Reviewer's report

Title: Association study of polymorphisms in the excitatory amino acid transporter 2 gene (SLC1A2) with schizophrenia

Version: 3 Date: 14 June 2004

Reviewer: Massimo Gennarelli

Reviewers report:

General

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

1) If the main goal of the paper is to perform an association study of SLC1A2 polymorphisms and schizophrenia in Japanese, the first analysis should include all people recruited (200 patients and 200 controls). a) If cumulative analysis confirm a negative result (either genotype or haplotype analysis), the authors could discuss the results about the Kyushu and Aichi samples in relation to their possible differences (ethnical origin, inpatients/outpatients, age…..). In this respect, a synthetic table with demographic and clinical characteristics of the two samples should be added. b) If the cumulative analysis evidences positive results, the main finding of the paper will change completely.

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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)

1. The “METHODS” section in the Abstract lacks the description of both the samples analysed in the paper.
2. In the Introduction, the authors should report the results of Catalano et al. on EEAT2 and cite other association studies on glutamate receptor genes (Begni S et al., 2003; Hung CC et al., 2002; Rice SR et al., 2001; etc…).

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

None