Author's response to reviews

Title: Six sequence variants on chromosome 9p21.3 are associated with a positive family history of myocardial infarction: a multicenter registry

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Dear Melissa Norton,

Please find enclosed a manuscript entitled "Six sequence variants on chromosome 9p21.3 are associated with a positive family history of myocardial infarction: a multicenter registry" by Thomas Scheffold and colleagues, which we would like to be considered for publication as a Research Article in BMC Cardiovascular Disorders.

In the present paper we investigated the association of six sequence variants on 9p21.3 with the incidence of an acute myocardial infarction (MI) in a large-scale study cohort of male patients with the main focus on the familial aggregation of the disease. In recent years, genome wide association studies focused on genomic factors involved in the development of coronary heart disease (CHD). In these studies and subsequent replication studies 9p21.3 was found to be the most common locus associated with CHD and MI.

In our study, we analyzed the genotyping data of 967 MI patients in comparison to previously published data of matchable control cohorts. Our analysis revealed a significantly stronger association of the investigated sequence variants in patients having presented with a family history of MI than in the overall cohort of MI patients with calculated odds ratios within the range of 1.892 to 2.769.

The findings of the present study may help to improve risk assessment and early prevention particularly for patients with a positive family history of CHD when 9p21.3 sequence variants are taken into account. We therefore believe that this manuscript is of general interest to the readership of BMC Cardiovascular Disorders and we would appreciate if it could be considered for publication as an Original Article in this journal.

Kindly contact us with any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Scheffold

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Sparkasse Vorderpfalz