Author's response to reviews

Title: The (CTG)n polymorphism in the NOTCH4 gene is not associated with schizophrenia in Japanese individuals

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PDF covering letter
Summary of the changes

I. Answers to the referee, Dr. Hans Moises

Minor:
1. “neurobiologic” was corrected to “neurobiological” (2nd page, 2nd line).
2. “the” was changed to “a” (3rd page, 2nd paragraph).
3. New sentence, “who were hospital employees” was added (4th page, 2nd paragraph).
4. “histry” was corrected to “history” (last page, Table 1).
5. “respectivity” was corrected to “respectively” (last page, Table 1).
6 and 7. The “odds ratio” cells were deleted from Table 1 (last page, Table 1).

Major:
The following sentences (6th page, 3rd paragraph in Results and Discussion) and the reference [15] (last page) were added.

“Previous study [12] and our study using random samples found no association between the polymorphism and schizophrenia. Possible reasons for disagreement with the British study [11] depend on the differences of ethnicity, population admixture, sample size and methodology. Wei and Hemmings [11] used the Transmission Disequilibrium Test, while our study employed a case-control design, which might produce false positive or negative findings due to stratification problems [15]. Further study using a larger sample size and the investigation of more SNPs in coding regions will be necessary to confirm the relationship between the NOTCH4 gene and schizophrenia.”


Competing interests:
All of our answers to the questions are “no”.

II. Answers to the referee, Dr. Jun Wei

The following sentences (6th page, 3rd paragraph in Results and Discussion) and the reference [15] (last page) were added.

“Previous study [12] and our study using random samples found no association between the polymorphism and schizophrenia. Possible reasons for disagreement with the British study [11] depend on the differences of ethnicity, population admixture, sample size and methodology. Wei and Hemmings [11] used the Transmission Disequilibrium Test, while our study employed a case-control design, which might produce false positive or negative findings due to stratification problems [15]. Further study using a larger sample size and the investigation of more SNPs in coding regions will be necessary to confirm the relationship between the NOTCH4 gene and schizophrenia.”