Author's response to reviews

Title: Serotonin transporter gene polymorphism may be associated with functional dyspepsia in a Japanese population

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Author's response to reviews: see over
The Editor  
BMC Medical Genetics  

May 25, 2011  

Dear the Editor,

Thank you for handling our manuscript (MS: 4814861213084556) “Serotonin transporter gene polymorphism is associated with functional dyspepsia: a case control study” and for the opportunity to revise it again. We have changed the title to “Serotonin transporter gene polymorphism may be associated with functional dyspepsia in a Japanese population” as the reviewer suggested. We have again responded to the reviewer’s comments and criticisms and have provided a point-by-point response. Please find the edited revised points by red ink. We hope that you now find the manuscript suitable for publication in BMC Medical Genetics. Thank you for your time and attention in the handling of our manuscript.

Sincerely,

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**Responses to Comments from Reviewer #1: Beate Niesler**

The authors still highly overrate their results and should discuss their data more carefully taking also most recent publications in the field into account.
Thank you for your comments and we are sorry for not responded well with your comments. We have now changed the title, abstract and body of the manuscript to eliminate the overstatement. We have clearly stated that our results were exploratory and preliminary (Page 8, line 16 to 17) (Page 10, line 3).

We have also added recent 5-HTTLPR polymorphism related papers as new references in introduction section (Niesler et al. Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol 2010, Markoutsaki et al. Dig Dis Sci 2011).

1. The major weakness of the data is caused by the fact that the authors did still not correct for multiple testing and did not address this topic in the manuscript.
We are sorry not having corrected for multiple testing. We asked a medical statistician and have corrected this issue in the genotypes (SS vs. SL and SS vs. LL in control and FD, PDS or EPS) using Bonferroni correction and addressed it in the body of manuscript (Page 2, line 17) (Page 7, line 8) (Page 8, line 23) (Table 2). We also stated that the subanalyses were exploratory data and the power was not enough to conclude the results (Page 2, line 15 to 16) (Page 8, line 16 to 17) (Page 10, lines 3 to 4) (Page 11, lines 6).

2. The authors should state this problematic more clearly in the manuscript and also discuss this possibility. It is mandatory to call the association nominally associated and to take the possibility of false positive findings into account
We are sorry not having clearly stated the possibility of false positive results. We stated the possibility of type I error in the discussion section (Page 11, lines 6 to 7). Furthermore, we stated that a further larger sample size study is mandatory to eliminate type I error (Page 12, lines 9 to 12).