Author's response to reviews

Title: Association analysis between HOXD9 genes and the development of developmental dysplasia of the hip in Chinese female Han population

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

Thanks a lot for having reviewed our manuscript. Now we have revised the manuscript according to the reviewers’ comments. Most of the revisions are in the manuscript marked with red. Some explanations regarding the revisions of our manuscript are as follows.

Response to Reviewer:

Thanks for your comments to our manuscript. We have revised our manuscript according to your comments:

“What we can see with this information (the frequency of each of the outcomes) is that their conclusions are based on an extremely small and unstable set of data.

They need to acknowledge this in the abstract and in their discussion.

They did not "successfully establish the association...." rather, they observed an observation based on very sparse data; this observation needs to be replicated in other studies and even if replicated, it represents only a very small proportion of cases.”

Thank you for your very serviceable comments, we agree with you that it is a small samples and the haplotype data is unstable. We have altered them in certain part in the revised content according to your suggestion, and especially in revised “Discussion” section, as followed:

“The primary finding of the present study, we establish the association between one tag SNP located at the promoter region of HOXD9 gene and the development of DDH in Chinese female population. But it cannot be identified that the A-A haplotype was significantly associated with the presence of DDH because of the extremely small and unstable set of data. Thus, the studies of large sample size and different populations as well as functional experiments were needed to confirm the association between HOXD9 gene and DDH developing. So far, we had a preliminary result to regard HOXD9 gene may be a candidate gene for DDH developing.”