Author's response to reviews

Title: p21 gene codon 31 polymorphism is not associated with primary open angle glaucoma in Caucasians

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

Title: p21 gene codon 31 polymorphism is not associated with primary open angle glaucoma in Caucasians

Thank you for considering our manuscript for publication in your journal. Following is a point-by-point response to the interesting reviewers’ comments and the revised manuscript is attached.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully

Thomas Ressiniotis

Response to reviewers

Reviewer 1 (Marcela Votruba)

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. Regarding the control group of our study, we have replaced the last sentence of the second paragraph in Methods with the following one:
   “The control group consisted of the spouses of our POAG patients, who were free from any coexisting ocular pathology and had normal visual acuity, IOP, visual fields and optic discs.”

2. Regarding the IOP in the POAG group: This was their presenting IOP. Therefore, the third sentence in the second paragraph in Methods now reads:
   “Patients with intraocular pressure (IOP) higher than 30 mmHg at first presentation and secondary types of glaucoma (pseudoexfoliative, pigment dispersion syndrome, trauma or steroid induced) were excluded.”

3. To compare our results to those of a previous study on a Chinese population, we have modified the second sentence of the third paragraph in Discussion, which now reads:
   “This difference may reflect sampling bias, as the Chinese cohorts were smaller (58 POAG patients and 59 control subjects), or it could be attributed to ethnic disparity.”
Discretionary Revisions:

We have replaced the last paragraph of the Discussion with the following one: “However, we cannot exclude the possibility of p21 codon 31 polymorphism being associated with POAG in other ethnic groups or the likelihood of an association between POAG and another p21 polymorphism. This might be a worthwhile future strategy to elucidate the issue.”

Reviewer 2 (Henri-Jean J Garchon):

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. We have included the following sentence at the end of the first paragraph in Results: “The allele frequencies follow Hardy-Weinberg proportions.”

2. As suggested, we have removed the following sentence from the Discussion: “Since the Arg allele is rare in Caucasians, it is unlikely that it would incur a major effect on the pathophysiology of POAG, and if this allele does have an effect, this is likely to be very small in the UK population.”