Reviewer’s report

Title: Epigenetic and association study of FOXP2 gene in schizophrenia

Version: 1 Date: 15 March 2010

Reviewer: Hiroshi Takahashi

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In this manuscript, authors investigated association study of FOXP2 in Schizophrenia. There was no association between Schizophrenia and twenty-seven SNPs of FOXP2. However, interestingly they found that a significant association for a SNP and poverty of speech. They also performed methylation and expression analyses on FOXP2 gene. Although these analyses seem quite interesting, the result is unfortunately too preliminary because the number of the cases is too low.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1) The number of the cases is too low in methylation and expression studies (experiments in figures 3 and 4). Without increasing the number of the cases, appropriate statistical analyses cannot be done.

2) The degree of methylation seems too variable among the cases (both in controls and patients). There is no information available regarding autopsied cases (for example, drug therapy age and sex etc.) Such information is important because many drugs used for Schizophrenia have some effect on methylation of genes.

Minor Essential Revisions
1) Figures 2 and 3 should be correctly numbered.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.