

1 **Original article**

2 **A Mendelian randomization study of glycemc and anthropometric traits and Parkinson's disease**

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

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25 **Conflict of Interest**

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35 **Abstract**

36 **Background:** Impaired glucose and obesity are frequently observed in patients with Parkinson's disease
37 (PD), although it is unclear whether the impairment precedes or results from the neurodegeneration.

38 **Objective:** We aimed to assess whether glycemic and anthropometric traits can influence the risk of PD
39 in 33,674 cases and 449,056 healthy controls using the Mendelian randomization (MR) framework.

40 **Methods:** We investigated causality with a two-sample MR approach in the European population to
41 compute effect estimates with summary statistics from available discovery meta-analyses of genome-wide
42 association studies (GWAS) on glycemic and anthropometric traits.

43 **Results:** We considered a threshold of p-value=0.0038 as significant after accounting for multiple testing,
44 and p-value<0.05 was considered to be a suggestive evidence for a potential association. We observed a
45 protective effect of waist-hip ratio (WHR) on PD (Inverse variance-weighted (IVW): OR_{IVW}=0.735;
46 95%CI= 0.622–0.868; p-value=0.0003; I² index=22.0%; MR-Egger intercept p-value=0.1508; Cochran Q
47 test p-value=0.0003). The association was further retained after the exclusion of overlapping UK biobank
48 (UKB) samples between the WHR and PD datasets (OR_{IVW}=0.791; 95%CI=0.659–0.950; p-value=0.012;
49 I² index=13.0%; MR-Egger intercept p-value=0.733; Cochran Q test p-value=0.035). The sensitivity
50 analysis provided suggestive evidence of an increased risk of PD on fasting glucose (FG) (β_{IVW} =0.0188;
51 95%CI=0.0062–0.0313, p-value=0.0055; I² index=0.0%; MR-Egger intercept p-value=0.0957; Cochran Q
52 test p-value=0.4555) and protective effect of PD on T2D (Weighted median effect: OR_{WME}=0.946;
53 95%CI=0.9290–0.983; p-value=0.0051; Weighted mode effect: OR_{MBE}=0.943; 95%CI=0.904–0.983; p-
54 value=0.0116).

55 **Conclusions:** Our results showed that central or abdominal obesity may be protective against PD
56 development, independent of glucose levels.

57 **Keywords:** Mendelian randomization, Causal inference, Neurodegenerative disorders, Parkinson's
58 disease, Glycemic traits, Type 2 diabetes, body weight, anthropometric traits

59

60 **Introduction**

61 The lack of neuroprotective or disease-modifying therapy has considerably hampered the management of
62 Parkinson's disease (PD). However, several recent preclinical and clinical studies have shown the
63 potential beneficial effects of type 2 diabetes (T2D) specific treatment in exerting neuroprotection against
64 PD, possibly by modulating glucose homeostasis and body weight¹⁻⁵. Traditionally, insulin has been
65 implicated in the general hormonal regulation of glucose metabolism, as insulin crosses the blood-brain
66 barrier to modulate brain energy homeostasis, with a minor contribution from internal neuronal secretion⁶.
67 A recent study also reported significantly higher blood glucose in non-diabetic PD patients compared to
68 healthy controls during an oral glucose tolerance test, with no significant increase in insulin levels⁷. The
69 study further reported an association of higher blood glucose levels with a higher BMI. Recently, type 2
70 diabetes (T2D) – characterized by high blood sugar, insulin resistance, and low insulin sensitivities – was
71 shown to be associated with higher motor scores in patients with PD⁸. Change in body weight is also long
72 known to occur during the clinical course of PD and with its treatment. A handful of observational studies
73 with highly heterogeneous epidemiological study designs have investigated the association of body
74 weight with PD, showing conflicting results although weight loss appears to be a consistent finding in
75 more advanced PD⁹⁻¹². In summary, inconclusive evidence from observational studies suggest that several
76 highly correlated glycemic and anthropometric traits could alter the risk associated with development of
77 PD. This could be attributed to limited sample sizes, presence of inherent confounding and reporting bias
78 in observational studies.

79 Genome-wide association (GWAS) or meta-analyses of GWAS often have larger sample sizes
80 with adequate coverage of the human genome, making GWAS-based Mendelian randomization (MR) an

81 attractive approach. MR has recently evolved as an alternative statistical approach that can, against
82 potential confounding, judge potentially causal relationships between risk factors (e.g. altered glucose
83 metabolism or body mass index) and an outcome (e.g. PD)¹³. In principle, MR allows the use of genetic
84 variants as proxy representatives of exposure from one population to test an association with an outcome
85 in a completely independent population. The approach mimics the randomization of exposure in
86 randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and, thereby, addresses hidden confounding factors. To date, MR
87 studies exploring the causal role of altered glucose or insulin homeostasis in PD are lacking. However, a
88 previously published study explored the role of body mass index (BMI) on PD and showed a protective
89 role of body mass index (BMI) (OR = 0.82, 95% CI = 0.69-0.98)^{14, 15}. Most recently, the availability of
90 GWAS datasets from the UK Biobank has further made it possible to take advantage of an increased
91 power associated with a higher sample size by meta-analyzing it with previously existing large scale
92 consortium datasets on various phenotypes of interest¹⁶⁻¹⁸.

93 In the present study, we expand the spectrum by assessing the impact and influence of several
94 glycemic traits including 2-hour post-challenge glucose (2hrGlu), fasting glucose (FG), fasting insulin
95 (FI), fasting insulin (FPI), homeostasis model assessment of β -cell function (HOMA-B), homeostasis
96 model assessment of insulin resistance (HOMA-IR), glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c), Modified Stumvoll
97 Insulin Sensitivity Index (ISI), and Type II diabetes (T2D) as well as anthropometric traits including body
98 mass index (BMI), waist-hip ratio (WHR), waist circumference (WC), hip circumference (HC), adult
99 height (AH) and birth weight (BW) on PD.

100 **Methods**

101 **Study design and identification of datasets**

102 We conducted a two-sample MR study using summary estimates to examine the lifelong effect of
103 glycemic and anthropometric traits on the risk of PD in the European population. We reviewed the most
104 recent meta-analyses of discovery GWAS datasets in the literature and identified genetic instruments that
105 influence glycemic traits including 2hGlu, FG, FI, FPI, HOMA-B, HOMA-IR, HbA1c, ISI, T2D and
106 anthropometric traits including BMI, WHR, WC, HC, AH, and BW^{16, 18-28} (**Table 1**). For the outcome

107 dataset, we used the discovery cohort of a recent meta-analysis of GWAS on 33,674 PD cases and
108 449,056 controls¹⁷.

109 **Prioritization of genetic variants**

110 We extracted significant SNPs from each GWAS dataset by employing a cutoff of 5×10^{-8} . All SNPs with
111 F-statistics < 10 were further excluded for a possible violation of MR assumption I^{13,29}. A clumping
112 window of 10,000 kb and linkage disequilibrium (LD; i.e. r^2) cutoff of 0.001 was applied in the European
113 population in the 1000Genome Phase 3v5 dataset to identify the leading SNP that represents each
114 significantly associated locus³⁰. If a specific leading SNP was not available in the PD dataset, a proxy
115 SNP ($r^2 > 0.8$) was identified by using the European population in the 1000Genome Phase 3v5 dataset,
116 when possible. The statistical power to detect a causal association was estimated by the method described
117 by Brion et al.³¹. Specifically, we set the sample size of the outcome dataset to 482,750 with 7.498% as
118 proportion of PD patients in the dataset, a continuous exposure with a variance $\geq 1\%$ and a threshold p-
119 value of 3.8×10^{-3} (see the section below).

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

121 We used the inverse variance-weighted (IVW) method with first order weights as primary method to
122 investigate the direct causal role of glycemetic traits and anthropometric traits on PD¹⁶⁻²⁸. If a genetic
123 instrument consisted of a single SNP, we used the Wald ratio along with the delta method to estimate the
124 causal effect and standard error, respectively. We applied a conservative Bonferroni correction to account
125 for the number of 13 independent tests (local significance level = $0.05/\text{number of tests}$) for a global
126 significance of 0.05. All other results from statistical tests are interpreted descriptively. We used the
127 intercept deviation test with MR-Egger's and MR-Egger intercept and the I^2 index to evaluate the
128 heterogeneity of Wald estimates. Additionally, we also estimated the Cochran Q statistic for the IVW
129 method as well as Rucker's Q' statistics for the MR-Egger's method to evaluate the heterogeneity³²⁻³⁵.

130 **Sensitivity analysis**

131 We employed MR-Egger, weighted median (WME), and weighted mode methods (MBE) methods to
132 check the reliability of estimates by relaxing some of the MR assumption, thereby allowing instruments
133 with varying proportions of pleiotropic variants, as previously explained^{33, 36-39}.
134 To avoid the overlapping of samples from UK Biobank, which has been included in recently published
135 GWAS, we computed casual effect estimates by using PD datasets without UK biobank samples, as used
136 in the previous study (9,581 PD cases and 33,245 controls)^{35, 40, 41}.
137 For glyceic traits, a number of studies reported GWAS results from replication and/or pooled data
138 (**Supplementary Table 1a**). We therefore compared our primary results with those using genetic
139 instruments from these additional studies to explore the issue of the bias due to the winner's curse, led by
140 the selection of the instruments done from the same dataset (discovery meta-analysis) used for the causal
141 effect estimation.

142 Given that BMI has been shown to influence the role of glyceic and anthropometric traits on
143 several diseases, including PD⁷, we also estimated the effect of genetic instruments adjusted for BMI for
144 2hrGlu, FG, FI, ISI, T2D, and WHR to identify their overall influence on the causal effect estimates for
145 PD. A summary of GWAS datasets used to study the influence of GWAS study design and BMI
146 adjusted datasets is provided in **Supplementary Tables 1a and 1b** respectively.

147 We employed a leave-one and leave-one-group-out cross-validation approach to check the
148 influence of outlier variants as well as that of variants known to be associated with confounders of the
149 relationship between glyceic, and anthropometric traits and PD. We used the PhenoScanner database to
150 identify potential pleiotropic genetic instruments that are known to be associated with potential
151 confounders⁴². Finally, we conducted a reverse directional MR by identifying genetic variants
152 representing proxy markers of PD using the same study.

153 **Results**

154 **Prioritization of genetic instruments and power analysis**

155 The depth of genomic coverage and number of individuals in different discovery GWAS datasets is
156 provided in **Table 1**. The table further shows the variance explained by genetic instruments for different

157 exposure datasets and availability of genetic instruments in the PD dataset, estimated by the formula
158 $2 \times \beta^2 \times \text{EAF} \times (1 - \text{EAF})$, where β is the estimated genetic effect of the exposure and EAF is the
159 corresponding allele frequency⁴³.

160 Two glyceic exposures (HOMA-IR and ISI) were not further analyzed given the absence of
161 significant variants; however, we analyzed them as outcome with the PD as exposure in the reverse
162 causation investigation. Thus, the number of primary statistical tests was reduced to the investigation of
163 the causal effect of seven glyceic traits and six anthropometric traits on PD, leading to 13 tests. The
164 significance level was accordingly set to $0.05/13 = 3.8 \times 10^{-3}$.

165 Our power analysis suggests that our study has $\approx 80\%$ power to detect a true OR of 1.208 or 0.799
166 for PD per SD of the continuous phenotype assuming that the proportion of the continuous phenotype
167 explained by the genetic instrument is $\geq 1\%$ at a type 1 error rate of 3.8×10^{-3} .

168 **Effect estimation and sensitivity analysis**

169 The causal effect estimates of glyceic traits and anthropometric traits on PD are shown in **Table**
170 **2**, which also provides various measures to evaluate the robustness of the effect estimates. The summary
171 data used to compute effect estimates and sensitivity analysis is further presented in **Supplementary**
172 **Table 2**. Among all the glyceic and anthropometric traits, we found that a 1-standard deviation (SD)
173 increase in waist-hip ratio (WHR) was associated with a 26.5% lower risk of PD in the European
174 population ($\text{OR}_{\text{IVW}}=0.735$; 95%CI=0.622–0.868 per 1-SD of WHR; p-value=0.0003; $I^2=25.9\%$; MR-
175 Egger intercept p-value=0.1508; Cochran Q test p-value=0.0003) (**Table 2a**). We further observed a
176 similar effect using the WME method ($\text{OR}_{\text{WME}}=0.810$; 95%CI=0.721–0.911). The distribution of
177 individual SNP-level effect estimates along with the effect estimates computed through different MR
178 methods for the effect of WHR on PD are shown as scatter and funnel plots in **Figure 1**. After ruling out
179 the effect of weak instrument bias on account of overlapping UKB samples, the protective effect of WHR
180 on PD was retained suggesting the reliability of the observed findings ($\text{OR}_{\text{IVW}}=0.791$; 95% CI=0.659–
181 0.950; p-value=0.012; $I^2=13.0\%$; MR-Egger intercept p-value=0.733; Cochran Q test p-value=0.035).
182 Using the PhenoScanner database, out of 357 SNPs WHR associated SNPs employed in causal effect

183 analysis; we identified a total of 127 pleiotropic SNPs that have been previously shown to be associated
184 with non-anthropometric traits such as blood cell count, glycemic traits, lipid levels, and respiratory
185 capacity (data not shown). In our sensitivity analysis that excluded these pleiotropic SNPs our instrument
186 was weaker thus explaining the diminished protective effect estimate ($OR_{IVW}=0.801$; 95% CI=0.640–
187 1.000; p-value=0.052). The leave-one out sensitivity analysis also failed to show influence of any single
188 SNP, suggesting reliability of our findings (data not shown here). We further observed a loss of
189 association when using genetic instruments for WHR which were adjusted for BMI, suggesting a
190 potential role of BMI in influencing the causal association with PD.

191 The observed findings of the potential causal role of anthropometric traits was further confirmed
192 by the absence of the causal effect of any of the glycemic traits, including FG and T2D on PD. This lack
193 of association of glycemic traits further persisted when we used genetic instruments that were prioritized
194 from a small proportion of moderately associated SNPs which were followed up in a pooled cohort for
195 2hGlu, FG, FI, and FPI (**Supplementary Table 3a**). Similarly, no association was observed for HOMA-B
196 and HOMA-IR where genetic instruments were available for the replication cohorts. In addition, we did
197 not observe any influence of the BMI-adjusted instruments that were available for 2hrGlu, FG, FI, and
198 T2D, regardless of the GWAS study cohort that was used to extract the instrument (**Supplementary**
199 **Table 3b**). With respect to other glycemic traits, we did not find genetic instruments for ISI. However, we
200 were able to explore the causality using the single genetic instrument for BMI adjusted ISI phenotype
201 which hinted at an association using genetic instruments prioritized from the discovery cohort only
202 ($OR_{wald} = 0.532$, 95% CI=0.286-0.990; p-value=0.0464).

203 Lastly, we checked reliability of the observed relationships between various glycemic and
204 anthropometric traits, and PD by conducting MR analyses in reverse direction, as shown in **Table 3**. We
205 did not observe any causal effect of PD on WHR ($\beta_{IVW}=-0.0077$; 95% CI=-0.0277–0.0122; p-
206 value=0.4288; $I^2=84.1\%$; MR-Egger intercept p-value=0.8462; Cochran Q test p-value<0.0001). On the
207 contrary, in our sensitivity analysis we observed the strongest effect on FG with a 1-log odds increase in
208 genetic predisposition to PD being associated with 0.0188 mmol/l increase in FG concentration ($\beta_{IVW} =$

209 0.0188 per log-odds of PD; 95% CI=0.0062–0.0313; p-value=0.0055; $I^2=0.0\%$; MR-Egger intercept p-
210 value=0.0957; Cochran Q test p-value=0.4555). Additionally, although IVW method failed to detect
211 influence of PD on T2D ($OR_{IVW}=0.973$; 95% CI=0.921–1.028; p-value=0.3258; $I^2=76.9\%$; MR-Egger
212 intercept p-value=0.4711; Cochran Q test p-value= 5.28×10^{-11}), the genetic predisposition to PD was
213 associated with approximately 5.0% lower risk of T2D using other methods ($OR_{WME}=0.946$; 95%
214 CI=0.930–0.973; p-value=0.0051; $OR_{MBE}=0.943$; 95% CI=0.940–0.983; p-value=0.0116).

215 Our findings further motivated us to explore the triangulation relationship between the traits shown to be
216 related to PD using the MR approach. Our data suggested a bidirectional causal relationship between T2D
217 and FG as well as T2D and WHR (**Figure 2**) (data not shown). We further observed WHR as a potential
218 risk factor for a higher FG with the absence of any effect of FG on WHR (**Figure 2**).

219 **Discussion**

220 The present study using a two-sample MR approach aimed to understand the role of glycemic and
221 anthropometric on PD and observed that an increase in WHR is a strong protective factor for PD.
222 Furthermore, sensitivity analyses provided suggestive evidence, though not conclusive, of higher glucose
223 tolerance and protection against T2D in PD patients.

224 Dopamine neurotransmission in the human brain is known to modulate the rewarding properties
225 of food. Previous studies have further shown that dopamine receptors are under expressed in obese
226 individuals, thereby initiating a feedback loop to compensate for lower dopamine secretion⁴⁴. It is,
227 however, not known whether an altered dopaminergic metabolism in overweight individuals could
228 influence the PD susceptibility. Several indicators have been used to measure overweight and obesity.
229 While WHR and WC are predominantly used as measurements of central obesity, BMI is used as
230 measurement of overall obesity. It has also been shown that WHR and WC may be regarded as better
231 alternatives to BMI to measure obesity, especially in individuals with cardiovascular risk factors
232 including T2D^{45, 46}. Numerous observational studies have previously explored the association between
233 both measures of obesity and PD with mixed results^{9, 10}. A recent meta-analysis of ten cohort studies with
234 2706 PD cases showed an absence of association of BMI with PD¹⁰. In contrast, a recent nationwide

235 health check-up data for the whole South Korean population comprising 44,205 incident cases identified
236 risky association of abdominal obesity with PD (HR=1.13, 95% CI=1.10–1.16)⁹.
237 Using an MR approach, we observed a significant risk reduction of 26.5% with every one unit of SD
238 increase in WHR, while not observing any role of BMI. Our results are in contrast with a previously
239 reported protective causal association of BMI with PD, which observed a significant risk reduction of
240 18%¹⁴. The previous study however assessed 77 loci for exploring causal effect of BMI comprising
241 13,708 PD cases and 95,282 controls compared to 548 loci assessed in a pooled dataset of 33,764 PD
242 cases 449,056 controls in the present study. The discrepancy in the number of prioritized loci between the
243 two studies is attributed to the use of GIANT dataset on BMI in the previous study compared to pooled
244 dataset of GIANT and UKB on BMI used in the present study. Another recent MR study prioritizing
245 genetic instruments using the UKB dataset only and exploring the casual role of 401 exposures did not
246 detect a casual role of BMI and WHR¹⁵. Nevertheless, they observed a consistent protective causal
247 association of nine adiposity related traits with the strongest effect observed for arm fat percentage. In
248 line with our findings, these studies collectively argue that the assessment of fat mass vs. fat-free mass
249 e.g. by using body plethysmography reflects the underlying causative or protective factors more closely
250 than body weight or BMI. Interestingly, a recent study reported a slight reduction of 1.12% in PD risk for
251 every 1kg/m² increase in BMI without any clear evidence of heterogeneity⁴⁷. The study employed
252 23andMe dataset for both BMI and PD datasets and the absence of heterogeneity in the observed findings
253 possibly suggest that a considerable heterogeneity observed in previous MR studies could be attributed to
254 the clinical heterogeneity among the commonly employed IPDGC PD cases. Our study provided strong
255 evidence regarding the role of WHR in PD, nonetheless, further studies are highly warranted to
256 disentangle the protective role of WHR in PD.

257 The results observed in our present study provided further suggest a potential role of glucose
258 metabolism in PD, and data obtained herein agree with the previously published epidemiological studies.
259 For example, a recent study reported a significantly higher area under time curve (AUC) for the blood
260 glucose levels in 50 non-diabetic PD patients compared to 50 healthy controls during a 75g oral glucose

261 tolerance test (1187 ± 229 vs 1101 ± 201 mmol/min.; $p=0.05$), with no significant difference in AUC for
262 blood insulin levels (6681 ± 3495 vs 7271 ± 6070 mmol/min.; $p=0.57$)⁷. The study also reported that
263 higher blood glucose levels were associated with higher BMI ($p\text{-value}<0.0001$). Another recent
264 longitudinal study identified high blood glucose as a risk marker for PD progression⁴⁸. The 48-month
265 follow-up study exploring the role of 44 clinical variables in 135 patients with early PD, identified high
266 FG levels ($p\text{-value}=0.013$) and T2D ($p\text{-value}=0.033$), among several other factors as significant predictors
267 of annual cognitive decline in PD. The study further observed significant differences in the baseline levels
268 of glucose when compared to 109 healthy controls. Our results are henceforth in consent with these
269 results suggesting that PD promotes dysregulation of glucose metabolism.

270 The relationship between PD and T2D as observed in our study is intriguing. We observed
271 association only in sensitivity analyses. Thus, the results should be interpreted with caution. Nevertheless,
272 several longitudinal studies have previously explored the influence of pre-existing T2D on the
273 predisposition to PD with contradictory results. A prospective follow-up of 147,096 predominantly
274 Caucasian participants in the Cancer Prevention Study II Nutrition Cohort from the United States found
275 no association of the history of diabetes with PD risk ($RR=0.88$; 95% $CI=0.62\text{--}1.25$)⁴⁹. Another study that
276 comprised two large US cohorts – the Nurses’ Health Study (121,046 women) and the Health
277 Professionals Follow-up Study (50,833 men) – observed similar results ($RR=1.04$; 95% $CI=0.74\text{--}1.46$)⁵⁰.
278 In contrast, a follow-up study in 51,552 Finnish individuals demonstrated an increased incidence of PD
279 among patients with T2D ($HR=1.85$; 95% $CI=1.23\text{--}2.80$)⁵¹. Most recently, a meta-analysis of four cohort
280 studies (3284 PD cases and 32,695 diabetes cases) confirmed the finding that the onset of diabetes was a
281 risk factor for PD ($RR=1.37$; 95% $CI=1.21\text{--}1.55$)⁵². However, the same study reported the absence of an
282 association in pooled populations of five case-control studies (6487 PD cases and 1387 diabetes cases;
283 $OR=0.75$; 95% $CI=0.50\text{--}1.11$). In summary, findings of the association between T2D and PD have been
284 highly heterogeneous and could be attributed to the varying age of onset of T2D and PD. Indeed
285 previously published meta-analysis showed that the earlier onset of T2D before the onset of PD found to
286 be a major risk factor for future PD patients⁵³. Our close examination of GWAS datasets used in our study

287 showed a remarkable variability in age of onset in PD and T2D subjects. For example, the majority of PD
288 patients had an age of onset ranging from 48.9 to 71.2 years as compared to the average 52.5 years as an
289 age of onset in T2D patients. Thus, it is conceivable that the earlier prodromal phase of PD, as compared
290 to diabetes onset, could be protective against T2D in PD patients. Nevertheless, an in-depth clinical
291 evaluation of PD subjects is highly warranted to further discern the role of T2D in PD etiology.

292 Despite our inability to stratify patients by the age of onset, our study has several strengths. We
293 adopted a comprehensive approach that included several known markers of insulin metabolism. However,
294 we observed that the genetic instruments for FI, HOMA-B, and HOMA-IR explained a very low amount
295 of variance and, therefore, potential causation with PD might not be completely ruled out. An important
296 limitation of this study could be the unavailability of individual-level data, which could have enabled us
297 to confirm the absence of pleiotropic variants by using various potential confounding variables between
298 WHR and PD. For instance, it is known that different markers of obesity show gender specific cut-offs
299 and possibility of specific gender in influencing the observed causal estimates cannot be ruled out^{54, 55}.
300 Although we observed a suggestive reverse causal association of T2D with PD using different MR
301 methods, we did not observe similar results with HbA1C, which is a known biomarker for prediabetes or
302 diabetes. One of the reasons for this could be that the GWAS on HbA1c with 123,491 individuals from
303 the general population was underpowered when compared to the GWAS on T2D that included 898,129
304 individuals^{20, 21}. Another potential limitation could be the existence of overlapping UKB samples
305 between WHR and PD datasets, which could have led to possible bias in our findings. Nevertheless, our
306 sensitivity analysis demonstrates retention of the association even after the exclusion of UKB samples
307 from the PD dataset, highlighting the robustness of our novel finding⁵⁶. Lastly, we could not conduct a
308 causal association analysis among different glyceic traits within PD patients.

309 Despite these limitations, our study represents one of the most comprehensive studies to date that
310 has explored the potential causal role of glyceic and anthropometric traits on PD. Our analyses suggest
311 that central obesity may play a role in conferring protection against PD. An extensive sensitivity analysis
312 further suggested a possible role of PD in altered glucose metabolism independent of insulin activity.

313 Furthermore, we showed that, despite high fasting glucose levels, PD patients may be protected against
314 T2D. We further suggest the adoption of a cautionary approach when drawing clinical interpretations
315 from the results of the current study, because additional lines of evidence may be generated, including the
316 potential complex relationship of anthropometric, glycemic and PD with other unexplored traits.

317

318 **Author contributions**

319 1. Research project: A. Conception, B. Organization, C. Execution; 2. Statistical Analysis: A. Design, B.
320 Execution, C. Review and Critique; 3. Manuscript Preparation: A. Writing of the first draft, B. Review
321 and Critique;

322 **S.G.:** 1A, 1B, 1C, 2A, 2B, 3A;

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324 **F.D.G.:** 2C;

325 **N.B.:** 3B

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337 Data on PD GWAS was contributed by IPDGC team and downloaded from <https://pdgenetics.org/>. Data
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339 www.magicinvestigators.org. Data on T2D were contributed by DIAGRAM investigators and
340 downloaded from www.diagram-consortium.org. Data on BMI, WHR, WC, HC and height were provided
341 by GIANT consortium and downloaded from <https://portals.broadinstitute.org/collaboration/giant/>. Data
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478

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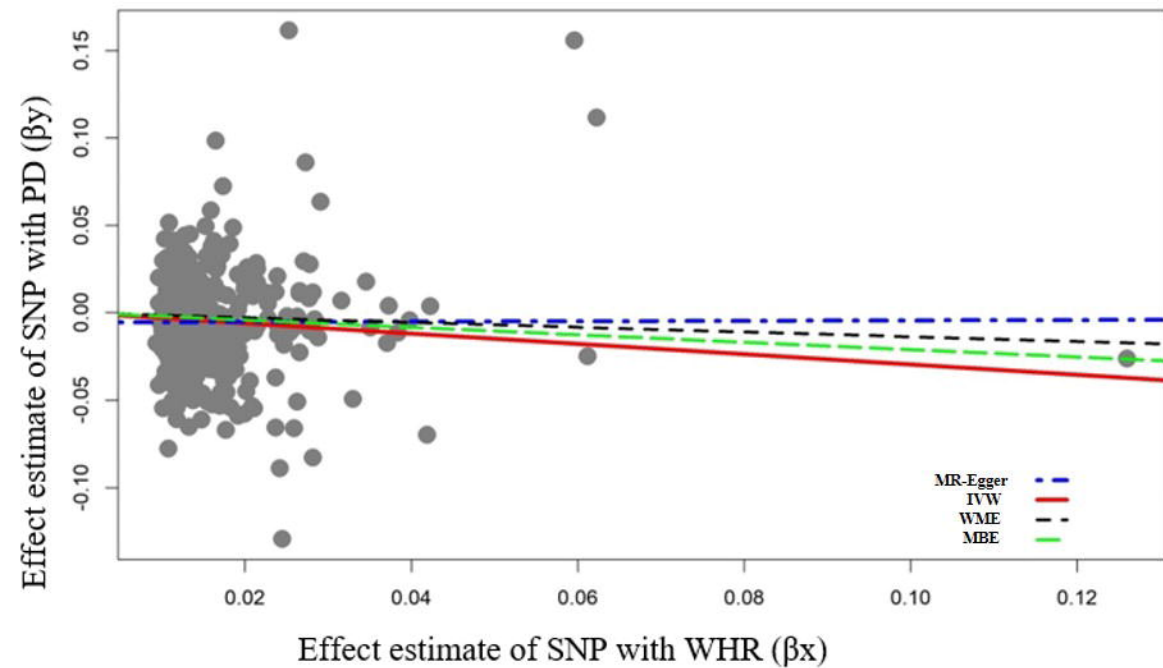
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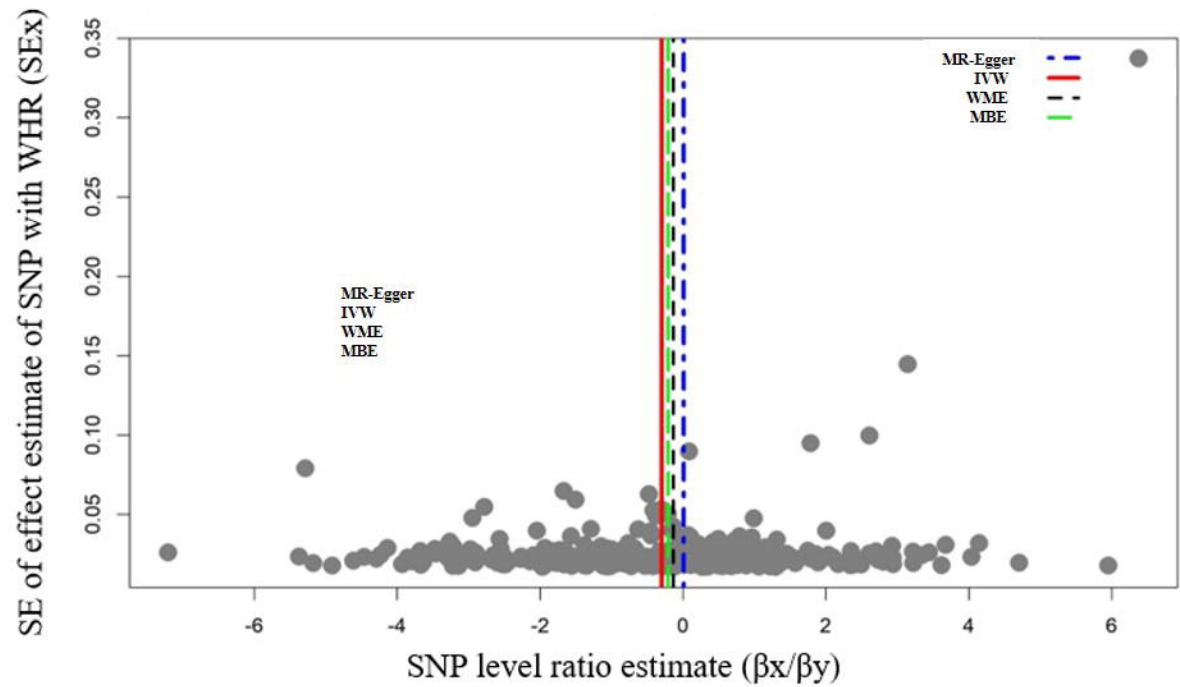
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514

A. Scatterplot showing causal effect estimates



B. Funnel plot showing individual SNP level causal effect estimates



Type 2 Diabetes (T2D)

Parkinsons Disease (PD)

Fasting Glucose (FG)

Waist Hip Ratio (WHR)

