Author's response to reviews

Title: Excess of transmission of the G allele of the -1438A/G polymorphism of the 5-HT2A receptor gene in patients with schizophrenia responsive to antipsychotics.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear editor,

Thursday, 24 April 2008

Please find below the response to reviewer 1 who has been asking for further revision of our manuscript.

The proposed comments were all taken into account, and are now included in the final version of the manuscript.

With kind regards,

Philip Gorwood, last and corresponding author of this manuscript.

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Comments of reviewer 1 to be taken into account:

1-Why the 5-HT2A gene is a good candidate for response with first generation antipsychotics (FGA)? The reviewer proposed to add the facts that (1) some FGA may also exert some antagonism at this receptor and that (2) the effects of antipsychotics may not depend on receptor antagonism but on intracellular mechanisms.

2-A comment was also expected our opinion about the DRD2 gene as a good candidate gene to study in further studies.

Reply of authors to the reviewer:

1-Thanks for these two hypotheses that are now being added in the final manuscript (page 8, line 17).

As some first-generation antipsychotics may exert some moderate but meaningful antagonism at this receptor, and as the effects of antipsychotics may not depend on receptor antagonism, but rather on intracellular mechanisms, alternative explanations can be proposed.

2-We also added a sentence in reply to the second remark (page 11, line 21):

The gene coding for the D2 dopamine receptor remains a core candidate gene for pharmacogenetic studies devoted to schizophrenia, as all antipsychotics share a variable but significant affinity for this receptor [Lieberman et al., 1996].