Reviewer’s report

Title: Breakpoint Associated with a novel 2.3 Mb deletion in the VCFS region of 22q11 and the role of Alu (SINE) in recurring microdeletions.

Version: 2 Date: 9 December 2005

Reviewer: Carrie Bearden

Reviewer’s report:

General

The authors have directly addressed the concerns raised by the reviewers. The rationale for the study is much clearer. However, the manuscript still requires some fairly extensive proofreading by a native English speaker, as there are numerous grammatical and stylistic errors that affect the clarity of the language.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Most of the major compulsory revisions have been addressed by the authors. One remaining issue - In the methods, the authors mention that informed consent was obtained, but was the study approved by an IRB?

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

As mentioned above, the manuscript could use some fairly extensive editing and wordsmithing. For example, in the abstract, the authors state: "Adult with this syndrome may develop schizophrenia later on" (this could be better worded as "Individuals with this syndrome are at high risk for development of schizophrenia"). In addition to grammatical and syntactic errors, there are numerous terms (e.g., VCFS/DGS, Alu-like sequence) that are used without being previously explained or defined.

Please clarify the following statements:
"The patient population is heterogeneous in nature for the psychiatric symptoms, particularly with respect to age of onset and severity as well as for minor physical abnormalities. In particular, the minor physical abnormalities were subjective and no attempt was made to homogenize this population."

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests