Author's response to reviews

Title: Lack of association of matrix metalloproteinase-3 gene polymorphism with susceptibility to rheumatoid arthritis: A meta-analysis

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Version: 2 Date: 7 July 2014
Author's response to reviews: see over

Reviewer: Yi Liu
Version: 1 Date: 25 June 2014
Reviewer's report:
Minor Essential Revisions
1. In Table 2. Results of quantitative synthesis involved the association between MMP-35A/6A polymorphisms and RA, the OR (95% CI), Ph and P value of Caucasians in 6A vs 5A group, 6A/6A vs 5A/5A and Dominant model needed to be calculated again.

Comparison model Caucasians
OR (95% CI) Ph P
6A vs 5A 1.23 (0.89-1.68) 0.000 0.207
6A/6A vs 5A/5A 2.10 (0.66-6.76) 0.002 0.209
Dominant model 1.61 (0.68-3.80) 0.008 0.274

The table I listed above is the result that I calculated by using the original data. Although the ultimate results in Caucasians do not change, it is still need to be corrected.
The original data in table 1 is reliable after careful checking of the included studies once again. With the kindly indication of Prof. Liu, we conducted all the statistical analyses again and corrected the results of quantitative synthesis as Prof. Liu’s indicates (the OR (95% CI), Ph and P value of Caucasians in 6A vs 5A group, 6A/6A vs 5A/5A and Dominant model). Please see Table 2 of the revised manuscript (text in blue color).

2. In Figure 2. Funnel plots of the association between MMP-3-1171 5A/6A polymorphism and RA. A, Band C (alleles model: 6A vs 5A, 5A/6A vs 5A/5A, 6A/6A vs 5A/5A) D (Dominant model: 6A/6A + 5A/6A vs 5A/5A) E( Recessive model: 6A/6A versus 5A/5A + 5A/6A).

Actually D in figure 2 means the funnel plot of Recessive model and E in figure 2 is the funnel plot of the dominant model.

After careful checking of Figure 2, we corrected the legend of Figure 2 to “Funnel plots of the association between MMP-3-1171 5A/6A polymorphism and RA. A, B and C (alleles model: 6A vs 5A, 5A/6A vs 5A/5A, 6A/6A vs 5A/5A) D (Recessive model: 6A/6A versus 5A/5A + 5A/6A) E (Dominant model: 6A/6A + 5A/6A vs 5A/5A)” Please see Figure 2 of the revised manuscript (text in blue color).

Reviewer: Hak-Jae Kim
Version: 1 Date: 22 May 2014
Reviewer’s report:
- Minor Essential Revisions

1. There are several typographical errors throughout the manuscript. (e.g. table 1 legend "meat-analysis", )

Upon careful examination, we corrected the typographical errors throughout the version 1 manuscript. (e.g. table 1 legend "meta-analysis", ) Please see corrections of the revised manuscript (text in blue color).

2. Please check the references of the sentence page 8, results section "Of the ethnicity mong all studies, there were five in Caucasin [23,25,27,28] and one in Asian"

Thank you for this comment. We carried out some further examination and found that the sentence page 8, results section "Of the ethnicity mong all studies, there were five in Caucasin [23,25,27,28] and one in Asian" should revise to “Of the ethnicity among all studies, there were five in Caucasian [23-25,27,28] and one in Asian[26]”. Please see corrections of the revised manuscript (text in blue color).

3. The statistical results of this report is sound, however, the results need to be seen by an expert statistician.

All of the statistical analyses were supervised by a biometrics specialist of Southern Medical University. The statistical results of the manuscript are reliable.