Author's response to reviews

Title: PITX2 mutations are not a common cause for transposition of the great arteries (dTGA)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors,

Please find enclosed the final version of our manuscript "Mutational analysis of the PITX2 coding region revealed no common cause for transposition of the great arteries (dTGA)" according to reviewer’s reports.

We have addressed the reviewer’s comments as suggested:

**Reviewer 1 (Diego Franco):**

1. Agreed; we have omitted the first paragraph of the results and discussion subchapter as recommended.
2. Agreed; we have now included a sentence at the bottom line of page 4: 'Primers were designed according to the PITX2 sequence (GenBank accession number AF238048) and respective sequences are given in table 1.'
3. Declaration of competing interest: ‘The authors declare that they have no competing interests’.
Reviewer 2 (Donna M Martin):

2. Page 4 line 9, we amended the sentence ‘which is regulated by the same pathway than Pitx2’ into ‘which is regulated by the same pathway as Pitx2’.

Further formatting changes requested by the Editors:

1. We amended the abstract as follows. ‘Results: Several SNPs could be detected, but no stop or frame shift mutation. In particular, we found seven intronic and UTR variants, two silent mutations and two polymorphisms within the coding region.’
2. ‘Material and Methods’ section renamed in ‘Methods’.
3. Section headings amended accordingly.
4. Declaration of competing interest: ‘The authors declare that they have no competing interests’, was included between Conclusions and Authors’ contributions.
5. Tables 1 and 2 amended.
6. Figure 1 cropped according to the cropping instructions.

Sincerely,

Beate Niesler        Gudrun Rappold