ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Genetic dissection of HLA-DRB1*15:01 and XL9 region variants in Japanese patients with systemic lupus erythematosus: primary role for HLA-DRB1*15:01

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ABSTRACT

Objective Major histocompatibility complex strongly contributes to susceptibility to systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). In the European populations, HLA-DRB1*03:01 and DRB1*15:01 are susceptibility alleles, but C4 locus was reported to account for the association of DRB1*03:01. With respect to DRB1*15:01, strong linkage disequilibrium with a variant rs2105898T in the XL9 region, located between DRB1 and DOA1 and regulates HLA-class II expression levels, was reported; however, the causative allele remains to be determined. Leveraging the genetic background of the Japanese population, where DRB1*15:01 and DRB1*15:02 are common present and only DRB1*15:01 is associated with SLE, this study aimed to distinguish the genetic contribution of DRB1*15:01 and XL9 variants.

Methods Among the XL9 variants, two (rs2105898 and rs271583) previously associated variants in the European populations and two (rs9271375 and rs9271378) previously associated variants in the Japanese Genome-Wide Association Study were selected. Associations of the XL9 variants and HLA-DRB1 were examined in 442 Japanese SLE patients and 779 controls. Genotyping of the XL9 variants was performed by TaqMan SNP Genotyping Assay and direct sequencing. HLA-DRB1 alleles were determined by PCR-reverse sequence-specific oligonucleotide probes.

Results Among the XL9 variants, associations of rs2105898T and rs271583C were replicated in the Japanese population, where DRB1*15:01 and XL9 region variants, associated with expression levels of HLA-class II, were examined in 442 Japanese SLE patients and 779 controls. Genotyping of the XL9 variants was performed by TaqMan SNP Genotyping Assay and direct sequencing. HLA-DRB1 alleles were determined by PCR-reverse sequence-specific oligonucleotide probes.

Conclusion Among the XL9 variants, associations of rs2105898T and rs271583C were replicated in the Japanese population. However, these associations became no longer significant when conditioned on DRB1*15:01. In contrast, the association of DRB1*15:01 remained significant after conditioning on the XL9 variants.

WHAT IS ALREADY KNOWN ON THIS TOPIC

⇒ The association of HLA-DRB1*03:01 with susceptibility to systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) was reported to be secondarily caused by linkage disequilibrium (LD) with copy number reduction of C4, which has the primary role.

⇒ It has been hypothesised that the association of HLA-DRB1*15:01 with SLE may possibly be caused by LD with XL9 region variants, associated with expression levels of HLA-class II; however, due to strong LD between DRB1*15:01 and XL9 variants, this hypothesis could not be addressed in the European populations.

WHAT THIS STUDY ADDS

⇒ In the Japanese population, two common DRB1*15 alleles, DRB1*15:01 and DRB1*15:02, are present, both in LD with XL9 variants. However, only DRB1*15:01 is associated with SLE.

⇒ Leveraging the population difference in the genetic background, we demonstrated that DRB1*15:01, rather than XL9 region variants, is primarily associated with SLE in the Japanese population.

HOW THIS STUDY MIGHT AFFECT RESEARCH, PRACTICE OR POLICY

⇒ This study provides us with critical information in understanding the respective roles of HLA genes and their regulatory regions in the development of SLE.

⇒ This study also shows the usefulness of association studies in multiple populations with different genetic backgrounds in the identification of causative variants.

INTRODUCTION

Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a systemic autoimmune disease caused by a combination of multiple genetic and environmental factors. Genetic studies including Genome-Wide Association Studies (GWAS) have identified approximately 180...
susceptibility loci for SLE. In the European and the African populations, the most significant association was detected in the major histocompatibility complex (MHC) region, where complement C4 and human leucocyte antigen (HLA) loci are located. In the Asian populations, the GTF2I-NCF1 region was most strongly associated with SLE, where NCF1 p.Arg90His (rs201802880) has been reported to be the causative variant. Nevertheless, MHC remains one of the top susceptibility regions also in the Asian populations.

Among the HLA alleles, HLA-DRB1*03:01 and DRB1*15 have been established as susceptibility alleles to SLE. Although DRB1*03:01 is associated with SLE in the European populations, DRB1*03:01 is rare in the East Asian populations, and significant association of DRB1*03:01 is not always detected. In contrast, the association of DRB1*15:01 is shared between the European and the East Asian populations. Further, DRB1*15:03 and DRB1*15:02 were associated with SLE in the African and the Southeast Asian populations, respectively.

Identification of causative allele(s) in the MHC region has been challenging, mainly because of the presence of numerous potentially functional variants of HLA and non-HLA genes, and linkage disequilibrium (LD) that extends from the MHC class I to class II regions. Thus, each DRB1 allele is a part of a haplotype that carries multiple potentially functional variants. Most importantly, C4 genes, C4A and C4B, reside in the MHC class III region and have a copy number variation. A lower copy number of C4, especially C4A, has been shown to confer risk to SLE. In the European populations, due to the strong LD between C4A deficient allele and DRB1*03:01, it was impossible to distinguish the genetic contribution of these two loci in the development of SLE. However, leveraging the genetic background of the African-American population, where the LD between C4A deficiency and DRB1*03:01 is low, Kamitaki et al successfully demonstrated that C4A deficiency has the primary role, while the association of DRB1*03:01 was attributable to the LD with C4.

With respect to the other risk haplotype carrying DRB1*15:01, they also detected an association of a single nucleotide variant (SNV), rs2105898T, in the XL9 region surrounding rs9271375 and rs9271378, which is in LD with the XL9 region variant. While leveraging the genetic background of the Japanese population, this study was carried out to test whether the association signal of HLA-DRB1*15:01 and the XL9 region variant can be distinguished in the Japanese population.

### SUBJECTS AND METHODS

#### Patients and controls

A total of 1221 Japanese individuals were analysed, including 442 patients with SLE and 779 healthy controls. Characteristics of the patients and controls are summarised in Table 1. Patients’ genomic DNA samples were recruited at University of Tsukuba, the University of Tokyo, Juntendo University, Nara Medical University and National Defense Medical College. The patients were diagnosed with SLE according to the 1997 American College of Rheumatology revised criteria for the classification of SLE. In addition, 515 genomic DNA samples were obtained from healthy volunteers at University of Tsukuba, the University of Tokyo and Juntendo University. Aside from that, 264 genomic DNAs were purchased from the National Institute of Biomedical Innovation (Osaka, Japan).

### Genotyping

Genotyping of rs2105898 and rs9271593 was performed by Custom TaqMan SNP Genotyping Assays (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA) using the QuantStudio 5 Real-Time PCR System (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Genotypes of rs9271375 and rs9271378 were determined by Sanger sequencing. A genomic region surrounding rs9271375 and rs9271378 was amplified and cycle sequencing reaction was conducted using a SupreDye V.3.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit (Edge BioSystems, San Jose, California, USA). Subsequently, sequencing was performed using 3500 Genetic Analyzer (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Primers and probes used in these assays

### Table 1 Characteristics of the patients with SLE and healthy controls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SLE (n=442)</th>
<th>Healthy controls (n=779)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male/female</td>
<td>35/399*</td>
<td>304/475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean age±SD (years)</td>
<td>42.0±14.0</td>
<td>36.3±11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of onset (n=377)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≤20 years, n (%)</td>
<td>81 (21.5)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present, n (%)</td>
<td>203 (54.0)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-dsDNA antibody (n=363)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present, n (%)</td>
<td>298 (82.1)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Sm antibody (n=362)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present, n (%)</td>
<td>75 (20.7)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data were not available for eight patients with SLE.

SLE, systemic lupus erythematosus; NA, not applicable.
were listed in online supplemental table S1. HLA-DRB1 alleles were determined at four-digit resolution by PCR-reverse sequence-specific oligonucleotide probes using a WAKFlow HLA typing kit (Wakunaga Pharmaceutical., Osaka, Japan). The genotyping results of each subject are available in online supplemental data.

**GWAS data on SLE in a Japanese population**

GWAS data on 317 Japanese patients with SLE and 175,937 Japanese controls previously reported by Sakaue et al.\(^1\) were retrieved from the NBDC Human Database (https://humanbdb.biosciencedbc.jp/en/, Dataset ID: hum0197.v3.gwas.v1, accessed 29 November 2022). Data on variants in a region between HLA-DRB1 and HLA-DQA1 encompassing XL9 was extracted.

**Statistical methods**

Statistical analyses were carried out by logistic regression analysis with an additive model using the R software V.3.5.2. Association was tested for SLE and its subsets. Correction for multiple testing (four SNVs) was performed by the false discovery rate (FDR) method based on the Benjamini-Hochberg procedure. Significance level was set at FDR Q<0.05. The association of haplotypes formed by HLA-DRB1 and the XL9 variants with SLE was tested by permutation test (the number of permutations was 10,000,000) using Haploview V.4.2 software (Broad Institute, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA). In LD analysis, \(r^2\) values were calculated by the Haploview software.

Power calculation was done using Quanto V.1.2.4. On the basis of the sample size (442 cases and 779 controls) and previously reported effect size in each study,\(^15\),\(^17\),\(^19\) this study is assumed to have the power of 73% (rs2105898), 99% (rs9271593), 82% (rs9271375) and 68% (rs9271378) to detect the association with Bonferroni corrected statistical significance, \(\alpha=0.0125\).

**RESULTS**

**Association of XL9 variants with SLE**

Four XL9 variants were selected for the association analysis between the XL9 region and SLE in the Japanese population. Two of them, rs2105898 and rs9271593, were previously reported to be associated with SLE in the European populations\(^15\),\(^17\) and were chosen to examine whether they are also associated in the Japanese population. In addition, in view of differences in the genomic configuration of MHC region between the European and the Asian populations, we employed the GWAS data on Japanese SLE reported by Sakaue et al.\(^19\) available at the NBDC Human Database (NBDC Dataset ID: hum0197.V.3.gwas.v1 https://humanbdb.biosciencedbc.jp/en/). In this GWAS, although no XL9 variants reached genome-wide significance, two SNVs, rs9271375 and rs9271378, showed a trend towards association with SLE (online supplemental figure S1 and online supplemental table S2). Thus, the association of rs9271375 and rs9271378 was also tested in this study.

When LD status among the four XL9 variants were tested, LD was observed between rs2105898 and rs9271593 (\(r^2=0.676\)) (online supplemental figure S2.) As shown in table 2, rs2105898T and rs9271593C were significantly associated with risk of SLE after correction for multiple comparisons (FDR Q=0.0067 and 0.037, respectively). Thus, these SNVs, previously associated in the European populations,\(^15\),\(^17\) were found to be associated also in the Japanese. With respect to rs9271375 and rs9271378, the same trend towards the association as observed in the previous Japanese GWAS\(^19\) was also

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genotype</th>
<th>Effect allele</th>
<th>Additive model</th>
<th>P value</th>
<th>FDR Q*</th>
<th>OR (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>rs9271375A/G</td>
<td>A/A</td>
<td>A/G</td>
<td>G/G</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLE (n=442)</td>
<td>39 (8.8)</td>
<td>172 (38.9)</td>
<td>231 (52.3)</td>
<td>Referent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controls (n=779)</td>
<td>78 (10.0)</td>
<td>344 (44.2)</td>
<td>357 (45.8)</td>
<td>500 (32.1)</td>
<td>0.018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rs9271378G/A</td>
<td>G/G</td>
<td>G/A</td>
<td>A/A</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>98 (11.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLE (n=442)</td>
<td>7 (1.6)</td>
<td>84 (19.0)</td>
<td>351 (79.4)</td>
<td>Referent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controls (n=779)</td>
<td>16 (2.1)</td>
<td>187 (24.0)</td>
<td>576 (73.9)</td>
<td>219 (14.1)</td>
<td>0.018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rs2105898T/G</td>
<td>T/T</td>
<td>T/G</td>
<td>G/G</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>270 (30.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLE (n=442)</td>
<td>48 (10.9)</td>
<td>174 (39.4)</td>
<td>220 (49.8)</td>
<td>Referent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controls (n=779)</td>
<td>46 (5.9)</td>
<td>291 (37.4)</td>
<td>442 (56.7)</td>
<td>383 (24.6)</td>
<td>0.018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rs9271593C/T</td>
<td>C/C</td>
<td>C/T</td>
<td>T/T</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>328 (37.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLE (n=442)</td>
<td>63 (14.3)</td>
<td>202 (45.7)</td>
<td>177 (40.0)</td>
<td>Referent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controls (n=779)</td>
<td>83 (10.7)</td>
<td>338 (43.4)</td>
<td>358 (46.0)</td>
<td>504 (32.3)</td>
<td>0.018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Significance level was set at FDR Q<0.05.

FDR, false discovery rate; SLE, systemic lupus erythematosus.
detected in our subjects. However, the difference did not reach statistical significance in our sample set (FDR Q=0.051 for both SNVs) (table 2).

We next tested whether the XL9 variants were associated with the age of onset and presence or absence of renal disorder, anti-dsDNA antibodies and anti-Sm antibodies by a case–case study. As shown in online supplemental table S3, no significant association was detected with the SLE subsets.

LD between HLA-DRB1 and XL9 variants

HLA-DRB1*15 is an established susceptibility allele group to SLE. DRB1*15:01 and DRB1*15:03 are predominant in the European and the African populations, respectively, while both DRB1*15:01 and DRB1*15:02 alleles are common in the East Asian populations. The XL9 region is located between the HLA-DRB1 and DQA1 loci, and LD is observed between DRB1*15 and XL9 variants. We retrieved genotype data on HLA-DRB1, rs2105898 and rs9271593 in the Utah residents (CEPH) with Northern and Western European ancestry (CEU), Japanese in Tokyo, Japan (JPT), Han Chinese in Beijing, and Yoruba in Ibadan, Nigeria from the International Genome Sample Resource (2018 data, https://www.internationalgenome.org/category/hla/, accessed 28 June 2022) and the Ensembl database (Release 106, https://asia.ensembl.org/index.html, accessed 28 August 2022), and calculated $r^2$ values between each DRB1*15 allele and XL9 variant (online supplemental table S4). DRB1*15:01 and DRB1*15:03 are associated with SLE in the European-ancestry and the African-ancestry populations, respectively, and rs2105898T is associated with SLE in both populations; however, due to strong LD, association signals from DRB1*15 and XL9 variants have not been clearly discriminated in these populations.

In contrast, in the Japanese population, moderate LD was observed between DRB1*15 (*15:01 and *15:02) and XL9 variants (rs2105898 and rs9271593) (table 3, online supplemental tables S4 and S5 and online supplemental figure S2). Although both DRB1*15:01 and DRB1*15:02 are commonly present in the Japanese population and in LD with the XL9 variants, DRB1*15:01, but not DRB1*15:02, was associated with SLE (table 3), as previously reported. Therefore, we thought that genetic dissection of DRB1*15:01 and XL9 variants might be possible by analysing the Japanese subjects.

The primary role for HLA-DRB1*15:01

To address this issue, we conducted a conditional logistic regression analysis to examine whether DRB1*15:01 and the XL9 variants are independently associated with SLE. Table 4 shows that the association of DRB1*15:01 remained significant after conditioning on rs2105898 ($P_{conditional}=7.6\times10^{-6}$) or rs9271593 ($P_{conditional}=8.7\times10^{-7}$), while that of rs2105898 and rs9271593 became no longer significant when conditioned on DRB1*15:01 (rs2105898, $P_{conditional}=0.83$, rs9271593, $P_{conditional}=0.93$).

Haplotypes formed by HLA-DRB1*15:01 and the XL9 variants were also tested for their association with SLE (table 5). DRB1*15:01-rs2105898T-rs9271593C haplotype was significantly increased in SLE compared with healthy controls (permutation $p=1.0\times10^{-7}$); however, the haplotype with rs2105898T and rs9271593C risk alleles, but without DRB1*15:01, was not associated with SLE. Taken

### Table 3  Linkage disequilibrium between DRB1*15 alleles and XL9 variants and association between DRB1*15 alleles and susceptibility to SLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LD ($r^2$) with</th>
<th>Association with SLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>rs2105898</td>
<td>rs9271593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$r^2$</td>
<td>$r^2$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$p$ value</td>
<td>OR (95% CI)</td>
<td>OR (95% CI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$DRB1^*15:01$</td>
<td>0.213</td>
<td>0.150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$p$ value</td>
<td>5.1$\times10^{-8}$</td>
<td>2.13 (1.62 to 2.80)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$DRB1^*15:02$</td>
<td>0.431</td>
<td>0.288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$p$ value</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.83 (0.64 to 1.07)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LD, linkage disequilibrium; SLE, systemic lupus erythematosus.

### Table 4  Conditional logistic regression analysis of HLA-DRB1*15:01 and XL9 variants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unconditional</th>
<th>Conditional on DRB1*15:01</th>
<th>Conditional on rs2105898</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$p$ value</td>
<td>OR (95% CI)</td>
<td>$p$ value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLA-DRB1*15:01</td>
<td>5.1$\times10^{-8}$</td>
<td>2.13 (1.62 to 2.80)</td>
<td>7.6$\times10^{-6}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rs2105898T</td>
<td>0.0017</td>
<td>1.34 (1.12 to 1.61)</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rs9271593C</td>
<td>0.018</td>
<td>1.23 (1.04 to 1.46)</td>
<td>0.93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NA, not applicable.
DRB1*15:01 was significantly associated with SLE susceptibility (table 3). There is only a single amino acid difference at position 86 between DRB1*15:01 (86Val) and DRB1*15:02 (86Gly). This amino acid sequence difference affects the peptide binding motif (MHC Motif Viewer, https://services.healthtech.dtu.dk/services/MHCMotifViewer/Home.html) and T cell receptor repertoire selection. Furthermore, DRB1*15:01 was recently reported to be associated with hypomethylation and increased expression of HLA-DRB1 in monocytes. Taken together, it appears more plausible that DRB1*15:01 plays a primary role in the susceptibility to SLE through its effect on antigenic peptide specificity and/or T cell repertoire selection. On the other hand, the possible role for XL9 variants might not be entirely excluded. As shown in table 5, a haplotype carrying DRB1*15:01 contains rs2105898T and rs9271593C, and thus it might be possible that by having regulatory XL9 variants together with DRB1*15:01 on the same chromosome, the effect of DRB1*15:01 could be enhanced as compared with having the non-risk variants of XL9.

Recently, Wang et al examined the genetic correlation for SLE between the European and the Chinese populations. The transancestral genetic-effect correlation (r_e) was increased from 0.64 to 0.78 when the variants in the HLA region were removed from the analysis, suggesting a genetic difference in the HLA region between the European and the Chinese populations. The possibility that the role of the XL9 region may also be different among European, African and Asian populations cannot be excluded.

In view of population-specific differences in the genomic configuration of the MHC region, the possibility that XL9 variants other than rs2105898T and rs9271593C play a causal role cannot be excluded. Therefore, to comprehensively investigate an association of XL9 variants with SLE, we accessed the previous GWAS data on Japanese SLE and included two SNVs with a tendency towards association, rs9271375 and rs9271378, into our analysis. In our case–control set, although a trend towards association of rs9271378 was observed, the statistical significance did not stand correction for multiple testing. These SNVs were not in LD with DRB1 alleles associated with SLE in the Japanese population, including HLA-DRB1*15 alleles (online supplemental table S5 and online supplemental figure S2); therefore, the possibility that future large-scale studies

Table 5 Association between SLE and haplotypes formed by HLA-DRB1 and XL9 variants, rs2105898 and rs9271593

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HLA-DRB1</th>
<th>Frequency (%)</th>
<th>Permutation test*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>rs2105898</td>
<td>rs9271593</td>
<td>SLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*15:01</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The number of permutations: 10 000 000.
SLE, systemic lupus erythematosus.
might lead to identification of XL9 variant(s) with an independent effect from DRB1*15:01 cannot be excluded.

Limitations of this study include a relatively small sample size. Although our sample size is assumed to have 68% or larger power to detect statistical significance based on previously reported effect size for each SNV, studies in larger sample sizes may be necessary to comprehensively evaluate the independent role of XL9 region. In addition, this study does not provide any explanation on the significant association of DRB1*15:02 in Southeast Asian populations. Future fine mapping studies on these populations are required.

In summary, we replicated the association of the XL9 variants with SLE in a Japanese population and confirmed the observation reported in the European and the African populations. Taking advantage of the genetic background of the Japanese population, the association of the XL9 variants was suggested to be attributable to LD with HLA-DRB1*15:01, which may play a causative role. These observations further emphasise the transethnic studies’ importance in finely mapping causative variants.

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Contributors
AK, PAK and NTs designed the study, interpreted the data and wrote the manuscript. AK, PAK and YKa performed genotyping and statistical analyses. YKo, MK, HA, YKu, Ki, TF, NTs, NN, IM and RS recruited the participants and collected clinical data. All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript. NTs acts as guarantor of this paper.

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Disclaimer
The funders had no role in the design, analysis, interpretation and paper writing of this study.

Competing interests
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Patient consent for publication
Not applicable.

Ethics approval
This study involves human participants and this study was reviewed and approved by the of University of Tsukuba Institute of Medicine Ethics Committee (approval ID: 1221(1), 123, 268). In addition, this study was also approved by the Ethics Committees of the following institutes, which participated in the collaboration and/or recruitment of the subjects: the University of Tokyo, Nara Medical University, Juntendo University and National Defense Medical College. Participants gave informed consent to participate in the study before taking part.

Provenance and peer review
Not commissioned; externally peer reviewed.

Data availability statement
All data relevant to the study are included in the article or uploaded as online supplemental information.

Author note
A preprint of the manuscript is available at the medRxiv preprint server (medRxiv: 2023.04.05.23288103; doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.04.05. 23288103).

Supplemental material
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