



## 精神分裂症断裂基因1启动子的高甲基化 增加阿尔茨海默病的发病风险\*

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**摘要 目的** 基因的表现修饰与阿尔茨海默病(AD)的发生密切相关, 精神分裂症断裂基因1 (disrupted in schizophrenia 1, *DISC1*) 是AD的候选基因。然而*DISC1*启动子甲基化与AD发生的关系尚不清楚。**方法** 采用亚硫酸氢盐转化后焦磷酸测序分析的方法检测中国汉族51例AD患者和63例健康对照者血液样本中*DISC1*的甲基化水平。采用标准方法检测血样中各生化指标。**结果** AD组*DISC1*的甲基化水平显著高于健康对照组 ( $P=0.002$ )。载脂蛋白A (apolipoprotein A, ApoA)、血清脂蛋白 (lipoprotein A, Lp(a)) 和*DISC1* CpG3 甲基化之间发现了显著的关联。其中, 女性AD患者中*DISC1*甲基化与血浆ApoA水平呈正相关 ( $P=0.010$ ,  $P=0.003$ )。男性AD患者中*DISC1*甲基化与血浆Lp(a)水平呈正相关 ( $P<0.0001$ )。*DISC1*启动子甲基化的曲线下面积 (area under curve, AUC) 为0.726 (95% CI: 0.626~0.827), 灵敏度和特异度分别为0.569和0.869。**结论** 外周血*DISC1*启动子高甲基化是AD发生的高风险因素, 其可能是AD诊断的潜在生物标志物。

**关键词** 阿尔茨海默病, 精神分裂症断裂基因1, 甲基化

**中图分类号** Q2, Q4, R338

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阿尔茨海默病 (Alzheimer's disease, AD) 是一种进行性的神经退行性疾病, 临床上主要表现为渐进性的认知功能减退、学习记忆能力下降和精神行为异常, 在老年人群中AD发病率占各类痴呆的60%以上<sup>[1]</sup>, 并且随着平均寿命的增加, AD的发病率也会急速上升<sup>[2]</sup>。

AD是一个受环境和基因影响的复杂疾病, 其中70%AD发生的风险因素是由于遗传改变引起的<sup>[3]</sup>。AD主要的致病蛋白 $\beta$ 淀粉样蛋白 (amyloid beta, A $\beta$ ) 是由40或42个氨基酸构成的短肽, 是淀粉样前体蛋白 (amyloid precursor protein, APP) 的水解产物<sup>[4]</sup>。APP是一种跨膜蛋白, 在细胞生理功能的调节中起重要作用, 它参与突触发生和突触可塑性<sup>[5]</sup>。APP在体内的裂解存在两种途径: 一种是 $\alpha$ 分泌酶在A $\beta$ 结构域内切割, 产生具有神经营养功能和神经保护作用的APP片段, 称为非淀粉

样肽源途径 (non-amyloidogenic)<sup>[6]</sup>; 另一种是 $\beta$ 位点剪切酶 ( $\beta$ -site APP cleaving enzyme 1, BACE1) 和 $\gamma$ 剪切酶在A $\beta$ 结构域的两端切割, 产生A $\beta$ 片段, 称为淀粉样肽源途径 (amyloidogenic)<sup>[7]</sup>。大量研究都表明, BACE1基因删除或表达抑制后,

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A $\beta$ 生成显著减少<sup>[8]</sup>。因此, *BACE1*的调节在AD发生发展中起着重要的作用。

精神分裂症断裂基因1 (disrupted-in-schizophrenia-1, *DISC1*) 位于1号染色体, 最初发现于一个精神疾病高发的苏格兰家族<sup>[9]</sup>。*DISC1*的基因突变与精神分裂症、双向情感障碍、重度抑郁症等精神疾病的发病有着密切联系<sup>[10]</sup>。最近的全基因组关联性分析发现, *DISC1*的一个单核苷酸多态性 (SNP1q42, rs6675281) 与AD的发病有显著相关性<sup>[11]</sup>。在皮质发育过程中, *DISC1*和*APP*的结合在神经元迁移中起关键作用, 增加*DISC1*的表达挽救了由*APP*表达缺失引起的迁移缺陷<sup>[12]</sup>。在8月龄*APP/PS1* AD转基因鼠中, *DISC1*的表达下降, 增加*DISC1*的表达会促进*BACE1*往溶酶体的转运, 从而导致*BACE1*在溶酶体的降解<sup>[13]</sup>。据此, 可以推断*DISC1*和AD的发病有着显著相关性。

表观遗传学是连接环境与遗传基因变化的桥梁, DNA甲基化是一种经典表观修饰, 参与多种疾病的发生, 包括糖尿病、精神分裂症、AD等<sup>[14]</sup>。然而目前有关人体血液样本中*DISC1*的甲基化修饰与AD的相关性尚不清楚。本研究采用亚硫酸氢盐转化后焦磷酸测序分析的方法, 检测了中国汉族51例AD患者和63例健康对照者*DISC1*的甲基化水平, 分析其与AD发生的关系。

## 1 材料与方法

### 1.1 血液样本收集

本研究收集了来自宁波第一医院和宁波康宁医院的散发性AD患者51例 (男性27人, 女性24人) 和与AD组性别、年龄相匹配的正常对照63例 (男性39人, 女性24人)。散发性AD患者由两位有经验的神经内科临床医生 (CZ和ZQ) 根据ICD-10、国家神经和交流障碍及中风-阿尔茨海默病的相关疾病协会标准诊断, 结合患者的病史和家族史、神经系统检查、血液研究、脑成像研究、神经心理测试和认知筛查测试等方法进行判定。所有的对照人群都没有任何类型的身体或精神障碍。所有参与者为居住在宁波市的汉族人。本研究经宁波大学伦理委员会审核批准。所有参与者或其监护人均已签署知情同意书。

### 1.2 生化因子检测

分别采用双缩脲法和溴甲酚绿法测定血清总蛋

白 (total protein, TP) 和白蛋白 (albumin, ALB) 浓度, 球蛋白 (globulin, GLB) 计算为TP减去ALB。采用速率法测定谷丙转氨酶 (alanine aminotransferase, ALT)、碱性磷酸酶 (alkaline phosphatase, ALP) 的含量。使用循环酶法测定总胆汁酸 (total bile acid, TBA) 和同型半胱氨酸 (homocysteine, Hcy) 的水平。采用酶法测糖 (glucose, Glu)、甘油三酯 (triglyceride, TG)、总胆固醇 (total cholesterol, TC)、肌酐 (creatinine, CRE) 和尿酸 (uric acid, UA) 含量。使用一步检测法测定高密度脂蛋白胆固醇 (high density lipoprotein cholesterol, HDL-C) 水平。通过比浊法测量载脂蛋白A (apolipoprotein A, ApoA) 和载脂蛋白B (apolipoprotein B, ApoB) 含量。分别采用终点法和胶乳凝集法检测血清脂蛋白a (lipoprotein A, Lp(a)) 和C反应蛋白 (C-reactive protein, CRP) 浓度。使用免疫比浊法检测载脂蛋白E (apolipoprotein E, ApoE) 水平。

### 1.3 亚硫酸氢盐转化后焦磷酸测序分析

用核酸提取分析仪 (Lab-Aid 820, 厦门, 中国) 根据操作规程从外周血提取DNA。使用Nanodrop 1000测定DNA浓度和纯度。通过亚硫酸氢钠DNA转化化学 (EpiTech Bisulfite Kits; Qiagen) 和聚合酶链式反应 (PCR) 扩增 (Pyromark PCR试剂盒; Qiagen) 制备DNA。为检测*DISC1*甲基化水平, 使用Pyromark Q24仪器进行焦磷酸测序分析。用于甲基化定量的PCR正向引物: 5'-GGGGATTTAGAGAGGTTGTAAAG-3'、反向引物: 5'-生物素-CCTAAACTACCTCCTACT-CCT-3'和测序引物: 5'-GTTAATGTTGGAAAGG-AAAT-3'。

### 1.4 统计分析

采用SPSS软件16.0进行统计学分析, 采用两独立样本*t*检验或Mann-Whitney U秩和检验来确定AD病例和对照之间基线数据的差异。通过Pearson或Spearman相关性检验评估*DISC1*甲基化与代谢特征之间的关联 ( $P < 0.05$ 被认为具有统计学意义)。

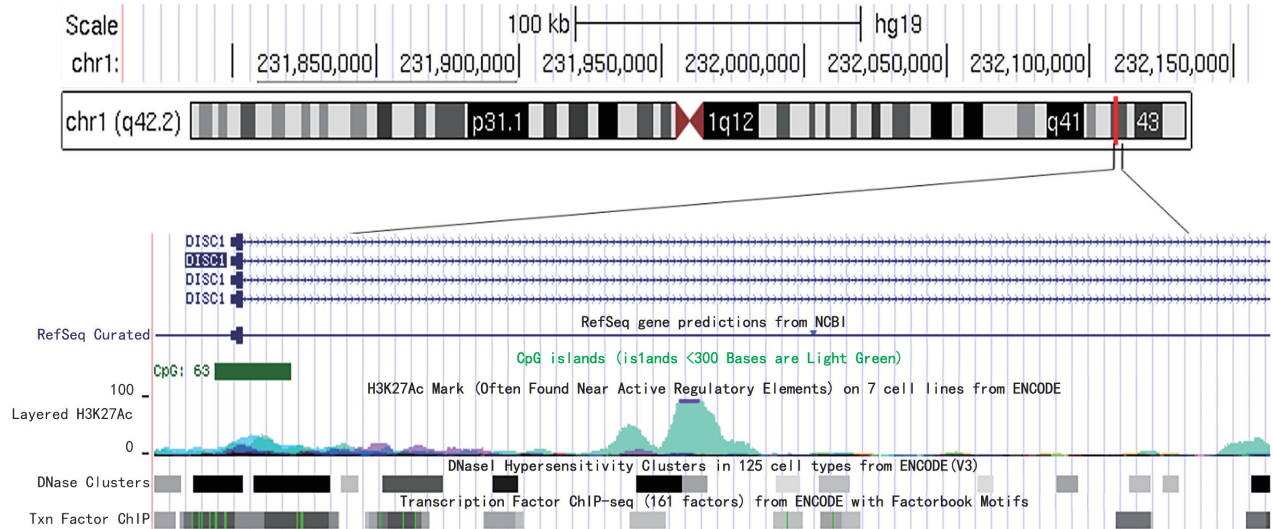
## 2 结果

### 2.1 *DISC1*启动子的CpG岛区甲基化分析

对*DISC1*启动子的CpG岛区 (chr1: 231 762 415~231 763 115) 进行焦磷酸测序

(图1), 共测量2个CpG位点, 发现2个CpG位点的甲基化水平之间存在显著相关性 ( $r>0.671$ ,

$P<0.001$ , 表1), 因此在随后的分析中进一步测量了2种CpG的平均DNA甲基化。



**Fig. 1** Correlations among seven promoter CpG sites of *DISC1*

*DISC1* is amplified using a set of primers which targets at region of chr1:231,626,815–231,855,380 and overlaps with CpG island, DNase clusters region as well as transcription binding sites denoting by UCSC human genome browser. F, R and S stand for forward, reverse and sequencing primers, respectively.

**Table 1** Comparisons of *DISC1* methylation levels between cases and controls

	AD median (IQR) <sup>1)</sup>	Control median (IQR) <sup>2)</sup>	Test value	<i>P</i>
CpG1	2 (1, 3)	1 (1, 2)	$Z = -3.376$	<b>0.000 7</b>
CpG2	3 (1, 4)	1 (1, 2)	$Z = -4.735$	<b>2.27E-6</b>
Mean	3 (1, 4)	1 (1, 2)	$Z = -4.177$	<b>1.65E-5</b>

<sup>1)</sup>  $n=51$ ; <sup>2)</sup>  $n=63$ . The non-parametric rank test was used. Bold type represents a significant difference between cases and controls. IQR: interquartile range.

### 2.2 生化因子与AD之间的关联分析

本研究共纳入51名AD患者和63名对照。在19个临床特征中(表2), AD组中ALB、Lp(a)和Hcy水平均高于对照组 ( $P=0.04$ ,  $P=0.000 4$ ,  $P=0.01$ ); AD组ALT、HDL-C和CRP水平低于对照组 ( $P=0.04$ ,  $P=0.000 4$ ,  $P=0.02$ )。通过Logistic回归分析进一步证实Lp(a)升高增加AD的风险 (OR (95% CI)=19.72 (2.072, 187.693),

$P=0.009$ , 表3)。

### 2.3 DISC1甲基化与AD的相关性分析

本研究结果表明, *DISC1*的两个CpG位点在AD组均能观察到显著的甲基化水平升高 ( $P=0.000 7$ ;  $P=2.27E-6$ , 表1)。通过ROC曲线用来评估诊断能力<sup>[15]</sup>, *DISC1*启动子甲基化的曲线下面积(ACU)为0.726 (95% CI: 0.626~0.827), 灵敏度和特异度分别为0.569和0.869(图2)。这些结果表明, *DISC1*启动子高甲基化可能是AD潜在的生物标志物。运用Logistic回归分析评估AD的风险, 结果显示, *DISC1*启动子高甲基化增加了AD的风险 (OR(95% CI)=2.403 (1.117, 5.171),  $P=0.025$ , 表3)。随后进一步分析*DISC1*启动子甲基化与患者生化指标之间的相关性(图3), 女性患者中ApoA ( $r=0.490$ ,  $P=0.003$ )与*DISC1*启动子甲基化呈正相关 ( $r=0.431$ ,  $P=0.010$ ); 男性患者中Lp(a)与*DISC1*启动子甲基化呈正相关 ( $r=0.538$ ,  $P=1.14E-4$ )。

**Table 2 Characteristics of subjects from cases and controls**

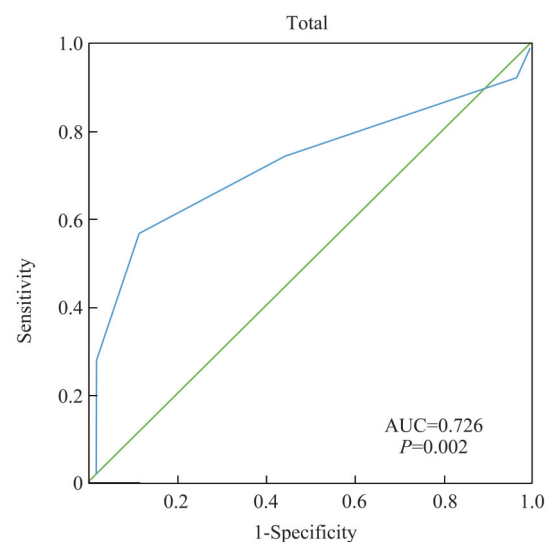
	AD median(IQR) or Mean±S.D. <sup>1)</sup>	Control median(IQR) or Mean±S.D. <sup>2)</sup>	Test value	P
Age, years	83.00 (77.00, 85.00)	82.00 (75.00, 84.00)	Z = -1.185	0.24
BMI	20.96 (20.19, 25.65)	23.03 (20.77, 25.00)	Z = -0.859	0.39
ALB, g/L	38.43±3.82	36.55±3.91	t = -2.996	<b>0.004</b>
GLB, g/L	29.50 (26.20, 32.90)	28.60 (25.75, 33.80)	Z = -0.292	0.77
ALT, U/L	11.00 (9.00, 14.00)	14.00 (10.00, 23.50)	Z = -2.024	<b>0.04</b>
ALP, U/L	74.00 (60.50, 93.50)	80.50 (67.25, 104.50)	Z = -1.295	0.20
TBA, μmol/L	6.50 (3.23, 9.53)	5.15 (1.80, 8.10)	Z = -1.846	0.07
Glu, mmol/L	4.60 (4.24, 5.00)	4.82 (4.41, 5.56)	Z = -0.861	0.39
TG, mmol/L	1.21 (0.81, 1.54)	1.11 (0.74, 1.82)	Z = -0.103	0.918
TC, mmol/L	12.30±5.731	11.95±6.185	t = 0.269	0.789
HDL-C, mmol/L	1.0±0.285	1.2±0.272	t = -3.643	<b>0.000 4</b>
ApoA, g/L	1.10 (0.91, 1.21)	0.97 (0.81, 1.03)	Z = -2.679	<b>0.01</b>
ApoB, g/L	0.67 (0.54, 0.77)	0.63 (0.53, 0.90)	Z = -0.429	0.67
Lp(a), g/L	1.06 (0.25, 2.03)	0.24 (0.15, 0.55)	Z = -3.567	<b>0.000 4</b>
ApoE, mg/L	35.10 (26.10, 47.95)	34.35 (29.68, 40.70)	Z = -0.698	0.62
CRE, μmol/L	75.10 (59.50, 86.00)	77.85 (53.03, 95.28)	Z = -0.202	0.84
UA, μmol/L	290.00 (233.00, 364.00)	304.00 (245.25, 356.75)	Z = -0.160	0.87
Hcy, μmol/L	17.00 (15.00, 21.60)	13.90 (10.45, 17.05)	Z = -2.972	<b>0.01</b>
CRP, mg/L	2.45 (0.60, 5.45)	4.31 (1.77, 12.00)	Z = -2.378	<b>0.02</b>

<sup>1)</sup> n=51; <sup>2)</sup> n=63. Two independent samples t-test is used for the data in accordance with the normal distribution; Mann-Whitney nonparametric rank test is used for the data that does not conform to the normal distribution. IQR: interquartile range. ALB: albumin; GLB: globulin; ALT: alanine aminotransferase; ALP: alkaline phosphatase; TBA: total bile acid; Glu: glucose; TG: triglyceride; TC: total cholesterol; HDL-C: high density lipoprotein; ApoA: apolipoprotein A; ApoB: apolipoprotein B; Lp(a): lipoprotein a; ApoE: apolipoprotein E; CRE: creatinine; UA: uric acid; Hcy: homocysteine; CRP: C-reactive protein.

**Table 3 Logistic regression analysis of the risk of AD**

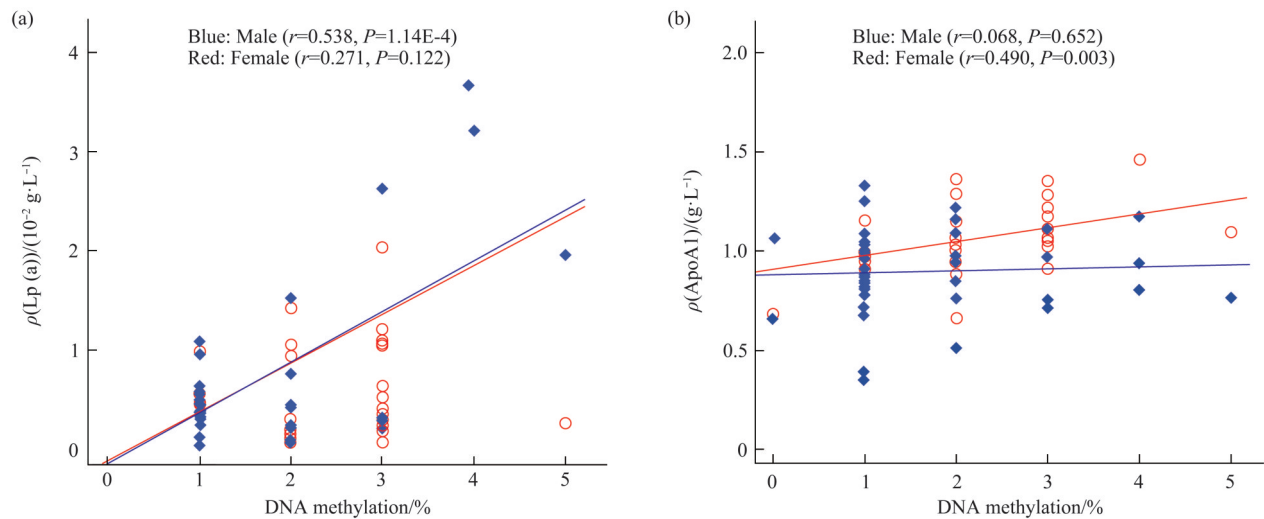
	B	Odds ratio	95% CI	P
<b>DISC1 methylation</b>	0.877	2.403	1.117-5.171	<b>0.025</b>
Hypertension	0.322	1.379	0.231-8.227	0.724
Smoking	-3.242	0.039	0.001-2.045	0.108
Diabetes	-1.432	0.239	0.033-1.730	0.156
HDL-C	2.251	9.494	0.389-231.913	0.167
ALB	-0.045	0.956	0.763-1.198	0.696
Lp(a)	2.982	19.720	2.072-187.693	<b>0.009</b>
Age	0.002	1.002	0.899-1.116	0.974
GLB	-0.060	0.942	0.797-1.113	0.479
ALT	-0.032	0.968	0.903-1.038	0.368
Glu	0.177	1.194	0.775-1.838	0.422
TG	1.158	3.184	1.060-9.5106	<b>0.038</b>
ApoE	-0.079	0.924	0.849-1.006	0.069

P value less than 0.05 is in bold.

**Fig. 2 The receiver operating characteristic ( ROC ) curve analysis of AD**

AUC: area under curve.





**Fig. 3** Correlations between biochemical parameters of samples and *DISC1* promoter methylation level

(a) Correlations between Lp(a) level and *DISC1* promoter methylation level. (b) Correlations between ApoA1 level and *DISC1* promoter methylation level.

### 3 讨 论

本研究分析了AD患者和对照组*DISC1*的启动子甲基化水平,以阐明*DISC1*的启动子甲基化与AD的关联性,结果显示AD组的甲基化水平显著高于对照组。AD的ROC曲线也表明*DISC1*的启动子高甲基化可以作为AD的潜在生物标志物。相关分析显示,ApoA与*DISC1*的启动子甲基化在女性病例中呈正相关;Lp(a)与*DISC1*的启动子甲基化在男性病例中呈正相关。

外周血样本方便易得,且甲基化水平与脑组织甲基化水平具有良好的一致<sup>[16-17]</sup>。本研究表明,AD组的*DISC1*启动子甲基化程度显著高于对照组,*DISC1*启动子的高甲基化可能会降低*DISC1*的表达,进而导致AD发生。以往的研究表明,在8月龄*APP/PS1* AD转基因鼠中,*DISC1*的表达下降<sup>[13]</sup>,本研究结果提示在AD病人中也存在类似的改变。*DISC1*降低参与AD的可能机制是,*DISC1*下降使BACE1往溶酶体的转运降低,从而导致BACE1在溶酶体的降解减少<sup>[13]</sup>。*DISC1*含有LC3的结合位点,*DISC1*有助于促进A $\beta$ 引起的受损线粒体自噬,而*DISC1*降低,使线粒体自噬过程受阻,从而引起突触可塑性损伤和AD认知功能障碍<sup>[18]</sup>。

本研究检测了19个生化与AD的关联性,发现

AD组中ALB、Lp(a)和Hcy水平均高于对照组。AD组ALT、HDL-C和CRP水平低于对照组。血浆Hcy水平的增加被认为是AD的危险因素,并且最近的研究已经证明Hcy浓度的增加能增加总Tau和磷酸化Tau,并形成Tau寡聚体,从而增加AD风险<sup>[19]</sup>。之前的研究也证实了中度AD患者血浆CRP水平的降低<sup>[20]</sup>。此外,较低的CRP水平与较快的认知衰退相关<sup>[21]</sup>。

为了找出*DISC1*启动子甲基化与生化指标之间的关联,本研究还进行了相关分析。结果显示,ApoA水平与女性*DISC1*启动子甲基化有关,Lp(a)水平与男性*DISC1*启动子甲基化有关。ApoA有转运胆固醇和调节炎症的作用,并且影响A $\beta$ 聚集和沉积<sup>[22]</sup>,因此ApoA也被视为神经退行性疾病潜在的诊断标志物<sup>[23]</sup>;临床研究结果证实,Lp(a)血清浓度与AD风险呈非线性关系显著相关,可能的原因是Lp(a)血清浓度的升高会增加脑血管疾病的风险从而间接影响AD的发病<sup>[24]</sup>。

### 4 结 论

总之,本研究表明,AD患者*DISC1*启动子的甲基化水平显著高于对照组,外周血*DISC1*启动子高甲基化是AD发生的高风险因素,其可能是AD诊断潜在的生物标志物。

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## Elevated *DISC1* Promoter Methylation Increases The Risk of Alzheimer's Disease\*

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**Abstract Objective** Aberrant promoter methylation of multiple genes is associated with various diseases, including Alzheimer's disease (AD), however, the relationship between disrupted-in-schizophrenia-1 (*DISC1*) promoter methylation and the progress of AD is unclear. **Methods** The methylation levels of the *DISC1* promoter were measured in 51 AD patients and 63 controls using bisulfite pyrosequencing assay. Blood biochemical indicators were detected using standard methods. **Results** *DISC1* promoter methylation was significantly higher in AD patients than in controls ( $P=0.002$ ). Moreover, Both apolipoprotein A (ApoA) and Lipoprotein A (Lp(a)) are significantly correlated with the *DISC1* CpG3 methylation. *DISC1* methylation is positively correlated with blood ApoA in female ( $P=0.003$ ). *DISC1* methylation is positively correlated with blood Lp(a) in male ( $P<0.0001$ ). The area under curve (AUC) of *DISC1* promoter methylation is 0.726 (95% CI: 0.626–0.827), the sensitivity is 0.560 and specificity is 0.869. **Conclusion** The results of the present study demonstrated that elevated *DISC1* promoter methylation was associated with AD risk in males, and it may be a potential biomarker for the diagnosis of AD.

**Key words** Alzheimer's disease, disrupted-in-schizophrenia-1, methylation

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