

Risk of kidney failure could be predicted by DNA coding

Counting the number of times a string of letters appears in the genome could [bring](#) us closer to predicting kidney failure, suggests an international team of [researchers](#). They found that fewer copies of a [gene](#) which produces an important defense [protein](#) [that] increases a person's risk of developing a common form of kidney inflammation.

The findings could help explain why Chinese people are more susceptible to the condition known as immunoglobulin A nephropathy (IgAN),...[which] is a leading cause of kidney disease in this population.

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"The contribution of this locus to the IgAN risk equals the sum of all the other [genetic](#) risk factors that have been discovered so far," says [Jianjun Liu, who led the study at the A*[STAR Genome](#) Institute of [Singapore](#)]. He and his team wanted to explore this region further by quantifying patterns of repetition...in a specific [gene](#) called *DEFA1A3*. The number of times a gene repeats can influence disease development and progression.

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They found that the IgAN patients had significantly fewer repetitions of the *DEFA1A3* gene, which was associated with an increased risk of developing the disease.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: [Copy That? The Genetics of Kidney Failure](#)