Author's response to reviews

Title: Deletions in the Y-derived amelogenin gene fragment in the Indian population

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Version: 2 Date: 12 March 2006

Author's response to reviews:

To,
The Editor,
BMC Medical Genetics

Subject: Submission of Revised Manuscript (# MS ID: 1544536015848305)

Dear Editor,

Thank you for extending the date of submission of the revised manuscript. We sincerely apologize for the delay.

Please find herewith the revised manuscript of our paper entitled "Deletions in the Y-derived amelogenin gene fragment in the Indian population". The suggestions of the reviewers have been very helpful in improving the overall presentation of the manuscript and have been duly incorporated in the revised text. The detailed point-by-point responses to the reviewer's comments are also mentioned below as desired. We now hope that you would find the paper in the revised form suitable for publication in BMC Medical Genetics.

Looking forward to a positive response.

Thank You,
Sincerely,
V.K.Kashyap

Encl: Replies to Referees'

Reply to Referee's Comments

Reviewer 1:
1: The Y-STR haplotype data and haplogroup results for the ten Amelogenin-Y null individuals should be included. Also, provide the major haplogroups that are observed in the reference Indian populations.

Reply: We appreciate the comment of the reviewer about the inclusion of the Y-STR haplotype data. The same has now been included in a tabular format (Table 2) as suggested, along with their paternal lineage (Y-haplogroup). The frequencies of major Y-chromosome haplogroups observed in the Indian populations has now also been included in the text. These observations have been discussed in the text in light of the observation that the deletion is limited to the Amelogenin gene itself and has an independent origin.

2: References should be cited correctly and formatted.

Reply: The references have now been corrected and formatted according to the instructions of BMC
journals. Also, as suggested by the reviewer, we have now discussed our results in context of the recent study of Lattanzi et al, 2005, where the size of this deletion has been mapped to span a region of around 2.5 Mb.

2: A map indicating the geographical locations of the samples where Amelogenin null individuals have been observed.
Reply: We have now included a map of India where both the regions covered in the study and the population sample in which the amelogenin null individuals were observed.