum insulin (µlU/ml)	12.22 ± 9.70	11.98 ± 10.30	0.879
НОМА-β%	36.99 ± 31.30	117.61 ± 61.08	0.0001*
HOMA-S%	73.96 ± 54.28	103.82 ± 65.75	0.003*
HOMA-IR	2.66 ± 3.54	1.54 ± 1.29	0.010*
IGF2BP2 PROTEIN (pg/ml)	248.79 ± 88.41	173.29 ± 74.64	0.0001*

Comparisons were performed by independent Samples t-test; data are mean \pm SD. *P <0.05 is statistically significant ,n: number of individuals, SBP : Systolic Blood Pressure ,DBP: Diastolic Blood Pressure, BMI: Body Mass Index, HDL-C: High Density Lipoprotein-Cholesterol ,LDL-C: Low Density Lipoprotein-Cholesterol, HOMA-6 % : Homeostatic model assessment of θ -cell function ,HOMA-S%: Homeostatic model assessment of insulin sensitivity , HOMA-IR; Homeostatic model assessment of insulin resistance,IGF2BP2: insulin growth factor 2 mRNA binding protein 2.

Table 2. Genotypes distribution and allele frequencies of the *IGF2BP2* gene variant (rs4402960) in T2DM patients and Controls

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	Controls n=76	Diabetic Patients n=76	OR (95% CI)	χ^2	P value	
Genotype						
G/G	35 (46.0%) ^a	27 (35.5 %)				
G/T	37 (48.7 %)	32 (42.1 %)	$1.12 (0.56 - 2.23)^b$	0.1055	0.745	
T/T	4 (5.3%)	17 (22.4 %)	5.51 (1.66 - 18.28) ^c	8.8106	0.003*	
Allele						
G	107 (70.4 %)	86 (56.6 %)	1.82 (1.14 to 2.93) ^d	6.2579	0.012*	
T	45 (29.6 %)	66 (43.4 %)				

Comparisons were performed by the chi-square test (χ^2), CI: confidence interval, OR: odds ratio, a: Data is represented as number and %,b: GT vs.GG, c: TT vs. GG, d: T vs. G, *P <0.05 is statistically significant.

Table 3. Genetic models of the *IGF2BP2* gene variant (rs4402960) in T2DM patients and Controls

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Genetic Models	Controls	Diabetic Patients	OR (95% CI)	P value
Additive				
GG	35 (46.0%) ^a	27 (35.5 %)	5.51 (1.66-18.30)	0.003*
TT	4 (5.3%)	17 (22.4 %)		
Recessive				
TT	4 (5.3%)	17 (22.4 %)	5.18 (1.66-16.25)	0.002*
GG+GT	72(94.7%)	59(77.6%)	,	
Dominant				
GG	35 (46.0%)	27 (35.5 %)	1.55 (0.81-2.97)	0.188
GT+TT	41(54.0%)	49(64.5%)	ĺ	
Co-dominant				
GG	35 (46.0%) ^a	27 (35.5 %)	4.91 (1.50-16.11) ^b	0.000*
GT	37 (48.7 %)	32 (42.1 %)	4.91 (1.50-16.11)*	0.009*
TT	4 (5.3%)	17 (22.4 %)	1	

Comparisons were performed by the chi-square test (χ^2), CI: confidence interval, OR: odds ratio, a: Data is represented as number and %, b: GT vs.TT, *P <0.05 is statistically significant.

Additive model (TT vs. GG), recessive model (TT vs. GG+GT), dominant model (GG vs. +GT+TT), and co-dominant model (GG vs. GT vs. TT).

 Table 4. Clinical and biochemical measurements among T2DM

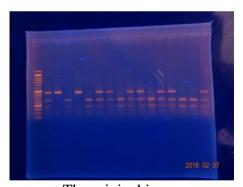
patients according to the genotype distribution

Variables)VGG (n=2)9GT+TT (n=4	P value
AGE (Years)	58.22 ± 7.55	55.57 ± 6.90	0.125
Disease duration (Years)	7.56 ± 4.29	6.41 ± 4.59	0.286
SBP (mmHg)	134.81 ± 19.24	132.10 ± 18.49	0.580
DBP (mmHg)	95.19 ± 13.62	92.65 ± 13.74	0.443
BMI (kg/m2)	32.72 ± 4.65	31.27 ± 6.20	0.291
Waist Circumference (cm)	110.96 ± 11.02	109.18 ± 12.22	0.532
Fasting plasma glucose (mg/dl)	179.78 ± 56.80	221.35 ± 92.89	0.038*
Total Cholesterol (mg/dl)	195.85 ± 58.68	184.43 ± 55.96	0.405
Triglyceride (mg/dl)	177.07 ± 104.92	183.59 ± 88.10	0.774
HDL-C (mg/dl)	42.07 ± 12.20	42.86 ± 9.96	0.763
LDL-C (mg/dl)	118.22 ± 55.27	104.80 ± 52.11	0.296
Fasting serum insulin (µlU/ml)	12.70 ± 9.82	11.96 ± 9.72	0.751
НОМА-β%	47.3 ± 42.21	31.36 ± 21.80	0.033*
HOMA-S%	70.46 ± 49.45	75.89 ± 57.16	0.679
HOMA-IR	1.97 ± 1.72	3.04 ± 4.19	0.210
IGF2BP2 PROTEIN (pg/ml)	245.00 ± 82.87	240.90 ± 85.00	0.840

Comparisons were performed by independent Samples t-test; data are mean $\pm SD$. *P < 0.05 is statistically significant ,n: number of individuals, SBP: Systolic Blood Pressure ,DBP: Diastolic Blood Pressure, BMI: Body Mass Index, HDL-C: High Density Lipoprotein-Cholesterol, LDL-C: Low Density Lipoprotein-Cholesterol, HOMA- β %: Homeostatic model assessment of β -cell function, HOMA-S%: Homeostatic model assessment of insulin sensitivity, HOMA-IR; Homeostatic model assessment of insulin resistance,IGF2BP2: insulin growth factor 2 mRNA binding protein 2.



Figure 1. Agarose gel electrophoresis of restriction digests of PCR products of *IGF2BP2* gene using MboII restriction enzyme on 2%(w/v) agarose gel. M:50 bp Marker, lanes 3, 5 and 8 are GG genotypes, lanes 1, 6 and 7 are GT genotypes and lanes 2 and 4 are TT genotypes for T2DM patients. Lanes 11, 14 and 15 are GG genotypes, lanes 9, 10, 12 and 13 are GT genotypes for controls.



The original image

DISCUSSION

The *IGF2BP2* is one of the genes identified through GWAS to be associated with T2DM, which has been repeatedly confirmed among different ethnic populations (**Zeggini et al., 2007**), many studies confirmed the association of (rs4402960) SNP of *IGF2BP2* gene with T2DM, but other studies reported no association between this SNP

and T2DM. Moreover, subsequent replication studies in different populations yielded inconsistent results.

Our results showed a strong association of *IGF2BP2* SNP with T2DM under several genetic models. In previous study on Lebanese Arab population, *IGF2BP2* gene variant (rs4402960) was associated with T2DM (P=6.5x10⁻⁶) under several genetic models with calculated OR values of 1.60 (**Nemr et al., 2012**). Also, for rs4402960 variant, significant association with T2DM was identified in Moroccan population under additive (P=0.009) and recessive (P=0.003) models with calculated OR value of 1.34 (**Benrahma., 2014**), and with T2DM (OR=1.86, 95% CI=1.34–2.58, P<10⁻⁴) in Tunisian population (**Lasram et al., 2015**). The results of the current study were in contrast to those reported by **Ibrahim et al. (2016**) who found that no association of (rs4402960) variant of *IGF2BP2* gene with T2DM in Sudanese population.

Several large-scale population studies reported an association between *the IGF2BP2* rs4402960 variant and T2DM in European populations such as Greek-Cypriot Population (**Votsi et al., 2017**), as well as in Asians such as Japanese (**Iwata et al., 2012**) and Chinese (**Rao et al., 2016**). In contrast, other studies on Norwegians (**Hertel et al., 2008**), Indians (**Kommoju et al., 2013**) and Russian population (**Chistiakov et al., 2012**) did not detect the association of *IGF2BP2* variant (rs4402960) with T2DM.

The insignificant associations found in other ethnic populations could be explained by study design, sample size or the limited number of studies which had insufficient statistical power to detect a slight effect (Han et al., 2010). Also, some studies have examined several genetic models (Nemr et al., 2012), while other studies have examined only the additive model (Hertel et al., 2008).

The present study revealed that (GT+TT) genotypes of (rs4402960) variant of *IGF2BP2* gene carriers of diabetic patients showed significantly higher fasting plasma glucose levels as compared with carriers of GG genotype. **Zhang et al.** (**2014**) reported that T2DM patients with the T allele had higher FPG (P<0.01) and 2-h PPG (P<0.05) levels than those with the GG genotype.

In our study, the diabetic patients who carried (GT+TT) genotype of IGF2BP2 SNP (rs4402960) were associated with significant reduction of homeostatic model assessment of β -cell function (HOMA- β %) compared with carriers of GG genotype. The association of this SNP

with HOMA- β reduction suggested that *IGF2BP2* gene variant (rs4402960) confers T2DM risk through a reduction of β -cell function (**Huang et al., 2010**).

Our data revealed significant elevation of serum IGF2BP2 protein in diabetic patients compared to control subjects (P<0.05). The high level of IGF2BP2 protein suggested that up-regulation of IGF2BP2 in T2DM could influence insulin-like growth factor 2 (IGF2) levels, as IGF2BP2 binds to the 5'-UTR of the IGF2 mRNAs, influencing the protein levels (**Dai et al., 2011**). IGF2 overexpression in islets leads to islet dysfunction and makes them more vulnerable to β -cell damage and immune attack in mice (**Casellas et al., 2015**).

The exact biological role of IGF2BP2 in the pathogenesis of T2DM is not well elucidated, multiple studies have suggested that IGF2BP2 polymorphisms were associated with an impaired pancreatic β -cell function (**Zeggini et al., 2007**).

Interactions between genetic variation in IGF2BP2 and T2DM may be exerted through the IGF2 pathway and through the insulin pathway. In addition, IGF2BP2 has been demonstrated to affect first-phase insulin secretion and the disposition index during hyperglycemic clamps. It is possible that IGF2BP2 would reduce the size or number of β -cells by sequestering IGF2 mRNA in these cells, resulting in a reduced insulin secretion (**Rodriguez et al., 2010**).

In conclusion, In this study, we validated that the *IGF2BP2* polymorphism (rs4402960) may be associated with the development of T2DM and the *IGF2BP2* may be a susceptibility gene for T2DM in Egyptian population resident in Ismailia city.

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الملخص العربى

المورّث متعدد الأشكال المسئول عن تصنيع البروتين الرابط رقم ٢ لعامل النمو شبيه الانسولين رقم ٢ لدى المرضى المصريين بداء البوال السكري النوع الثاني

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يعرف داء البوال السكري من النوع الثاني بانه خلل مزمن في الايض (اضطراب في استقلاب المجلوكوز) بسبب عدة عوامل وراثية و بيئية ، ويتميز بارتفاع معدل السكر في الدم نتيجة مقاومة الانسولين و نقص نسبى في افرازه.

البروتين الرابط رقم ٢ لعامل النمو شبيه الانسولين رقم ٢ هو بروتين يصنع بواسطة الجين الواقع في الكروموسوم رقم ثلاثة في الانسان. يخلق هذا البروتين في معظم الانسجة اثناء النمو و التطور الجنيني حيث يلعب دور حيوي في نمو الاعضاء. كما ان هذا المركب الحيوي يلعب دورا هاما في تنظيم و استنساخ الحمض النووي الريبوزي الناقل لبروتين عامل النمو شبيه الانسولين رقم ٢ والذي بدوره يسهم في انتاج ووظيفة هرمون الأنسولين.

هدفت هذه الدراسة الى التحقق من المكانية العلاقة بين المغاير الجيني ال اس ٢٩٦٠ في جين البروتين الرابط رقم ٢ لعامل النمو شبيه الانسولين رقم ٢ و مرض البوال السكري من النوع الثاني في المرضى المصربين المقيمين في مدينة الاسماعيلية.

تم قياس مستوى بروتين جين البروتين الرابط رقم ٢ لعامل النمو شبيه الانسولين رقم ٢ في مصل الدم بواسطة الاليزا، كذلك استخدمت تقنية تفاعل البلمرة المتسلسل الكمي لتحديد الانماط الجينية لهذا الجين، وقد كشفت نتائج الدراسة عن زيادة ذو دلالة احصائية في البديل الجيني (T) بالمقارنة مع البديل الجيني (G) وفي معدل مستوى البروتين الناتج من جين البروتين الرابط رقم ٢ لعامل النمو شبيه الانسولين رقم ٢ في عينات المرضى مقارنة بالمجموعة الضابطة.

وفقا للنمط الجيني للمرضى، وجد ارتفاع ذو دلالة احصائية في معدل مستوى السكر في الدم و انخفاض ذو دلالة احصائية في معامل وظيفة خلايا بيتا في البنكرياس (HOMA-β%) في حاملي النمط الجيني (GG).

ايضاً، كشفت نتائج الدراسة عن ارتفاع ذو دلالة احصائية في مؤشر كتلة الجسم، معدل مستوى السكر في الدم صائم، معدل مستوى الدهون الثلاثية و معدل مستوى الكوليسترول الدم المرضى عنه في الأصحاء، وكذلك اختلاف ذو دلالة احصائية في معامل HOMA بين المجموعتين.

نستنتج من هذه الدراسة ان المغاير الجيني (ار اس ٢٩٦٠ ٤٤) عند نيوكليوتيد (G/T) الواقع في جين البروتين الرابط رقم ٢ لعامل النمو شبيه الانسولين رقم ٢ له علاقة ذو دلالة احصائية بخطورة الاصابة بمرض البوال السكري من النوع الثاني في المجتمع المصري. وقد اوصت هذه الدراسة بضرورة اجراء دراسات مستقبلية تشمل أعداداً كبيرة من المرضى والأشخاص الأصحاء في مصر لتأكيد نتائج هذه الدراسة ، وكذلك دراسة المغايرات الجينية الاخرى الواقعة على هذا الجين وعلاقتها بمرض البوال السكري من النوع الثاني.