Author's response to reviews

Title: Surfactant protein B polymorphisms are associated with severe respiratory syncytial virus associated diseases

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Prof. Saltman,

please find attached the revised version of our manuscript "Surfactant protein B polymorphisms are associated with severe respiratory syncytial virus infection, but not with asthma" for publication in Your journal BMC Pulmonary Medicine as well as a point-by-point-reply to the comments of the reviewer:

**Reviewer Jörg Eppelen**

Major compulsory revision

Statistical power calculations

Power calculations have been performed and the results included in the discussion section:

In order to test the validity of our results, power calculations were performed. In our asthmatic population with 322 individuals the power to find association with asthma (p-value of p=0.05, assuming a relative risk of the variant of 2) is between 0.94 for rs2077079 and 0.97 for rs2040349. Regarding the RSV population the power is slightly lower due to the smaller sample size (0.83 to 0.88).

**Reviewer Emiko Noguchi**

Major compulsory revision

In tables 2 and 3, numbers of subjects with each genotype/ haplotype should be provided with p values.

In table 2 the numbers of subjects for each genotype is now included.

We have not included the numbers of subjects for each haplotype in table 3, as this would not provide any additional information for the reader. In this table the frequency for each haplotype is given, so the numbers of subjects is just the total number multiplied with the given frequency. If you still like to have those numbers we can include them, of course.
Discretionary Revisions
Power calculation can be performed to provide the power of this study and discuss these in the discussion section.

This was done as suggested and the following section added to the discussion:

In order to test the validity of our results, power calculations were performed. In our asthmatic population with 322 individuals the power to find association with asthma (p-value of p=0.05, assuming a relative risk of the variant of 2) is between 0.94 for rs2077079 and 0.97 for rs2040349. Regarding the RSV population the power is slightly lower due to the smaller sample size (0.83 to 0.88).

Request from the editors:
We also request that you comment on the novelty of this study in light of previous reports using this cohort.

As mentioned in the discussion section, this was the first study to look for association of Surfactant protein B with RSV bronchitis.

Furthermore, we added the following paragraph:

Interestingly, we have already described association of Surfactant protein C with RSV bronchitis in the same cohort. This might further emphasis the importance of the Surfactant system in RSV bronchiolitis.

Please do not hesitate to contact me in case of any questions remaining.

Yours sincerely

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