Reviewer's report

Title: C4B null alleles are not associated with genetic polymorphisms in the adjacent gene CYP21A2 in autism

Version: 2 Date: 9 November 2007

Reviewer: Chack Yung C Yu

Reviewer's report:

General

Autism affects males four times more frequent than females. The authors had previously observed high frequency of complement C4B deficiency in autistic subjects. Located immediately downstream of complement C4B gene is the CYP21 gene. Mutation of CYP21 is known to cause congenital adrenal hyperplasia and an increase of androgen levels in affected subjects. The authors examined whether there were higher rate of common mutations in CYP21 genes that could affect the 21-hydroxylase activity. They found that mutation rates of CYP21 in autistic subjects were not higher than that controls. Their data implicates C4B deficiency as a plausible risk factor for the autism.

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

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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)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept without revision

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

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