Author's response to reviews

Title: Association between an 8q24 locus and the risk of colorectal cancer in Japanese.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dr. Melissa Norton,
Editor-in-Chief, BMC, Cancer

Dear Dr. Norton,

We are submitting a re-revised manuscript entitled, “Association between an 8q24 locus and the risk of colorectal cancer in Japanese.” by Matsuo et al. We appreciate if the manuscript would be considered for possible publication in BMC Cancer as a Research Article. We revised the manuscript according to comments by reviewers. Our responses to each comment are in the separate sheets.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

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Responses to Dr. Berndt:

1. A typo in abstract about SNP was corrected. rs698326 → rs6983267

2. The reviewer pointed out ambiguity in modeling about interaction analysis. We revised description about interaction assessment as “Interactions between rs6983267 assuming linear effect of allele and potential confounders similarly assuming linear effect were assessed in multivariable unconditional logistic regression models….”

3. The reviewer suggested us to discuss the recent publication about functional significance of the 8q24. We added following sentences in the texts “Recently, Pomerantz et al. reported rs6983267 displays a difference in binding of transcription factor 7-like 2 (TCF7L2) leading to a different physical interaction with MYC (33); however, Tuupanen et al. failed to find clear association between rs6983267 genotype and MYC expression. There still remains controversy between MYC and rs6983267 requiring further studies. Moreover, Tuupanen et al. reported rs6983267 affects a binding site for the Wnt-regulated transcription factor (TCF4), with the risk allele G showing stronger binding in vivo and in vitro.”

4. The reviewer suggested us to clarify the categories for each covariate in Table1. We revised the categories as suggested.

5. Mistake of labeling in table 2 genotype model was pointed out. We corrected them as “Heterozygote” and “Minor Homozygote”.

6. We clarified the categories of variables in Table 3. In addition, OR for females was corrected.

7. We added missing papers by Tuupanen et al. (2008) and Poynter et al. (2007) pointed by the reviewer in Table 4 and they were added in the references (ref17, 18) with citation in the introduction section.

Responses to Dr. Kono:

1. Careless mistakes.
   Table 3 crude OR for females was corrected.