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VEGF 936C/T POLYMORPHISM AND METABOLIC SYNDROME
COMPONENTS IN OBESE GREEK INDIVIDUALS

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Objectives: Vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) is a major angiogenic factor and increased levels of VEGF have been reported in patients with metabolic syndrome (MetS). The role of VEGF polymorphisms in MetS components susceptibility, however, has not been studied before in a Caucasian population. The aim of our study was to assess the potential impact of the 936C/T polymorphism of the VEGF gene on the features of the metabolic syndrome in obese subjects.

Methods: One hundred and twenty obese patients (age: 42.3 +/-14.2 yr, BMI: 38.2.2□7.3 kg/m²) with various other features of the MetS and 72 subjects with none trait of MetS, served as a control group, were genotyped with polymerase chain reaction and restriction fragment length polymorphism for the 936C/T polymorphism of the VEGF gene. The study is partly funded under the CARRE EC-FP7 project (grant no 611140) on risk factors for cardiorenal disease and comorbidities.

Results: There was no significant difference in the genotype frequencies between the metabolic syndrome and control groups ($p \square 0.72$). There was also no association of the different genotypes of this polymorphism with any of the component traits of MetS in the patient's group.

Conclusion: No significant association was found between the polymorphism studied and the components of the metabolic syndrome that characterise the obese phenotype. These results, suggest that the 936C/T polymorphism of the VEGF gene may not associated with the metabolic consequences of obesity in the Caucasians, as has been reported in Asian patients.