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\*CORRESPONDENCE Danli Kong I gdmckdl@163.com Yuanlin Ding I gdmudyl@163.com Xiaoming Chen I chenxiaoming@gdmu.edu.cn

<sup>†</sup>These authors share first authorship

<sup>+</sup>These authors share last authorship

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# Genetically predicted lifestyle factors, socioeconomic status and risk of coronary artery disease in individuals with diabetes: a Mendelian randomization study

Zhenhua Mai<sup>1,2†</sup>, Shuang Wang<sup>2†</sup>, Hao Chen<sup>2†</sup>, Jingjing Zhang<sup>2</sup>, Hao Liu<sup>2</sup>, Le Zhao<sup>2</sup>, Yongze Chen<sup>2,3</sup>, Ruixian Huang<sup>2</sup>, Hao Zhou<sup>4</sup>, Xiaoming Chen<sup>5\*†</sup>, Yuanlin Ding<sup>2\*†</sup> and Danli Kong<sup>2\*†</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Critical Care Medicine, Affiliated Hospital of Guangdong Medical University, Zhanjiang, China, <sup>2</sup>Department of Epidemiology and Medical Statistics School of Public Health, Guangdong Medical University, Dongguan, China, <sup>3</sup>Department of Gastroenterology, Affiliated Hospital of Guangdong Medical University, Zhanjiang, China, <sup>4</sup>Department of Hospital Infection Management of Nanfang Hospital, Southern Medical University, Guangzhou, China, <sup>5</sup>Department of Endocrinology, Affiliated Hospital of Guangdong Medical University, Zhanjiang, China

**Background:** This study explores the causal links between genetically predicted lifestyle factors, socioeconomic status, and coronary artery disease (CAD) risk in individuals with diabetes using a bidirectional Mendelian-randomization approach.

**Methods:** This study explored the potential causal relationships of lifestyle factors and socioeconomic status with the risk of CAD in diabetes patients by a bidirectional, two-sample Mendelian-randomization (MR) analysis.

**Results:** Genetically predicted smoking initiation (p = 0.005, 95% *CI*: 1.08–1.55) and insomnia (p = 0.001, 95% *CI*: 1.06–1.29) were associated with a higher risk of CAD in individuals with diabetes, whereas educational attainment (p = 0.0001, 95% *CI*: 0.47–0.78) was associated with a lower risk of CAD. The lifetime smoking index (p = 0.016, 95% *CI*: 1.12–3.03) was suggestively associated with a higher risk of CAD, while household income before taxes (p = 0.048, 95% *CI*: 0.41–1.00) was suggestively associated with a didition, we observed a suggestive negative association between the genetically predicted risk of CAD and the lifetime smoking index (p = 0.016, 95% *CI*: 0.98–0.99) and a significant causal relationship between the risk of CAD and household income before taxes (p = 0.006, 95% *CI*: 0.97–0.99).

**Conclusion:** The results of this study provide evidence that smoking initiation, lifetime smoking index and insomnia are associated with an increased risk of CAD in individuals with diabetes, educational attainment and household income before taxes are associated with a reduced risk of CAD in individuals with diabetes, and the possible role of lifetime smoking index and household income before taxes on the risk of CAD in individuals with diabetes. It provides an opportunity for the prevention and management of CAD in individuals with diabetes.

#### KEYWORDS

lifestyles, socioeconomic status, coronary artery disease, diabetes, Mendelian randomization

## Introduction

Among the top causes of mortality worldwide, cardiovascular disease is one of the most prevalent. The Global Burden of Cardiovascular Disease report reveals that 18.6 million people died from this condition in 2019, while the number of cases worldwide reached 523 million (1). Coronary artery disease (CAD) has the highest incidence among all types of cardiovascular disease and is widely prevalent across the globe. Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a significant risk factor for coronary heart disease (CHD). Diabetic individuals are two to three times more prone to develop CHD than nondiabetic individuals (2), and the prevalence of obstructive CAD is approximately 25% in diabetic individuals, which is substantially higher than that in nondiabetic individuals (3). In 2021, there were 2.30 million cardiovascular deaths. Additionally, 5.4 million deaths from elevated fasting plasma glucose (FPG) occur overall (4). Therefore, identifying potential risk factors for CAD in people with diabetes and taking timely interventions to reduce the occurrence of coronary events are of utmost importance.

Observational studies conducted previously have strongly linked lifestyle factors and socioeconomic status to the likelihood of developing CAD in people with diabetes (5–10). A prospective study reported that, in comparison to smokers with higher education levels, those with lower education had an increased risk of developing cardiovascular disease of 1.5% in women and 3.1% in men (8). Wang et al. reported that longer or shorter sleep was significantly linked to an increased risk of CHD. A one-hour reduction in sleep duration increased the risk of CHD by 11%, while a one-hour increase in sleep duration was associated with a 7% increase in the risk of CHD compared with 7 h of sleep per day (11). According to a cross-sectional study, health-related quality of life factors such as personal income level and exercise were found to have a negative association with the risk of stable angina, which is one of the most prevalent clinical types of CAD (12).

Nevertheless, observational studies are vulnerable to potential confounders, as well as reverse causation, which can lead to biased associations. For example, the association of alcohol consumption with cardiometabolic health-related diseases has been controversial for decades in epidemiological studies. Some observational studies exploring the association between alcohol consumption and cardiovascular disease have shown that moderate alcohol consumption is linked to a decreased risk of CAD (10, 13). In addition, for exposure factors that are detrimental to human health, such as smoking, it is challenging to explore causal associations through experimental design, and other clinical research methods are needed.

Mendelian randomization (MR) is an innovative method that employs genetic variation as an auxiliary variable to evaluate the causal relationship between risk factors and outcomes (14). MR uses the genetic nature of genes to model random assignment, using genes as a tool to explore whether the impact of a factor on a particular disease is indeed causal. Genetic variation is independent of other influences, so MR can effectively avoid bias caused by confounding factors and is less prone to reverse causality, which is common in observational studies (15–17). Utilizing a bidirectional two-sample MR study, we aimed to explore the causal link between lifestyle factors, socioeconomic status, and the risk of CAD in individuals with diabetes.

# Materials and methods

#### Study design

This is a bidirectional MR study. MR analysis uses genetic variants as instrumental variables (IVs) (18), and three key assumptions must be satisfied. The complete study design and the specific contents of the three assumptions are shown in Figure 1. This study was designed to determine the association between lifestyle factors, socioeconomic status and CAD in individuals with diabetes. First, we examined the causal relationship between lifestyle factors, socioeconomic status and CAD in individuals with diabetes. In addition, a reverse MR analysis was performed to examine the causal association between CAD in individuals with diabetes and lifestyle factors and socioeconomic status. Our study used abstract-level statistics only and thus did not involve ethical approval.

# Genome-wide association study summary data source

Single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) associated with seven lifestyle factors (including smoking initiation, lifetime smoking index, alcohol consumption, sleep duration, insomnia, physical activity, and coffee consumption) and three measures of socioeconomic status (including educational attainment, household income, and Townsend deprivation index) were obtained from genome-wide association studies (GWASs) corresponding to phenotypes retrieved from PubMed and MRC-IEU (19–24). Each phenotype is defined and described in detail in Supplementary Table S1.

Abstract-level data for the associations of lifestyle- and socioeconomic-associated SNPs with CAD in individuals with diabetes were extracted from a GWAS included in UK Biobank (25), including 15,666 individuals of European ancestry with diabetes (3,968 CAD patients and 11,698 control individuals). Diabetes status was defined according to an algorithm (26), screened from baseline UK biobank participants based on self-reported disease, medication, and age at the onset of diabetes. The criteria for CAD inclusion were CAD based on the UK Biobanks baseline assessment of verbal health interviews, combined with relevant data from hospital admission and death registries.



Instrumental variables

We extracted SNPs associated with seven lifestyle factors, three measures of socioeconomic status, and CAD in individuals with diabetes,  $p < 5.0 \times 10^{-8}$  ( $p < 5 \times 10^{-6}$  in CAD in individuals with diabetes), ensuring associations between SNPs and each phenotype. After removal of the linkage disequilibrium (LD) (27), independent SNPs (if  $r^2 < 0.01$  and clumping window > 10,000 kb, there is no LD in SNPs) were used as IVs. Physical activity was defined using average accelerometer-based physical activity (hereafter referred to as AMPA). To avoid pleiotropic effects, SNPs associated with multiple phenotypes were excluded. Moreover, we searched for the remaining SNPs in PhenoScanner, excluding those associated with other traits of genomewide significance (28). Finally, the F-statistic was calculated to quantify the strength of the selected SNPs. An F-statistic greater than 10 suggested a strong correlation between the IVs and exposure factors. Matching SNPs were queried in the outcome GWAS, and if an SNP of the instrument was not available in the outcome GWAS, the SNP was assessed for the presence of a "proxy" SNP in the linkage imbalance at  $r^2 > 0.8$ . Furthermore, the effect of the SNP on exposure should correspond to the same allele as the effect on the outcome, and palindromic SNPs are excluded.

## Statistical analysis

The inverse-variance weighted (IVW) method (29) was used as the main statistical analysis method. It is worth noting that fixed or random-effects IVW was selected based on the *p* value of the subsequent heterogeneity test (30). Weighted median (31), MR–Egger regression (32), MR-robust adjusted profile score (MR-RAPS) (33) and MR-pleiotropy residual sum and outlier (MR-PRESSO) (34) were used as four complementary analysis methods to check the consistency of the associations. IVW is primarily used for basic causal estimation, which will provide the most accurate results when all selected SNPs are valid IVs. The weighted median is obtained by first calculating the Wald ratio causal estimate for each SNP and then taking the estimate with the median inverse-variance weight. MR-Egger is an extension of IVW, which relaxes the assumption that any pleiotropy must be balanced. The significant intercept term indicates a bias in directivity pleiotropy, that is, the mean pleiotropy effect is not zero. MR-RAPS is an extension of IVW into a generic framework that allows for many weak tools. Exposure and outcome SNP effect estimates do not require sample overlap. MR-PRESSO is used to compare the actual distance and expected distance between genetic variation and regression line without horizontal pleiotropy and evaluate the causal estimate after removing the outlier.

To find the heterogeneity of SNP estimates in each MR association, we adopted the IVW method and MR–Egger regression, which quantified the heterogeneity by Cochran's Q statistic. When the *p*-value was less than 0.05, there was heterogeneity. The *p*-value of the intercept test from MR–Egger regression was used to evaluate horizontal pleiotropy (32). In addition, MR-PRESSO was performed to assess the presence of pleiotropy by removing outliers and determining whether there was a material change in the causal effect before and after the removal of outliers (34). Finally, the robustness of the results was checked by leave-one-out analysis.

Causality was assessed as the odds ratio (*OR*) between exposure and outcome, as well as its 95% *CI* and *p*-value. A two-sided p < 0.05was considered indicative of statistical significance. We used Bonferroni correction to further adjust the threshold for the number of phenotypes exposed (35). Therefore, for 10 exposures, the threshold of statistical significance was set at p < 0.05/10 = 0.005. When the p value was greater than 0.005 but less than 0.05, it was considered a suggestive association.

All analyses in this study were performed using the "TwoSampleMR," "MendelianRandomization" and "MRPRESSO" packages in R version 4.2.2.

# Results

#### Forwards MR analysis

A total of 286, 136, 76, 46, 198, 5, 10, 372, 48, and 17 independent SNPs were selected as instruments of smoking initiation, lifetime smoking index, alcohol consumption, sleep duration, insomnia, AMPA, coffee consumption, educational attainment, household income before tax, and Townsend deprivation index with respect to CAD in individuals with diabetes, respectively. Supplementary Tables S2–S11 list all SNPs selected above along with the F-statistics.

We found a significant causal relationship between smoking initiation, insomnia and CAD in individuals with diabetes. IVW analysis demonstrated that genetically predicted smoking initiation (*OR*: 1.30; 95% *CI*: 1.08–1.55; *p*=0.005) and insomnia (*OR*: 1.17; 95% CI: 1.06–1.29; p = 0.001) were associated with an increased risk of CAD in individuals with diabetes. Similar associations were also observed in the MR-RAPS and MR-PRESSO methods (Supplementary Table S13). Based on Cochran's Q-test, the results showed no significant heterogeneity (smoking initiation: p = 0.77; insomnia: p = 0.73). There is no evidence of horizontal pleiotropic bias by using MR-Egger regression (P for intercept = 0.39 for smoking initiation; P for intercept = 0.40 for insomnia) and MR-PRESSO global test (p = 0.77; p = 0.74) (Table 1). The leave-one-out analysis showed that the estimated effects detected did not depend on the specific SNP (Supplementary Figure S1). In addition, we observed a suggestive positive association between the genetically predicted lifetime smoking index and the risk of CAD in individuals with diabetes (OR: 1.84; 95% *CI*: 1.12–3.03; p=0.016) (Figure 2). MR–Egger regression and MR-PRESSO global test did not identify horizontal pleiotropy between IVs and outcomes (p=0.30; p=0.09), and Cochran's Q test did not detect heterogeneity (Q=157.50, p=0.09) (Table 1). No association between alcohol consumption, sleep duration, AMPA, or coffee consumption and the risk of CAD in individuals with diabetes was found using any method (Table 1; Supplementary Table S13).

Figure 2 plots the forest plot of the association between three socioeconomic status-related phenotypes and CAD in individuals with diabetes. In the primary analysis, genetic susceptibility to educational attainment was negatively associated with the risk of CAD in individuals with diabetes [OR (95% CI): 0.61 (0.47-0.78); p = 0.0001]. The MR-RAPS and MR-PRESSO results were consistent with the IVW method, and the results of the other MR methods showed a consistent but nonsignificant direction (Supplementary Table S13). To assess the robustness of the results, a set of sensitivity analyses was conducted, including Cochran's Q test (Q=369.16, p=0.52), MR-Egger intercept (p=0.76) and MR-PRESSO global test (p=0.52) (Table 1). The leave-one-out analysis revealed that no SNP drove the results, indicating that none of the estimates were violated (Supplementary Figure S1). Furthermore, we observed nominal associations between genetically predicted average total household income before taxes and lower odds of the risk of CAD in individuals with diabetes (OR: 0.64; 95% CI: 0.41-1.00; p=0.048; Cochrane's Q p = 0.58) (Figure 2). The results of MR-Egger regression did not suggest evidence of directional pleiotropy (p = 0.57), and the MR-PRESSO global test also showed no horizontal pleiotropy (p=0.60) (Table 1). Nevertheless, there was no evidence of a causal relationship between the Townsend deprivation index and the risk of CAD in individuals with diabetes by IVW (OR: 1.76; 95% CI: 0.62-5.02; p = 0.29) (Figure 2).

# **Reverse MR analysis**

We included 7 SNPs associated with CAD in individuals with diabetes, and all could be used to explore the association of the

TABLE 1 Results of Mendelian randomized sensitivity analysis of exposure to outcome.

F	MR-Egger		IVW	/	MR-Egger	MR-PRESSO			
Exposures	Q-statistic	P-value	Q-statistic	<i>P</i> -value	Intercept	P-value			
Lifestyle factors									
Smoking initiation	266.49	0.76	267.24	0.77	0.0065	0.39	0.77		
Lifetime smoking index	156.25	0.09	157.50	0.09	0.0118	0.30	0.09		
Alcohol drinking	79.98	0.30	80.00	0.33	0.0012	0.91	0.33		
Sleep duration	57.86	0.08	59.52	0.07	-0.0166	0.27	0.07		
Insomnia	183.53	0.73	184.24	0.73	0.0071	0.40	0.74		
AMPA	1.16	0.76	1.25	0.87	0.0184	0.79	0.87		
Coffee consumption	5.00	0.76	5.15	0.82	0.0083	0.71	0.85		
Socioeconomic statuses									
Educational attainment	369.07	0.50	369.16	0.52	0.0017	0.76	0.52		
Average total household income before tax	44.06	0.55	44.38	0.58	-0.0113	0.57	0.60		
Townsend deprivation index	12.57	0.64	14.98	0.53	-0.0671	0.14	0.54		

AMPA, accelerometer-based physical activity.

Exposures	OR(95% CI)						No.of SNP	P-value
Lifestyle factors	,							
Smoking initiation	1.295(1.081-1.552)						286	0.005
Lifetime smoking index	1.844(1.121-3.035)						136	0.016
Alcohol drinking	1.319(0.715-2.436)						76	0.38
Sleep duration	0.726(0.446-1.180)	<b>—</b>					46	0.20
Insomnia	1.160(1.053-1.278)		He-H				198	0.001
AMPA	0.990(0.883-1.110)		н				5	0.86
Coffee consumption	1.002(0.992-1.012)		•				10	0.70
Socioeconomic status								
Educational attainment	0.607(0.472-0.781)	) 🛏	-				372	0.0001
Household income before tax	0.637(0.408-0.996)	<b></b>					48	0.048
Townsend deprivation index	1.760(0.617-5.023)	) ⊢		-			17	0.29
	r					1		
	0		1	2	2	3		
Outcomes	0 0R(95% Cl)		1	2	2	3	No of S	NP <i>P</i> -value
Outcomes Lifestyle factors	0 OR(95% Cl)		1	2	2	3	No.of S	NP <i>P</i> -value
Outcomes Lifestyle factors Smoking initiation	0 0R(95% Cl) 1.001(0.989-1.013)		1		2	3	No.of S	ENP <i>P</i> -value
<b>Dutcomes</b> Lifestyle factors Smoking initiation	0 0R(95% Cl) 1.001(0.989-1.013) 0.991(0.984-0.998)		1	1	2	3	<b>No.of S</b> 7 7	<b>5NP</b> <i>P</i> -value 0.86 0.016
<b>Dutcomes</b> Lifestyle factors Smoking initiation Lifetime smoking index Alcohol drinking	0 0R(95% Cl) 1.001(0.989-1.013) 0.991(0.984-0.998) 1.005(0.991-1.018)		1		2	3	<b>No.of S</b> 7 7 7	<b>NP</b> <i>P</i> -value 0.86 0.016 0.51
<b>Dutcomes</b> <b>Lifestyle factors</b> Smoking initiation Lifetime smoking index Alcohol drinking Sleep duration	0 0R(95% Cl) 1.001(0.989-1.013) 0.991(0.984-0.998) 1.005(0.991-1.018) 1.001(0.988-1.013)		1		2	3	<b>No.of S</b> 7 7 7 7 7	<b>ENP</b> <i>P</i> -value 0.86 0.016 0.51 0.9
Outcomes Lifestyle factors Smoking initiation Lifetime smoking index Alcohol drinking Sleep duration Insomnia	0 0R(95% Cl) 1.001(0.989-1.013) 0.991(0.984-0.998) 1.005(0.991-1.018) 1.001(0.988-1.013) 0.999(0.973-1.026)		1		2	3	<b>No.of S</b> 7 7 7 7 7 7 7	<b>ENP</b> <i>P</i> -value 0.86 0.016 0.51 0.9 0.96
Outcomes Lifestyle factors Smoking initiation Lifetime smoking index Alcohol drinking Sleep duration Insomnia AMPA	0 0R(95% Cl) 1.001(0.989-1.013) 0.991(0.984-0.998) 1.005(0.991-1.018) 1.001(0.988-1.013) 0.999(0.973-1.026) 1.065(0.877-1.291)	·	1		2	3	No.of S 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7	<b>ENP</b> <i>P</i> -value 0.86 0.016 0.51 0.9 0.96 0.53
Outcomes Lifestyle factors Smoking initiation Lifetime smoking index Alcohol drinking Sleep duration Insomnia AMPA Coffee consumption	0 0R(95% Cl) 1.001(0.989-1.013) 0.991(0.984-0.998) 1.005(0.991-1.018) 1.001(0.988-1.013) 0.999(0.973-1.026) 1.065(0.877-1.291) 0.999(0.991-1.007)	-	1		2	3	No.of S 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7	<b>ENP</b> <i>P</i> -value 0.86 0.016 0.51 0.9 0.96 0.53 0.87
Outcomes Lifestyle factors Smoking initiation Lifetime smoking index Alcohol drinking Sleep duration Insomnia AMPA Coffee consumption	0 0R(95% Cl) 1.001(0.989-1.013) 0.991(0.984-0.998) 1.005(0.991-1.018) 1.001(0.988-1.013) 0.999(0.973-1.026) 1.065(0.877-1.291) 0.999(0.991-1.007)	) 	1		2	3	No.of S 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7	CNP P-value   0.86 0.016   0.51 0.9   0.96 0.53   0.87 0.87
Outcomes Lifestyle factors Smoking initiation Lifetime smoking index Alcohol drinking Sleep duration Insomnia AMPA Coffee consumption Socioeconomic status	0 0R(95% Cl) 1.001(0.989-1.013) 0.991(0.984-0.998) 1.005(0.991-1.018) 1.001(0.988-1.013) 0.999(0.973-1.026) 1.065(0.877-1.291) 0.999(0.991-1.007)	) 	1		2	3	No.of S 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7	<b>CNP</b> <i>P</i> -value 0.86 0.016 0.51 0.9 0.96 0.53 0.87
Outcomes Lifestyle factors Smoking initiation Lifetime smoking index Alcohol drinking Sleep duration Insomnia AMPA Coffee consumption Socioeconomic status Educational attainment	0 0R(95% Cl) 1.001(0.989-1.013) 0.991(0.984-0.998) 1.005(0.991-1.018) 1.001(0.988-1.013) 0.999(0.973-1.026) 1.065(0.877-1.291) 0.999(0.991-1.007) 1.000(0.991-1.009)	) 			2	3	No.of S 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7	SNP <i>P</i> -value 0.86 0.016 0.51 0.9 0.96 0.53 0.87
Outcomes Lifestyle factors Smoking initiation Lifetime smoking index Alcohol drinking Sleep duration Insomnia AMPA Coffee consumption Socioeconomic status Educational attainment Household income before tax	0 0R(95% Cl) 1.001(0.989-1.013) 0.991(0.984-0.998) 1.005(0.991-1.018) 1.001(0.988-1.013) 0.999(0.973-1.026) 1.065(0.877-1.291) 0.999(0.991-1.007) 1.000(0.991-1.009) 0.979(0.966-0.992) 0.979(0.966-0.992)	) 	1		2	3	No.of S 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7	SNP <i>P</i> -value 0.86 0.016 0.51 0.9 0.96 0.53 0.87 0.97 0.002
Outcomes Lifestyle factors Smoking initiation Lifetime smoking index Alcohol drinking Sleep duration Insomnia AMPA Coffee consumption Socioeconomic status Educational attainment Household income before tax Fownsend deprivation index	0 0R(95% Cl) 1.001(0.989-1.013) 0.991(0.984-0.998) 1.005(0.991-1.018) 1.001(0.988-1.013) 0.999(0.973-1.026) 1.065(0.877-1.291) 0.999(0.991-1.007) 1.000(0.991-1.009) 0.979(0.966-0.992) 0.992(0.978-1.006)	) 	1		2	3	No.of S 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7	SNP <i>P</i> -value 0.86 0.016 0.51 0.9 0.96 0.53 0.87 0.97 0.002 0.26

FIGURE 2

Forest plot showing IVW results from the MR study to evaluate potential causal associations between exposures and the risk of CAD in individuals with diabetes. AMPA accelerometer-based physical activity.

risk of CAD in individuals with diabetes with seven lifestyle factors and three measures of socioeconomic status. Summary information on the genetic instruments is shown in Supplementary Table S12. Figure 3 shows the forest diagram with the IVW method as the primary result.

Among the seven lifestyle factors, we observed a suggestive negative association between genetically predicted risk of CAD in individuals with diabetes and lifetime smoking index (*OR*: 0.99; 95% *CI*: 0.98–0.99; p = 0.016) (Figure 3). MR–Egger regression and MR-PRESSO global test did not identify horizontal pleiotropy between IVs and outcomes (p = 0.50; p = 0.88), and Cochran's Q test did not detect heterogeneity (Q = 2.59, p = 0.86) (Table 2).

In the three measures of socioeconomic status, we found a significant causal relationship between the risk of CAD in individuals with diabetes and household income before taxes (*OR*: 0.98; 95% *CI*: 0.97–0.99; p=0.006). The IVW method provided the primary results (Figure 3). MR–Egger regression and MR-PRESSO global test did not identify horizontal pleiotropy between IVs and outcomes (p=0.68; p=0.56), and Cochran's Q test did not detect heterogeneity (Q=5.38, p=0.05) (Table 2).

# Discussion

This study employed a genetic approach to explore the potential bidirectional causal association between lifestyle factors, socioeconomic status, and the risk of CAD in patients with diabetes. Based on our research findings, we identified smoking initiation and insomnia as pathogenic risk factors for CAD in individuals with diabetes, while educational attainment was found to be a protective factor. Furthermore, our study did not find evidence supporting a reverse potential causal relationship, indicating that the presence of CAD in individuals with diabetes is likely to affect smoking initiation, insomnia, or educational attainment. Additionally, we observed a potential bidirectional association between the risk of CAD in individuals with diabetes and the lifetime smoking index as well as household income before taxes.

## Lifestyle factors

Smoking is a firmly established factor that increases the risk of developing cardiovascular disease (36), and our study confirms this

association in diabetic patients. Specifically, our results revealed a 30% elevated risk of CAD in individuals with diabetes who initiated smoking, which supports previous traditional noninterventional studies. As an illustration, a meta-analysis encompassing 89 cohort studies (including 1.13 million people with diabetes) found that smokers had a 51% increased risk of CAD compared to nonsmokers (95% CI: 1.41-1.62) (37). Furthermore, Chen and colleagues reported a positive association between smoking initiation and CAD among patients with diabetes using MR analysis (OR=1.32, 95% CI: 1.11-1.57), providing possible causal evidence to support clinical interventions for smoking cessation in this population (38). Furthermore, our study revealed a potential negative association between the lifetime smoking index and CAD in individuals with diabetes. According to our findings, CAD in individuals with diabetes has a potentially lower lifetime smoking index. These findings aimed to highlight the importance of targeted interventions to reduce smoking behavior to reduce the incidence of CAD in individuals with diabetes.

Sleep disturbance is a prevalent symptom in patients with diabetes (39, 40), and consistent with previous observational studies, our study revealed a 17% elevated risk of CAD among individuals with diabetes with insomnia. A meta-analysis of 13 prospective studies totaling 120,000 participants additionally demonstrated a 45% increased risk of cardiovascular disease incidence and/or mortality during the follow-up period among individuals with insomnia (OR = 1.45, 95% CI: 1.29-1.62) (41). However, our MR analysis did not provide evidence of a potential causal association between genetically estimated sleep duration and CAD in individuals with diabetes (p = 0.2). This could be due to the influence of potential confounding variables or nonbiological factors (mental health, stress and emotional status, etc.), which would suggest that the relationship is not causal. As such, our findings underscore the necessity of further exploration to gain a better understanding of the association between sleep disturbances and CAD in individuals with diabetes, taking into

Outcomes	OR(95% Cl)							No.of SNP	P-value
Lifestyle factors									
Smoking initiation	1.001(0.989-1.013)			н				7	0.86
Lifetime smoking index	0.991(0.984-0.998)			н				7	0.016
Alcohol drinking	1.005(0.991-1.018)			Her				7	0.51
Sleep duration	1.001(0.988-1.013)			н				7	0.9
Insomnia	0.999(0.973-1.026)			<b></b>				7	0.96
AMPA	1.065(0.877-1.291)		<b> </b>		•			7	0.53
Coffee consumption	0.999(0.991-1.007)			Hel				7	0.87
Socioeconomic status									
Educational attainment	1.000(0.991-1.009)			H				7	0.97
Household income before tax	0.979(0.966-0.992)			HeH				7	0.002
Townsend deprivation index	0.992(0.978-1.006)			<b>P</b> H				7	0.26
		0.8	0.9	1	1.1	1.2	1.	3	

FIGURE 3

Forest plot showing IVW results from the MR study to evaluate potential causal associations between the risk of CAD in individuals with diabetes and outcomes. AMPA accelerometer-based physical activity.

TABLE 2	<b>Results of Mendelian</b>	randomized s	sensitivity	analysis d	of outcome to	exposure.

Outoomoo	MR-Egger		IVW	1	MR-Egger i	MR-PRESSO	
Outcomes	Q-statistic	P-value	Q-statistic	P-value	Intercept	P-value	
Lifestyle factors							
Smoking initiation	9.37	0.10	9.43	0.15	-0.0007	0.86	0.15
Lifetime smoking index	2.07	0.84	2.59	0.86	-0.0015	0.50	0.88
Alcohol drinking	9.14	0.10	10.70	0.10	-0.0037	0.40	0.14
Sleep duration	0.57	0.98	0.58	0.99	0.0003	0.94	0.99
Insomnia	2.07	0.84	2.08	0.91	0.0006	0.94	0.92
AMPA	5.47	0.36	6.48	0.37	0.0532	0.38	0.41
Coffee consumption	4.44	0.49	4.59	0.60	0.0009	0.72	0.59
Socioeconomic statuses							
Educational attainment	5.70	0.34	5.76	0.45	0.0006	0.83	0.49
Average total household Income before tax	5.17	0.40	5.38	0.50	0.0017	0.68	0.56
Townsend deprivation index	10.51	0.06	11.24	0.08	-0.0025	0.58	0.10

AMPA, accelerometer-based physical activity.

account the potential impact of nonbiological factors that may affect sleep duration and quality.

The potential impact of alcohol consumption on the risk of CAD in individuals with diabetes has been a topic of debate (10). While some studies have suggested a favorable effect of moderate alcohol consumption (42), our study failed to identify any potential causal relationship between alcohol consumption and the risk of CAD in individuals with diabetes (p=0.38). It is possible that confounding factors may have influenced the results, such as metabolic abnormalities, hypertension, or high cholesterol, which can affect the health status of diabetic patients. Although we employed randomization to minimize the impact of confounding variables, their potential effects cannot be completely ruled out in this study. Additional investigations are required to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the association between alcohol consumption and the risk of CAD in individuals with diabetes.

#### Socioeconomic statuses

Socioeconomic status is an important factor affecting the risk of CAD in individuals with diabetes (9). In agreement with prior observational studies, our MR study revealed a causative relationship between genetically inferred educational attainment and CAD risk in persons with diabetes. Specifically, diabetic patients with higher education had a significantly lower risk of CAD, with a reduction of 39%. These findings are in agreement with a recent MR study using genetic data from UK Biobank, which demonstrated that longer educational attainment is potentially causally associated with lower odds of cardiometabolic diseases, including DM and CAD (43). Our study highlights the significance of improving education to mitigate health inequalities and ameliorate cardiovascular health outcomes in individuals with diabetes.

Numerous studies have highlighted the higher prevalence of diabetes in low-income populations and the greater burden of cardiovascular risk factors among low-income diabetic patients (44, 45). Our study uncovers a potential bidirectional causal relationship between pretax household income and CAD among individuals with diabetes. Specifically, a genetically predicted higher pretax average household income is associated with a noteworthy 36% decrease in CAD risk. Conversely, the presence of diabetes itself has the potential to adversely impact pretax household income, thereby increasing the risk of CAD. The findings highlight the intricate interplay between socioeconomic factors, health conditions, and CAD risk in individuals with diabetes. These results shed light on the complex dynamics between income, diabetes, and CAD, emphasizing the importance of considering both genetic and environmental factors in understanding disease risk.

These results have important implications for improving public health measures and clinical practice, suggesting that prevention of CAD in individuals with diabetes could focus on lifestyle factors, including smoking and insomnia, and provide recommendations for smoking cessation and insomnia treatment. In clinical practice, health care professionals should comprehensively assess the patients' smoking history, sleep quality and socioeconomic status and incorporate these factors into an individualized treatment plan. These efforts can help to reduce the risk of CAD in individuals with diabetes, improve patients' quality of life, and reduce the burden on the health system.

#### Strengths and limitations

There are several notable strengths to this study. First, we employed a two-sample MR analysis using genetically determined IVs to investigate the potential causal relationships of five lifestyle factors and three measures of socioeconomic status with CAD in individuals with diabetes. This approach effectively reduced the confounding and reverse causation that are prevalent in observational studies. Second, to enhance the validity and robustness of the study, two sets of instruments were used for smoking (smoking initiation and lifetime smoking index) and sleep behaviors (sleep duration and insomnia) for validation purposes. This strategy improved the accuracy and reliability of the results, reduced measurement errors, and effectively controlled for confounding factors to provide more precise and trustworthy conclusions.

There are certain limitations to be acknowledged when interpreting the results. First, the study consisted exclusively of individuals of European descent, and thus, the generalizability of our results to other populations may be limited. In addition, the selection of exposure factors in this paper is limited by the data sources and does not explore these complex exposure factors as deeply and comprehensively as possible. Second, the exposure factors were self-reported and subject to reporting bias, which may have affected the accuracy of our estimates. Finally, although MR analysis provides evidence of causality, reliability is still affected by factors such as sample size and external validity. It is important to acknowledge that large-sample multicenter randomized controlled trials remain the gold standard for establishing causal relationships.

In conclusion, our findings highlight the importance of addressing smoking initiation and insomnia as modifiable risk factors for CAD in individuals with diabetes while promoting educational attainment as a protective factor. Meanwhile, we found a potential causal effect of CAD in individuals with diabetes on the lifetime smoking index and household income before taxes. These results can have significant implications for clinical practice and public health policies aimed at reducing the burden of CAD in this population.

# Data availability statement

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/Supplementary material, further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

## Author contributions

ZM: Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing. SW: Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing. HC: Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing. JZ: Writing – original draft. HL: Writing – original draft. LZ: Writing – original draft. YC: Writing – original draft. RH: Writing – original draft. HZ: Writing – review & editing. XC: Writing – review & editing. YD: Writing – review & editing. DK: Writing – review & editing.

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# **Conflict of interest**

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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# Supplementary material

The Supplementary material for this article can be found online at: https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2023.1284958/ full#supplementary-material

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