

BLOOD GROUP TYPES IN GREEKS FROM MAGNISIA AND LARISSA DISTRICTS (EASTERN THESSALY)

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Abstract. The study of the human ABO blood system is of high significance for the anthropological characterization of a population. For the aims of the present study there have been examined in view to ABO blood group system 237 individuals, as well as and 245 individuals according to Rh system – of both genders. The studied contingent represents a heterogeneous student group from eastern Thessaly Region, Central Greece. Among the sample blood group $O\alpha\beta$ showed the highest frequency - 39,66% whereas most rare was AB (9,28 %). Gender differences regarding the frequency of blood groups O and A were also established. 86,93% of individuals have positive Rh factor. Rh - positive is more frequent among women - 90,08% , and Rh-negative in men (9,92%). The comparison of the obtained genetic frequencies with older data showed heterogeneity among local Greek populations in comparison with some more distant ones. Accumulation of further data is needed, in order to solve the questions arisen.

Key words: physical anthropology, ABO blood group system, Rh - factor system, Greek students, Thessaly.

Introduction

The ABO system was discovered in 1901, but since then many researchers are tried to find connections between blood group system and various aspects of anthropology and medicine (Maksimova et al., 2002; Maksimova et al., 2007; Timceva et al., 1998-1999; Todorov et al., 2004; Vizev et al., 1987); ethnicities, regions, races, population dynamics (Todorov et al., 1983; Todorov et al., 1991; Todorov et al., 1993; Todorov et al., 1996; Todorov et al., 1998-1999; Janeva et al., 2005; Torun et al., 2012; Özkasap et al., 2013; Nedjlaa 2013); life expectancy (Todorov 1981); paternity. The widespread use of serological systems makes them exactly relevant to the anthropological characteristics of a population (Bliznakov, Popvasilev, 1980). Although these characters have been well studied worldwide including Greece in total (Constantoulis, Paidousis, 1958; Xirotiris et al., 1980; Kremastinou, 1996; Lialiaris et al., 2011), or by administrative region (Paidousis, Krimbas 1980), there is no current information about the frequency distribution of the blood groups in this particular study area. Thanks to the contemporary human migration worldwide, as well as in the study area the native gene pool changes during time, and hence the frequency distribution of ABO and Rh blood groups are also changing (Lialiaris et al., 2010).

The purpose of this study is to examine the genetic frequencies of blood groups ABO and Rh system the native population of eastern Thessaly, as well as to compare them with nearby inhabiting groups on the basis of previous bibliographic sources.

Material and methods

The current study was conducted in eastern Thessaly – Central Greece (cities Volos, Larisa and adjacent villages). The population inhabiting the study area represents about 70% of that in Thessaly region. 237 clinically healthy individuals of both genders (123 women and 114 men), as well as 245 individuals (131 women and 160 men) have been questioned about their blood group type and Rh- system respectively. The fact about every concrete blood group type was extracted from personal health books, preliminary tested in laboratory. The sample covers a diverse age group and has been studied in terms of their uncontaminated origin up to three generations ago by questionnaire method. The genetic frequencies have been calculated from the experimental phenotypic ABO types, under Hardy-Weinberg's law (1908). Differences between the experimental frequencies between male and female part of the examined sample have been estimated by the aims of Chi square test. The obtained results have been compared with the ABO genetic frequencies of other populations, which inhabit nearby areas. Under this consequence, the examined group has been probably contemporary or during the past influenced by them. The divergence between the studied and other populations was estimated according to Nei, (1972). Visualization of the genetic distances between the populations has been accomplished according to Culman et al., 2009.

Results

The most frequent blood group type among the examined group occurred to be $O_{a\beta}$ (39.66%), as opposed to AB (9.28%), which corresponds to the data of V. Todorov, 1986. Blood type A predominates among women, whereas O among men. Nevertheless, these differences according to gender are not statistically provable ($\kappa=3$, $\chi^2=2.71$ and $p>0.05$).

Table 1. Established and expected genetic frequencies concerning the ABO blood type system in inhabitants of eastern Thessaly region, central Greece.

Gender	Blood group type					p	q	r	
	O	A	B	AB					
Males	n=144	n	51	35	17	11			
		%	44.74	30.7	14.91	9.56			
Females	n=123	n	43	46	23	11			
		%	34.96	37.4	18.7	8.94			
Total -established	n=237	n	94	81	40	22			
		%	39.66	34.18	16.88	9.28	0.248	0.140	0.612
Total -expected		%	37.36	36.48	19.18	6.98	0.247	0.140	0.613

The expected and experimental genetic frequencies are almost the same, which is an indication for genetic equilibrium. p is also of lower frequency, compared to q.

In terms to Rhesus factor, 86% of the examined individuals are positive. More women have positive Rhesus factor, in comparison to men (90.08% and 82.46% respectively) and the opposite (table 2). These differences are not statistically significant ($\kappa=1$, $\chi^2=3.03$ and $p>0.05$).

Calculation of the theoretical and the observed genetic frequencies showed that they are approximately the same. The derived results concerning the frequency of Rhesus factor correspond to the specific for the total European population frequencies (Шаповалова, 1962).

Table 2. Established and expected genetic frequencies concerning the Rh blood type system in inhabitants of eastern Thessaly region, central Greece.

Gender		Rh system		p	q
		(+)	(-)		
Males	n=114	n	94	20	
		%	82,46	17,54	
Females	n=131	n	118	13	
		%	90,08	9,92	
Total – established	n=245	n	212	33	
		%	86,53	13,47	0.633
Total – expected		%	86,53	13,47	0.633

Discussion

Similar expected and experimental genetic frequencies of Blood groups and Rhesus factor are indicator for a Hardy-Weinberg's equilibrium. This result derives from the fact of the sample's uncontaminated origin.

In view to the established genetic frequencies of the ABO blood groups system and compared with previous studies given in table 3, the examined sample is most divergent compared to the inhabitants of Odrin town (DNei=0.008) and most akin to these from Romania (DNei=0.001). When compared with the frequencies established before for Greek population in total (table 4), a slightly increased q on account of r is established, whereas p remains inside the range.

Table 3. Various groups compared to a population from Eastern Thessaly, central Greece on the basis of their of their ABO blood groups genetic frequencies.

Origin		
Volos+Larissa		
Eastern Thessaly – Greece	V+L-GR	current study
Iraklion Greece	Ira-GR	Paidousis, Krimbas, 1980
Rhodos Greece	Rho-GR	Paidousis, Krimbas, 1980
Karditsa Greece	Kat-GR	Paidousis, Krimbas, 1980
Atalandi Greece	Ata-GR	Paidousis, Krimbas, 1980
Halkidiki Greece	Hal-GR	Paidousis, Krimbas, 1980
Total Bulgaria	Tot-BG	Popov <i>et.al</i> , 2012
Total Turkey	Tot-TR	Akbay <i>et al.</i> , 1989
Odrin/Edirne/Adrianoupolis Turkey	Odr-TR	Çobancık, 1998
Total Cyprus	Tot-CY	Atun <i>et al.</i>
Total Albania	Tot-AL	http://www.bloodbook.com/world-abo.html
Total Italy	Tot-IT	http://www.bloodbook.com/world-abo.html
Total Serbia	Tot-SR	http://www.bloodbook.com/world-abo.html
Total Romania	Tot-RO	http://www.bloodbook.com/world-abo.html

These data seem controversial, but two circumstances have to be taken into account:

- The comparison has been accomplished on the basis of only one locus.
- The examined sample is of proved uncontaminated origin. The data used for comparison from other sources are described from “inhabitants” of given area, but not “proved native population”.

Nevertheless, if we accept that the heterogeneity of origin concerning some of the samples studied before is not affecting frequencies, heterogeneity of ABO genetic frequencies among local groups in Greek territory cannot be excluded. ABO system alone probably does not represent a good distinguishing genetic marker for some neighbor human populations – in this case a prerequisite for Hardy-Weinberg's equilibrium is lacking: migration is constant in the region from about 4000 BC.

Accumulation of further data obtained on the basis of various genetic markers and other methods is needed in local scale, in order to solve the questions arisen.

Table 4. Genetic frequencies of ABO Blood group system in Greece according to various sources and current study.

Genetic frequencies	p	q	r
Constantoulis, Paidousis, 1958 (Greeks, total)	0.246	0.094	0.661
Xirotitis, 1980 (Pomacs)	0.265	0.068	0.668
Paidousis, Krimbas, 1980 (Greeks, total)	0.266	0.098	0.636
Kremastinou, 1996 (Greeks, total)	0.266	0.110	0.624
Lialiaris, 2010 (Greeks, total)	0.260	0.114	0.625
Current study (eastern Thessalians)	0.248	0.140	0.612

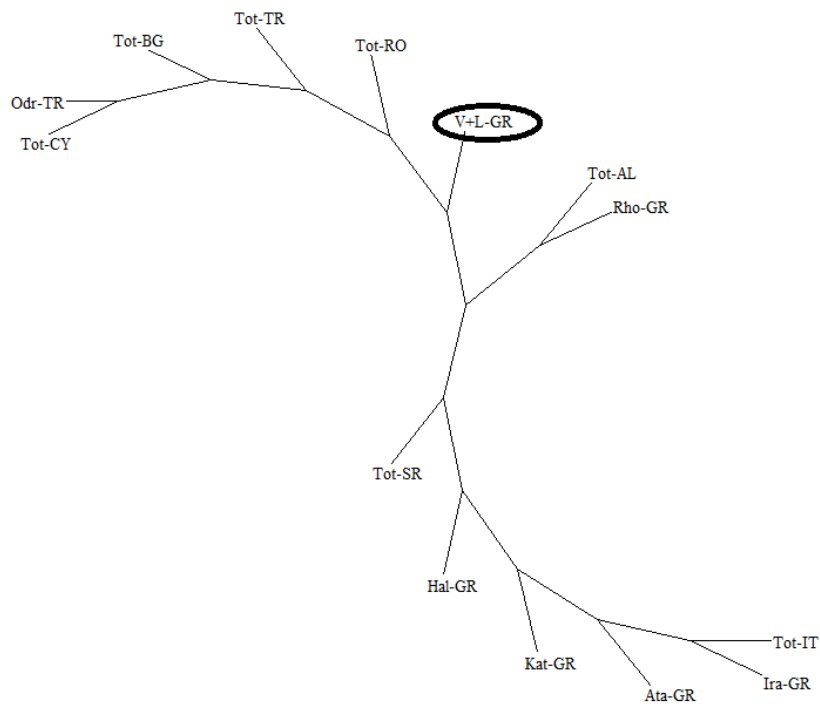


Figure 1. Nei's (1972) genetic distances calculated on the ABO genetic frequencies between a studied population from eastern Thessaly region, central Greece, and nearby inhabiting groups. Abbreviations are given in table 3.

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TIPOVI KRVNIH GRUPA KOD GRKA U OKRUZIMA MAGNEZIJA I LARISA (ISTOČNA TESALIJA)

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Apstrakt. Studija ABO sistema krvnih grupa veoma je značajna za antropološku analizu date populacije. U ovoj studiji, uzorkom je obuhvaćeno 237 osoba radi ispitivanja ABO sistema krvnih grupa i 245 osoba radi ispitivanja Rh sistema, kod oba pola. Ispitanici predstavljaju heterogenu grupu studenata iz oblasti istočne Tesalije u centralnoj Grčkoj. Najčešće zastupljena krvna grupa je Oαβ - 39,66%, dok je najmanje zastupljena AB krvna grupa (9,28%). Ustanovljene su razlike zastupljenosti krvnih grupa 0 i A u pogledu pola. 86,93% osoba ima pozitivan Rh faktor. Veći broj žena je Rh-pozitivno - 90,08%, dok je kod muškaraca veći broj Rh-negativan (9,92%). Upoređivanje dobijenih podataka sa ranijim podacima ukazuje na razlike između lokalne grčke populacije i nekih drugih populacija. Potrebno je prikupiti dodatne podatke kako bi se odgovorilo na pitanja koja se ovde nameću.

Ključne reči: fizička antropologija, ABO sistem krvnih grupa, Rh sistem, grčki studenti, Tesalija.