Author's response to reviews

Title: Investigating the relationship between UMODL1 gene polymorphisms and high myopia: a case-control study in Chinese

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Manuscript title: Investigating the relationship between UMODL1 gene polymorphisms and high myopia: a case-control study in Chinese

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Authors: Miao-miao Zhu, Maurice K.H. Yap, Daniel W.H. Ho, Wai Yan Fung, Po Wah Ng, Yang-shun Gu and Shea Ping Yip

Responses to reviewers’ comments and suggestions
We would like to thank the reviewers for their useful comments and suggestions. We agreed with these comments and suggestions, and corresponding revisions were made. We have also edited the manuscript carefully for English usage and style with the help of a native English-speaking colleague.

In the marked-up revised manuscript, revised texts are shown in red for the sake of easy tracking. The line numbers, page numbers, etc, indicated in the responses below refer to those in the revised manuscript unless stated otherwise.

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Reviewer #1

Comment:
1. However, the finding from the secondary phenotypes is weak and has not been replicated in the second dataset. Therefore, such a finding should be taken with extreme care and should NOT be mentioned in the conclusion of the abstract.

Response:
Thanks for this valuable comment. The manuscript has been revised as follows:

p.2, line 50-51 (Abstract):
“Common UMODL1 polymorphisms were unlikely to be important in the genetic susceptibility to high myopia in Han Chinese.”

[The original text is as follows:
Common UMODL1 polymorphisms were unlikely to be important in the genetic susceptibility to high myopia in Han Chinese, but might influence anterior chamber depth.”]

“but might influence anterior chamber depth” was removed from the conclusion of abstract.

p. 14, lines 378-380:
“We suggested that common polymorphisms of the UMODL1 gene were unlikely to play an important role in the genetic susceptibility to high myopia in the Chinese population under study, and the role of UMODL1 in ACD remained to be confirmed.”
We suggested that common polymorphisms of the *UMODL1* gene were unlikely to play an important role in the genetic susceptibility to high myopia in the Chinese population under study, but might influence ACD.

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**Comment:**
2. Another concern is the title that seems to indicate *UMODL1* is a susceptibility gene. Given that the present study failed to show it is a susceptibility gene to high myopia, the authors may want to fix the title.

**Response:**
We agreed with this comment. The title of the manuscript has been revised as follows:

p.1, lines 4-5:

“**Investigating the relationship between *UMODL1* gene polymorphisms and high myopia: a case-control study in Chinese**”

[The original title is as follows:
“**The *UMODL1* gene as a susceptibility gene for high myopia: a case-control association study in Chinese**”]

**Reviewer #2**

**Comment:**
As my previous comment, the analysis methods used in this work are quite well. And I think now it is suitable to be published.

**Response:**
Thanks very much for your comments. No response is needed.