**Original article**

**A bi-directional Mendelian randomization study of glycemic and anthropometric traits and**

**Parkinson's disease**

**Running head:** Glucose, body weight and Parkinson's disease

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**Character count:**

Title: 96, Running head: 39

**Number of words:**

Abstract: 350, Body of the Manuscript: 2999 (Excluding abstract and references)

Number of Figures: 2; Number of Tables: 3

**Key points**

**Question:** Are glucose and obesity associated with Parkinson's disease?

**Findings:** Using bi-directional Mendelian randomization (MR) approach, and using Parkinson disease

(PD) as an exposure, our study found that a 1-log odds increase in genetic predisposition to PD was

associated with 0.0188 mmol/l increase in fasting glucose concentration. The genetic predisposition to PD

was also associated with a 5.4% lower risk of type-2 diabetes (T2D). We found that a 1-SD increase in

waist-hip ratio (WHR) was associated with a 26.5% lower risk of PD in the European population, likely

to be mediated via body mass index.

**Meaning:** A strong genetic predisposition towards glucose tolerance was observed in PD patients. and

PD patients are protective against T2D. Further, an increase in WHR lowers the risk of PD.  Our study

thereby suggests potential roles of body fat distribution and glycemic traits on PD symptomatology.

**Abstract**

**Importance:** Impaired glucose and obesity are known characteristics of patients with PD, although it is

unclear whether the dysfunction precedes or results from the neurodegeneration.

**Objective:** To assess whether glycemic traits and anthropometric traits can influence the risk of PD in

33,674 cases and 449,056 healthy controls using Mendelian randomization (MR) framework.

**Design, setting, and participants:** We investigated causality with a two-sample bidirectional MR

approach in the European population. We used the inverse variance-weighted (IVW), weighted median

(WME), and weighted mode (MBE) methods to compute effect estimates with summary statistics from

available meta-analyses of genome-wide association studies (GWAS) on glycemic and anthropometric

traits that used discovery cohorts. We conducted sensitivity analyses with prioritized genetic instruments

that used different study designs including employment of different study cohorts and body mass index

(BMI) adjusted exposures, and exclusion of overlapping samples between risk factors and outcome

datasets, and potential pleiotropic genetic instruments.

**Main outcome and measures**: PD, glycemic and anthropometric traits

**Results**: We observed a risky effect of PD on fasting glucose (FG) (IVW: $\beta = 0.0188$ per log-odds of PD;

95% CI 0.0062–0.0313, p-value = 0.0055). We further observed a protective effect of PD on type 2

diabetes (T2D) (WME: OR = 0.946 per log-odds of PD; 95% CI 0.929–0.983, p-value = 0.0051). A direct

causal role of waist-hip ratio (WHR) was also observed in PD (IVW OR = 0.735; 95% CI = 0.622-0.868

per 1-SD of WHR, p = 0.0003). However, the association was lost after WHR was adjusted for body mass

index (BMI) (IVW OR = 0.889; 95% CI = 0.779-1.037 per 1-SD of WHR adjusted for BMI, p = 0.1429)

indicating that the observed association is mediated via BMI The associations were further retained after

the exclusion of overlapping UK Biobank (UKB) samples in the PD dataset.

**Conclusions and relevance:** Our results showed that PD patients are glucose tolerant with protection

against T2D. Furthermore, central obesity may be protective against PD development, independent of

glucose levels.  The implication of different indices of glycemic control and body fat distribution on the

PD symptomatology deserves further investigation.

**Keywords:** Mendelian randomization, Causal inference, Neurodegenerative disorders, Parkinson's

disease, Glycemic traits, Type 2 diabetes, body weight, anthropometric traits

**Introduction**

The lack of neuroprotective or disease-modifying therapy has considerably hampered the management of

PD. However, several recent preclinical and clinical studies have shown the potential beneficial effects of

pharmacotherapy that promotes blood glucose-dependent insulin secretion and weight reduction on PD[1,2].

86              Traditionally, insulin has been implicated in the general hormonal regulation of glucose

metabolism, as insulin crosses the blood-brain barrier to modulate brain energy homeostasis, with a minor

contribution from internal neuronal secretion[3]. Several studies have demonstrated an association between

impaired cortical glucose metabolism in specific brain regions and cognitive decline in patients with

PD[4,5]. Preclinical studies in insulin-resistant models of neurodegeneration have shown the influence of

insulin on dopaminergic cell death and dopamine expression, which induce severe motor and anxiety-like

behavior[6-8]. Recently, T2D – characterized by high blood sugar, insulin resistance, and low insulin levels

– was shown to be associated with higher motor scores in patients with PD [9]. Change in body weight is

also long known to occur during the clinical course of Parkinson's disease (PD) and with the treatment of

PD. A handful of observational studies with highly heterogeneous epidemiological study designs have

investigated the association of body weight with PD, showing conflicting results[10-12].

97              Mendelian randomization (MR) has recently evolved as an alternative statistical approach that

can, against potential confounding, judge potential causal relationships between risk factors (e.g. altered

glucose metabolism or body mass index) and an outcome (e.g. PD)[13,14]. In principle, MR allows the use of

genetic variants as proxy representatives of exposure from one population to test an association with an

outcome in a completely independent population[15]. Genetic variants are randomly distributed at birth, and

the process mimics the randomization of exposure in randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and, thereby,

addresses hidden confounding factors[16].

To date, MR studies exploring the causal role of altered glucose or insulin homeostasis in PD are

lacking. However, our previously published study explored the role of body mass index (BMI) on PD[17]

and showed a protective role of body mass index (BMI) (OR = 0.82, 95% CI = 0.69-0.98)[17]. Most

recently, the availability of GWAS datasets from the UK Biobank has further made possible to take

advantage of increased power associated with a higher sample size by meta-analyzing it with previously

existing large scale consortium datasets on various phenotypes of interest[18-20].

In the present study, we expanded the spectrum of assessing the impact and influence of several

glycemic traits including 2-hour post-challenge glucose (2hrGlu), fasting glucose (FG), fasting insulin

(FI), fasting insulin (FPI), homeostasis model assessment of β-cell function (HOMA-B); homeostasis

model assessment of insulin resistance (HOMA-IR); glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c), Modified Stumvoll

Insulin Sensitivity Index (ISI),  and T2D and anthropometric traits include body metabolic index (BMI),

waist-hip ratio (WHR), waist circumference (WC), hip circumference (HC), adult height (AH) and birth

weight (BW) on PD. We used inverse variance-weighted (IVW), MR-Egger, weighted median (WME),

and weighted mode methods (MBE) to investigate the direct causal role of glycemic traits and

anthropometric traits on PD[18-30]. As a secondary analysis, we further employed a reverse directional MR

to confirm our findings.

**Methods**

**Study design and identification of datasets**

We conducted a two-sample MR study through the use of summary estimates to examine the lifelong

effect of glycemic and anthropometric traits on the risk of PD in the European population. We reviewed

the most recent meta-analyses of discovery GWAS datasets in the literature and identified genetic

instruments that influence glycemic traits including 2hGlu, FG, FI, HOMA-B, HOMA-IR, HbA1c, ISI,

T2D and anthropometric traits including BMI, WHR, WC, HC, AH, and BW [18,20-30] (**Table 1**). With

respect to the outcome dataset, we used the discovery cohort of a recent meta-analysis of GWAS on

33674 PD cases and 449056 controls[19]. We further identified genetic variants representing proxy markers

of PD by using the same study to conduct a reverse directional MR.

**Prioritization of genetic variants**

We extracted significant SNPs from each GWAS dataset by employing a cutoff of $5\times10^{-8}$. All SNPs with

F-statistics <10 were further excluded for a possible violation of MR Assumption I[31]. Loci known to be

directly involved in PD were also excluded for a possible violation of MR Assumption III, based on the

existing evidence from previously published GWAS studies and relevant literature[32].A clumping window

of 10,000 kb and linkage disequilibrium (LD; i.e. $r^2$) cutoff of 0.001 was applied in the European

population in the 1000Genome Phase 3v5 dataset to identify the leading SNP that represents each

significantly associated locus[33]. If a specific leading SNP was not available in the PD dataset, a proxy

SNP ($r^2 > 0.8$) was identified by using the European population in the 1000Genome Phase 3v5 dataset,

when possible. The statistical power to detect a causal association was calculated by the method described

by Brion et al [34]. Based on the method, we used a sample size of outcome dataset of 482750 with a

7.498% as proportion of PD patients in the dataset, a continuous exposure with a variance ≥1% and a

threshold p-value of $3.3 \times 10^{-3}$ (see the section below).

**Effect estimation using MR and test of pleiotropy**

The IVW effect method with second-order weights was employed as the primary method to compute

causal effect estimates[35]. We applied a conservative Bonferroni correction to account for 15 independent

tests (threshold p-value = $3.3 \times 10^{-3}$, i.e. 0.05/15). We used Cochrane Q-statistics and $I^2$ for the IVW

method as well as Rucker's Q-statistics and the Intercept deviation test with MR-Egger's method [36-39].

**Sensitivity analysis**

We employed MR-Egger, WME, and MBE methods to check the reliability of estimates with varying

proportions of pleiotropic variants, as previously explained[37,39-42]. We further compared the results with

genetic instruments from studies that reported discovery, replication, and pooled cohorts. The BMI has

been shown to influence the role of glycemic and anthropometric traits on several diseases, including

PD[43]. Therefore, we estimated the effect of genetic instruments adjusted for BMI for 2hrGlu, FG, FI, ISI,

T2D, and WHR to identify their overall influence on the causal effect estimates for PD. A summary of

GWAS datasets used to study the influence of GWAS study design and BMI adjusted datasets is provided

in **Supplementary Table 1**. We employed a leave-one and leave-one-group-out cross-validation

approach to check the influence of outlier variants as well as that of variants known to be associated with

confounders of the relationship between glycemic, and anthropometric traits and PD. In addition, we

employed graphical approaches, including a scatter plot of individual SNP-level effect estimates among

exposure and outcome datasets and a funnel plot of the spread of inverse of the standard error of

individual SNP-level effect estimates, around the effect estimates computed by various MR methods. We

used the Phenoscanner database to identify potential pleiotropic genetic instruments that are known to be

associated with potential confounders[44]. To avoid the overlapping of samples from UK Biobank, which

has been included in recently published GWAS, we computed casual effect estimates by using PD

datasets without UK biobank samples, as used in the previous study (9,581 PD cases and 33,245

controls)[32,45,46].

**Results**

**Prioritization of genetic instruments and power analysis**

The depth of genomic coverage and number of individuals in different discovery GWAS datasets on have

been provided in **Table 1**. The table further shows variance explained by genetic instruments for different

exposure datasets and availability of genetic instruments in the PD dataset.

Our power analysis suggest that our study has ≈80% power to detect a true OR of 1.210 or 0.789

for PD per SD of the continuous phenotype assuming that the proportion of the continuous phenotype

explained by the genetic instrument is ≥1% at a type 1 error rate of $3.3 \times 10^{-3}$.

**Effect estimation and sensitivity analysis**

The direct and reverse causal effect estimates of glycemic traits and anthropometric traits with PD are

shown in **Tables 2** and **3**, both of which also provides various measures to evaluate the robustness of the

effect estimates. Overall summary data used to compute effect estimates and sensitivity analysis are

presented in **Supplementary Table 2**

Using a bidirectional MR approach, we observed a risky casual effect of PD on FG using IVW

and MR Egger methods (**Table 3**). We observed a protective role of PD on T2D with the WME and MBE

methods (**Table 3**). We observed high heterogeneity (76.8%) in the association of PD with T2D which

could be attributed to the small number of genetic variants used as instruments for PD. However, the

pleiotropic tests demonstrated there was a negligible effect on the overall results (MR-Egger intercept p-

value = 0.4711 and Rucker's test statistic/Cochrane Q-statistic = 0.9685). The distribution of individual

SNP-level effect estimates along with the effect estimates computed through different MR methods for

the effect of PD on FG and T2D are shown as scatter and funnel plots in **Figure 1**. Our sensitivity

analysis excluding individual SNPs in the causal effect estimation of PD on both FG and T2D failed to

show the influence of outlier or potential pleiotropic SNP, thereby confirming the robustness of our

findings (**Supplementary Table 3**).

The observed findings were further confirmed by the absence of the causal effect of any of the

glycemic traits, including FG and T2D on PD. This lack of association further persisted when we used

genetic instruments that were prioritized from a small proportion of moderately associated SNPs which

were followed up in a pooled cohort for 2hGlu, FG, FI, and FPI (**Supplementary Table 4**). Similarly, no

association was observed for HOMA-B and HOMA-IR where genetic instruments were available for the

replication cohorts.  In addition, we did not observe any influence of the BMI-adjusted instruments that

were available for 2hrGlu, FG, FI, and T2D, regardless of the GWAS study cohort that was used to

extract the instrument (**Supplementary Table 4**). With respect to other glycemic traits, we could not find

genetic instruments for ISI. However, we were able to evaluate the causality using the genetic instruments

for BMI adjusted ISI phenotype. We observed association using genetic instruments prioritized from the

discovery cohort only. However, the observed association could not withstand the Bonferroni's

correction.

Among all the anthropometric traits, we observed a significant protective effect of WHR on PD

(**Table 2**). However, we observed loss of association when we used genetic instruments for WHR, which

was adjusted for BMI, suggesting that the role of BMI in influencing genetic predisposition to PD. Using

the phenoscanner database, out of 357 SNPs WHR associated SNPs employed in causal effect analysis;

we further identified a total of 127 pleiotropic SNPs that have been previously shown to be associated

with non-anthropometric traits such as blood cell count, glycemic traits, lipid levels, and respiratory

capacity (Data not shown). Our sensitivity analysis by excluding these pleiotropic SNPs demonstrated

existence of protective trend in the effect estimate (OR = 0.801, 95% CI = 0.640-1.00, p = 0.052).

However, the loss of association may be attributed to the overall loss of variance in the genetic instrument

used for the sensitivity analysis.

Lastly, to rule out the effect of week instrument bias on account of overlapping UKB samples, we

used PD dataset without UKB samples. The protective effect of PD on T2D as well as the risky effect of

WHR on PD were retained suggesting the reliability of the observed findings (PD on T2D: WME: OR =

0.954, 95% CI = 0.938–0.970, p = 0.0094; MBE: OR=0.949, 95% CI = 0.916–0.983, p-value=0.0084)

(Data not shown).

**Additional analysis**

Our findings further motivated us to explore the triangulation relationship between the traits shown to be

related to PD using MR approach. We observed a bidirectional causal relationship between T2D and FG

as well as T2D and WHR (**Figure 2**) (Data not shown). We further observed WHR as a risk factor for a

higher FG with the absence of any effect of FG on WHR (**Figure 2**).

**Discussion**

The present study using a bi-directional MR aimed to understand the role of glycemic and anthropometric

on PD, and observed that PD patients showed higher glucose tolerance, strong protective effect against

T2D. Furthermore, an increase in WHR showed protection against PD; the observed effect is mediated

via BMI.

The results observed in our present study provided further evidence regarding the role of glucose

metabolism in PD, and and data obtained herein is in agreement with the previously published

epidemiological studies. For example, a recent study reported significantly higher blood glucose at T90 (p

= 0.04) and T150 (p = 0.01)  in 50 non-diabetic PD patients compared to 50 healthy controls during a 75g

oral glucose tolerance test, with no significant increase in insulin levels[43]. The study also reported that

higher blood glucose levels were associated with higher BMI (p<0.0001). Another recent longitudinal

study identified high blood glucose as a risk marker for PD progression[47]. The 48 month follow-up study

exploring the role of 44 clinical variables in 135 patients with early PD, identified high FG levels

(p=0.013) and T2D (p=0.033), among several other factors as significant predictors of annual cognitive

decline in PD. The study further observed significant differences in the baseline levels of glucose when

compared to 109 healthy controls. Our results are henceforth consent with these results suggesting that

PD promotes dysregulation of glucose metabolism.

Several cohort studies have previously explored the influence of pre-existing T2D on the

predisposition to PD with contradictory results. A prospective follow-up of 147,096 predominantly

Caucaisn participants in the Cancer Prevention Study II Nutrition Cohort from the United States found no

association of the history of diabetes with PD risk (RR 0.88; 95% CI 0.62–1.25)[48]. Another study that

comprised two large US cohorts – the Nurses' Health Study (121,046 women) and the Health

Professionals Follow-up Study (50,833 men) – observed similar results (RR 1.04, 95% CI 0.74–1.46)[49]. In

contrast, a follow-up study in 51,552 Finnish individuals demonstrated an increased incidence of PD

among patients with T2D (HR 1.85, 95% CI 1.23–2.80)[50]. Most recently, a meta-analysis of four cohort

studies (3284 PD cases and 32, 695 diabetes cases) confirmed the finding that the onset of diabetes was a

risk factor for PD (RR 1.37, 95% CI 1.21–1.55)[51]. However, the same study reported the absence of an

association in pooled populations of five case-control studies (6487 PD cases and 1387 diabetes cases;

OR 0.75, 95% CI 0.50–1.11). In summary, the findings of the association between T2D and PD have been

highly heterogeneous and could be attributed to variables such as different study populations and

epidemiological study designs. Our MR study further suggests that the onset of T2D has no lifetime risk

in the predisposition to PD. On the other hand, we show that a genetic predisposition to PD could lower

the lifetime risk to T2D by 4–5%. In conclusion, our study suggests that individuals with PD are less

likely to develop T2D when compared to the general population.

Dopamine neurotransmission in human brain is known to modulate rewarding properties of food.

Previous studies have further shown that dopamine receptors are under-expressed in obese individuals,

thereby initiating a feedback look to compensate for lower dopamine secretion [52]. It is however not known

whether an altered dopaminergic metabolism in overweight individuals could influence the onset of PD.

Numerous observational studies have previously explored the association between obesity and PD with

mixed results. A recent meta-analysis of ten cohort studies with 2706 PD cases showed absence of

association of BMI with PD[11]. In contrast, a recent nationwide health check-up data for the whole South

Korean population comprising 44,205 incident cases identified risky association of abdominal obesity

with PD (HR: 1.13, 95% CI: 1.10-1.16)[10]. In our study, we observed a risk reduction of 26.5% with every

one standard deviation (SD) increase in WHR. Our results are in contrast with a previously reported

protective causal association of BMI with PD, which observed a risk reduction of 18%. However, since

the publication of last MR study, both exposure and outcome datasets have seen an enormous addition of

new samples with increased genomic coverage.  The observation of a protective role of WHR henceforth

adds novelty to our results.

Despite our inability to stratify patients by age, our study has several strengths. We adopted a

comprehensive approach that included several known markers of insulin metabolism, including FG, FI,

2hrGlu, FPI, HOMA-B, HOMA-IR, HbA1c, ISI, and T2D. However, we observed that the genetic

instruments for FI, HOMA-B, and HOMA-IR explained a very low amount of variance and, therefore,

potential causation with PD might not be completely ruled out. Although we demonstrated a consistent

reverse causal association of T2D with PD using different MR methods, we did not observe similar

results with HbA1C, which is a known biomarker for prediabetes or diabetes. One of the reasons for this

could be that the GWAS on HbA1c with 123,491 individuals from the general population was

underpowered when compared to the GWAS on T2D that included 898,129 individuals[22,23]. Another

important limitation of this study could be the unavailability of individual-level data, which could have

enabled us to confirm the absence of pleiotropic variants by using various potential confounding variables

between PD and T2D. The possibility of a lack of pre-existing GWAS on some of the potential

confounding variables cannot be ruled out. Lastly, we could not conduct a causal association analysis

among different glycemic traits within PD patients. Nevertheless, our study suggest importance of

collection of such data in near future.

Despite these limitations, to the best of our knowledge, our study represents one of the most

comprehensive studies, to date, that has explored the potential causal role of glycemic and anthropometric

traits on PD. An extensive sensitivity analysis demonstrated the role of PD in altered glucose metabolism

independent of insulin activity. Furthermore, we showed that despite high fasting glucose levels, PD

patients are protective against T2D. On the contrary, anthropometric traits mainly WHR and BMI may

play a role in conferring protection against PD. We further suggest the adoption of a cautionary approach

when drawing clinical interpretations from the results of the current study, because additional lines of

evidence may be generated, including the potential complex relationship of anthropometric, glycemic and

PD with other unexplored traits.

**Author contributions**

| Name | Location | Role | Contributions |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sandeep Grover | University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany | Author | Designed and conceptualized the study; conducted data extraction; analyzed the data; drafted the manuscript; and revised the final draft |
| Ricarda Graf | Universität zu Lübeck, Germany | Author | Contributed to preliminary statistical analysis |
| Alastair Noyce | Queen Mary University of London | Author | Revised the final draft. |
| Manu Sharma, | University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany | Author | Supervised the overall study and revised the final draft. |

**Acknowledgements**

Data on PD GWAS was contributed by IPDGC team and downloaded from https://pdgenetics.org/. Data

on glycemic traits were contributed by MAGIC investigators and downloaded from

www.magicinvestigators.org. Data on T2D were contributed by DIAGRAM investigators and

downloaded from www.diagram-consortium.org. Data on BMI, WHR,WC, HC and height were provided

by GIANT consortium and downloaded from https://portals.broadinstitute.org/collaboration/giant/. Data

on birth weight was provided by EEG consortium and downloaded from https://egg-consortium.org/.

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**Table 1.** Details of discovery GWAS datasets explored and prioritized instruments used for direct and reverse causal analysis in the present study. Direct analysis was done using PD as an outcome and reverse was done using glycemic traits and modifiable anthopometric traits as outcome.

| S.No. | Phenotype | Source study | Maximum sample size | P | # of SNPs analyzed | # of significant SNPs | # of significant SNPs (post-clumping) ($R^2 < 0.001$) | # of proxy SNPs | # of SNPs in the genetic instrument | Average F-statistics (Median (Range)) | $R^2$ (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Glycemic traits** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 hour glucose (2hGlu) | Saxena et al. 2010, Scott et al. 2012* | 15234, 42854 | $5 \times 10^{-8}$ | 2401708 | NA | 4 | 0 | 3 | 48.9 (44.8-67.4) | 1.05 |
| 2 | Fasting glucose (FG) | Manning et al. 2012 | 58074 | $5 \times 10^{-8}$ | 2628879 | 505 | 22 | 0 | 22 | 41.8 (29.8-455.9) | 4.80 |
| 3 | Fasting insulin (FI) | Manning et al. 2012 | 51750 | $5 \times 10^{-8}$ | 2627848 | 34 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 35.6 (32.7-40.2) | 1.20 |
| 4 | Fasting proinsulin (FPI) | Strawbridge et al. 2011 | 10701 | $5 \times 10^{-8}$ | 2496073 | 407 | 8 | 0 | 8 | 53.7 (31.7-189) | 1.92 |
| 5 | Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) | Wheeler et al. 2017 | 123491 | $5 \times 10^{-8}$ | 2586698 | 821 | 38 | 0 | 38 | 46.7 (28.7-288) | 0.48 |
| 6 | Homeostasis model assessment of β-cell function (HOMA-B) | Dupuis et al. 2010 | 36466 | $5 \times 10^{-8}$ | 2456945 | 119 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 69.8 (33.4-123) | 0.17 |
| 7 | Homeostasis model assessment of insulin resistance (HOMA-IR) | Dupuis et al. 2010 | 37037 | $5 \times 10^{-8}$ | 2458073 | 0 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| 8 | Modified stumvoll insulin sensitivity index (ISI) | Walford et al. 2016 | 16753 | $5 \times 10^{-8}$ | 2423410 | 0 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| 9 | Type 2 Diabetes (T2D) | Mahajan et al. 2018 | 74123 cases/824006 controls | $5 \times 10^{-8}$ | 23465132 | 19227 | 202 | NA | 202 | 47.6 (29.2-2018) | NA |
| **Anthopoimetric traits** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Body mass index (BMI) | Pulit et al. 2019 | 694649 | $5 \times 10^{-8}$ | 27381302 | 85104 | 548 | 2 | 548 | 49.0 (28.4-2030.6) | 5.77 |
| 2 | Waist hip ratio (WHR) | Pulit et al. 2019 | 694649 | $5 \times 10^{-8}$ | 27376273 | 39705 | 358 | 2 | 357 | 44.0 (29.0-820.0) | 3.28 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | Waist circumference (WC) | Shungin et al. 2015 | 210088 | 5 x 10$^{-8}$ | 2565407 | 1105 | 42 | 0 | 42 | 38.1 (29.3-447.0) | 1.18 |
| 4 | Hip circumference (HC) | Shungin et al. 2015 | 210088 | 5 x 10$^{-8}$ | 2559738 | 1238 | 52 | 0 | 52 | 39.4 (27.8-378.1) | 1.36 |
| 5 | Adult height (AH) | Yengo et al. 2018 | 693529 | 5 x 10$^{-8}$ | 2334001 | 130933 | 832 | 0 | 831 | 92.2 (28.4-2209.0) | 24.6 |
| 6 | Birth weight (BW) | Horikoshi et al. 2016 | 153781 | 5 x 10$^{-8}$ | 16245523 | 2278 | 50 | 3 | 49 | 36.9 (30.4-179.8) | 2.00 |
| **Disease trait** | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Parkinson's disease (PD) | Nalls et al. 2019 | 33,674 cases, 449056** | 5 x 10$^{-8}$ | 175,137,73 | 3465 | 23 | 0-11 | 18-23 | 43.6 (30.0-181.5) | NA |

*Discovery cohort (Saxena et al. 2010) was used to identify the SNPs, while effect estimates were taken from pooled cohort (Scott et al. 2012).

** The significant SNPs were identified from the Nalls et al. 2014 but the effect estimates were derived from a sub-population (without 23andMe cohort). Two SNPs were not available in the available GWAS dataset.

**Table 2a.** Causal effect estimates using different Mendelian randomization methods and heterogeneity analysis of causal effect estimates for Parkinson' disease using various glycemic traits as exposures.

| Trait* | MR methodology | # of SNPs | Direct causal effect estimates | | | Tests of heterogeneity | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | OR | 95% CI | p | | |
| 2 hour glucose (2hGlu) | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 3 | 0.9260 | 0.563-1.523 | 0.5749 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.8253 |
| | MR Egger | | 0.7160 | nd | 0.7786 | I square (IVW) | 0.0% |
| | Weighted median method | | 0.8930 | 0.786-1.016 | 0.4738 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | 0.7984 |
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | 0.8850 | 0.650-1.204 | 0.5173 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | 0.5427 |
| | | | | | | Rucker's test statistic/ Cochrane Q-statistic | 0.8229 |
| Fasting glucose (FG) | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 22 | 1.1810 | 0.858-1.624 | 0.2910 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.5647 |
| | MR Egger | | 1.0000 | 0.510-1.963 | 0.9992 | I square (IVW) | 29.4% |
| | Weighted median method | | 1.1390 | 0.952-1.363 | 0.4758 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | 0.0970 |
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | 1.0520 | 0.752-1.473 | 0.7706 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | 0.0834 |
| | | | | | | Rucker's test statistic/ Cochrane Q-statistic | 0.9823 |
| Fasting insulin (FI) | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 4 | 2.4399 | 0.053-112.905 | 0.5128 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.1768 |
| | MR Egger | | nd | nd | 0.2085 | I square (IVW) | 79.0% |
| | Weighted median method | | 1.7492 | 0.895-3.417 | 0.1867 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | 0.0025 |
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | 1.4995 | 0.155-14.481 | 0.2864 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | 0.0637 |
| | | | | | | Rucker's test statistic/ Cochrane Q-statistic | 0.3851 |
| Fasting proinsulin (FPI) | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 8 | 1.0200 | 0.811-1.283 | 0.8437 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.1311 |
| | MR Egger | | 0.7356 | 0.445-1.218 | 0.1865 | I square (IVW) | 16.7% |
| | Weighted median method | | 0.8703 | 0.775-0.978 | 0.2710 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | 0.2984 |
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | 0.9213 | 0.706-0.202 | 0.5641 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | 0.4654 |

| | | | | | | Rucker's test statistic/ Cochrane Q-statistic | 0.6705 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 38 | 0.9441 | 0.625-1.500 | 0.8005 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.1183 |
| | MR Egger | | 1.7000 | 0.712-4.056 | 0.2242 | I square (IVW) | 24.4% |
| | Weighted median method | | 1.1540 | 0.879-1.517 | 0.6022 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | 0.0905 |
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | 1.1920 | 0.686-2.070 | 0.5368 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | 0.1206 |
| | | | | | | Rucker's test statistic/ Cochrane Q-statistic | 0.9422 |
| Homeostasis model assessment of β-cell function (HOMA-B) | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 4 | 1.0250 | 0.397-2.645 | 0.9392 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.7166 |
| | MR Egger | | 0.6348 | 0.004-103.727 | 0.7382 | I square (IVW) | 0.0% |
| | Weighted median method | | 1.1970 | 0.853-1.680 | 0.6328 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | 0.8413 |
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | 1.2447 | 0.514-3.011 | 0.6605 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | 0.7187 |
| | | | | | | Rucker's test statistic/ Cochrane Q-statistic | 0.7921 |
| Type 2 Diabetes (T2D) | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 202 | 1.0333 | 0.974-1.093 | 0.2780 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.9723 |
| | MR Egger | | 1.0300 | 0.911-1.165 | 0.6330 | I square (IVW) | 31.5% |
| | Weighted median method | | 1.0010 | 0.963-1.042 | 0.9700 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | <0.0001 |
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | 1.0140 | 0.928-1.109 | 0.7580 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | <0.0001 |
| | | | | | | Rucker's test statistic/ Cochrane Q-statistic | 1.0000 |

nd: Not defined

*No significant SNPs were identified for Homeostasis model assessment of insulin resistance (HOMA-IR) and Modified stumvoll insulin sensitivity index (ISI).

**Table 2b.** Causal effect estimates using different Mendelian randomization methods and heterogeneity analysis of causal effect estimates for Parkinson' disease using various anthropometric traits as exposures.

| Trait* | MR methodology | Number of SNPs | Direct causal effect estimates | | | Tests of heterogeneity | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | OR | 95% CI | p | | |
| Body mass index (BMI) | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 548 | 0.920 | 0.802-1.054 | 0.2418 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.3961 |
| | MR Egger | | 0.807 | 0.579-1.125 | 0.2046 | I square (IVW) | 25.9% |
| | Weighted median method | | 0.957 | 0.856-1.069 | 0.6906 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | <0.0001 |
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | 1.002 | 0.756-1.329 | 0.9875 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | <0.0001 |
| | | | | | | Rucker's test statistic/ Cochrane Q-statistic | 0.9988 |
| Waist hip ratio (WHR) | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 357 | 0.735 | 0.622-0.868 | 0.0003 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.1508 |
| | MR Egger | | 1.012 | 0.635-1.614 | 0.9602 | I square (IVW) | 22.0% |
| | Weighted median method | | 0.810 | 0.721-0.911 | 0.0737 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | 0.0003 |
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | 0.872 | 0.580-1.311 | 0.5098 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | 0.0003 |
| | | | | | | Rucker's test statistic/ Cochrane Q-statistic | 0.9947 |
| Waist circumference (WC) | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 42 | 0.890 | 0.678-1.169 | 0.3965 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.8559 |
| | MR Egger | | 0.946 | 0.461-1.943 | 0.8770 | I square (IVW) | 29.9% |
| | Weighted median method | | 0.944 | 0.797-1.118 | 0.7361 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | 0.0378 |
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | 0.985 | 0.695-1.396 | 0.9318 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | 0.0289 |
| | | | | | | Rucker's test statistic/ Cochrane Q-statistic | 1.0030 |
| Hip circumference (HC) | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 52 | 0.904 | 0.719-1.136 | 0.3776 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.7351 |
| | MR Egger | | 0.987 | 0.471-2.069 | 0.9727 | I square (IVW) | 34.2% |
| | Weighted median method | | 0.952 | 0.823-1.102 | 0.7402 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | 0.0097 |

| | Method | N SNPs | OR | 95% CI | p-value | Sensitivity analysis | Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | 1.009 | 0.715-1.424 | 0.9581 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | 0.0072 |
| | | | | | | Cochrane Q-staitics/Rucker's test statistic | 1.0029 |
| Adult height (AH) | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 49 | 1.024 | 0.952-1.101 | 0.5237 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.9183 |
| | MR Egger | | 1.031 | 0.885-1.201 | 0.6974 | I square (IVW) | 19.4% |
| | Weighted median method | | 0.965 | 0.911-1.021 | 0.5302 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | 0.0000 |
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | 0.883 | 0.721-1.082 | 0.2302 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | 0.0000 |
| | | | | | | Rucker's test statistic/ Cochrane Q-statistic | 1.0000 |
| Birth weight (BW) | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 831 | 1.198 | 0.926-1.549 | 0.1643 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.3284 |
| | MR Egger | | 1.779 | 0.784-4.040 | 0.1641 | I square (IVW) | 38.0% |
| | Weighted median method | | 1.291 | 1.100-1.514 | 0.1164 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | 0.0045 |
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | 1.518 | 0.919-2.507 | 0.1093 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | 0.0052 |
| | | | | | | Rucker's test statistic/ Cochrane Q-statistic | 0.9759 |

*No significant SNPs were identified for Homeostasis model assessment of insulin resistance (HOMA-IR) and Modified stumvoll insulin sensitivity index (ISI).

**Table 3a.** Causal effect estimates using different Mendelian randomization methods and heterogeneity analysis of causal effect estimates for various glycemic traits using Parkinson's disease as an exposure.

| Trait* | MR methodology | # of SNPs | Reverse causal effect estimate | | | Tests of heterogeneity | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | β or OR** | 95% CI | p | | |
| Fasting glucose (FG) | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 19 | 0.0188 | 0.0062-0.0313 | 0.0055 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.0957 |
| | MR Egger | | 0.0422 | 0.0117-0.0728 | 0.0097 | I square (IVW) | 0.0% |
| | Weighted median method | | 0.0150 | 0.0071-0.0228 | 0.0710 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | 0.4555 |
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | 0.0161 | -0.0046-0.0368 | 0.1454 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | 0.5934 |
| | | | | | | Rucker's test statistic/ Cochrane Q-statistic | 0.8349 |
| Fasting insulin (FI) | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 19 | 0.0099 | -0.0059-0.0258 | 0.2035 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.1686 |
| | MR Egger | | 0.0325 | -0.0039-0.0690 | 0.0775 | I square (IVW) | 35.7% |
| | Weighted median method | | 0.0122 | 0.0041- 0.0203 | 0.1423 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | 0.0621 |
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | 0.0190 | 0.0014-0.0366 | 0.0404 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | 0.1102 |
| | | | | | | Rucker's test statistic/ Cochrane Q-statistic | 0.8698 |
| Fasting proinsulin (FPI) | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 19 | 0.0230 | -0.0106-0.0566 | 0.1672 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.5022 |
| | MR Egger | | 0.0503 | -0.0408-0.1416 | 0.2590 | I square (IVW) | 30.7% |
| | Weighted median method | | 0.0276 | 0.0079-0.0472 | 0.1770 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | 0.1062 |
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | 0.0138 | -0.0689-0.0967 | 0.7456 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | 0.0946 |
| | | | | | | Rucker's test statistic/ Cochrane Q-statistic | 0.9698 |
| Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 19 | 0.0005 | -0.0086-0.0096 | 0.9059 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.4788 |
| | MR Egger | | 0.0082 | -0.0160-0.0325 | 0.4846 | I square (IVW) | 37.8% |
| | Weighted median method | | 0.0023 | -0.0024-0.0071 | 0.6483 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | 0.0492 |

| | Method | N | Estimate | 95% CI | p-value | Test | Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | 0.0016 | -0.0118-0.0151 | 0.8094 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | 0.0416 |
| | | | | | | Rucker's test statistic/ Cochrane Q-statistic | 0.9782 |
| Homeostasis model assessment of insulin resistance (HOMA-IR) | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 19 | 0.0086 | -0.0081-0.0254 | 0.2917 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.1701 |
| | MR Egger | | 0.0335 | -0.0066-0.0738 | 0.0960 | I square (IVW) | 15.7% |
| | Weighted median method | | 0.0142 | 0.0040-0.0244 | 0.2279 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | 0.2654 |
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | 0.0262 | -0.0072- 0.0598 | 0.1429 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | 0.3390 |
| | | | | | | Rucker's test statistic/ Cochrane Q-statistic | 0.8796 |
| Homeostasis model assessment of β-cell function (HOMA-B) | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 18 | -0.0035 | -0.0159-0.0088 | 0.5530 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.2189 |
| | MR Egger | | 0.0122 | -0.0167-0.0413 | 0.3827 | I square (IVW) | 0.0% |
| | Weighted median method | | 0.0034 | -0.0046-0.0115 | 0.6900 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | 0.7384 |
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | 0.0093 | -0.0120-0.0308 | 0.4035 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | 0.7860 |
| | | | | | | Rucker's test statistic/ Cochrane Q-statistic | 0.8770 |
| Modified stumvoll insulin sensitivity index (ISI) | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 18 | -0.0491 | -0.1062-0.0078 | 0.0866 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.4443 |
| | MR Egger | | -0.0915 | -0.2200-0.0368 | 0.1501 | I square (IVW) | 43.6% |
| | Weighted median method | | -0.0228 | -0.0511-0.0055 | 0.4516 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | 0.0252 |
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | -0.0260 | -0.0996- 0.0475 | 0.5017 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | 0.0238 |
| | | | | | | Rucker's test statistic/ Cochrane Q-statistic | 0.9622 |
| Type 2 Diabetes (T2D) | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 23 | 0.9735 | 0.9211-1.029 | 0.3258 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.4711 |
| | MR Egger | | 1.0180 | 0.886-1.170 | 0.7901 | I square (IVW) | 76.9% |
| | Weighted median method | | 0.9460 | 0.929-0.963 | 0.0051 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | <0.0001 |
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | 0.9430 | 0.904-0.983 | 0.0116 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | <0.0001 |
| | | | | | | Rucker's test statistic/ Cochrane Q-statistic | 0.9685 |

*Discovery cohort for 2 hour glucose (2hGlu) was not available.

**OR is for T2D; β is for other outcome variables

**Table 3b.** Causal effect estimates using different Mendelian randomization methods and heterogeneity analysis of causal effect estimates for various modifiable anthropometric traits using Parkinson's disease as an exposure.

| Trait* | MR methodology | Number of SNPs | Reverse causal effect estimate | | | Tests of heterogeneity | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | β | 95% CI | p | | |
| Body mass index (BMI) | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 23 | -0.005434556 | -0.0242-0.0133 | 0.5538 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.4102 |
| | MR Egger | | 0.0129 | -0.0362-0.0620 | 0.5910 | I square (IVW) | 84.6% |
| | Weighted median method | | -0.0102 | -0.0157--0.0046 | 0.0786 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | <0.0001 |
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | -0.0144 | -0.0269--0.0019 | 0.0344 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | <0.0001 |
| | | | | | | Rucker's test statistic/ Cochrane Q-statistic | 1.0006 |
| Waist hip ratio (WHR) | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 23 | -0.0077 | -0.0277-0.0122 | 0.4288 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.8462 |
| | MR Egger | | -0.0031 | -0.0562-0.0500 | 0.9035 | I square (IVW) | 84.1% |
| | Weighted median method | | -0.0019 | -0.0073-0.0034 | 0.7276 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | <0.0001 |
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | -0.0056 | -0.0246-0.0133 | 0.5644 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | <0.0001 |
| | | | | | | Rucker's test statistic/ Cochrane Q-statistic | 1.0170 |
| Waist circumference (WC) | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 19 | -0.0034 | -0.0277-0.0208 | 0.7691 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.6691 |
| | MR Egger | | 0.0084 | -0.0543-0.0712 | 0.7801 | I square (IVW) | 51.0% |
| | Weighted median method | | -0.0100 | -0.0214-0.0012 | 0.3863 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | 0.0057 |
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | -0.0128 | -0.0391-0.0135 | 0.3528 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | 0.0038 |
| | | | | | | Rucker's test statistic/ Cochrane Q-statistic | 0.9960 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Inverse variance weighted (2nd order weights) | 19 | 0.0005 | -0.0216-0.0227 | 0.9609 | MR-Egger intecept (p-value) | 0.343 |
| Hip circumference (HC) | MR Egger | | 0.0246 | -0.0320-0.0812 | 0.3724 | I square (IVW) | 39.1% |
| | Weighted median method | | 0.0090 | -0.0019-0.0201 | 0.4195 | Cochrane Q-test (IVW) (p-value) | 0.0419 |
| | Weighted mode method (NOME assumptions) | | 0.0162 | -0.0118-0.0442 | 0.2715 | Rucker's Q-test (p-value) | 0.0408 |
| | | | | | | Rucker's test statistic/ Cochrane Q-statistic | 0.9598 |