Author's response to reviews

Title: SCN8A mutations in Chinese patients with early onset epileptic encephalopathy and benign infantile seizures

Authors:

Jiaping Wang (wangjiaping321@126.com)
Hua Gao (gaoh@mail.cbi.pku.edu.cn)
Xinhua Bao (zwhang@pku.edu.cn)
Qingping Zhang (zhangqp1988@126.com)
Jiarui Li (lijr@mail.cbi.pku.edu.cn)
Liping Wei (weilp@cbi.pku.edu.cn)
Xiru Wu (wxrwwn@gmail.com)
Yan Chen (cydoc1991@163.com)
Shujie Yu (yshujie2008520@163.com)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor:

On behalf of my co-authors, I am pleased to submit the revised version of our manuscript titled “SCN8A mutations in Chinese patients with early onset epileptic encephalopathy and benign infantile seizures” (MGTC-D-17-00139R1). I appreciate the helpful comments that you provided. After carefully reading the comments, we have revised the text (see our point-by-point responses below). We hope the revised manuscript is now suitable for publication in BMC Medical Genetics.

1. Please represent authors’ names using their full initials, not their full name, in the Authors’ Contributions section. If there are any duplicated initials, please differentiate them to make it clear that the initials refer to separate authors.

Answer:
Thank you very much for your careful review. We have represent authors’ names using their full initials, for example, Xinhua Bao was represented by XHB.

2. Please include a statement in the Authors' contributions section to the effect that all authors have read and approved the manuscript, and ensure that this is the case.

Answer:

Thank you for your advice. All authors have read and approved the manuscript, and there are no conflicts of the manuscript. We have added a statement at the end of the Authors’ contributions section.

3. We would also like to ask for you to provide more justification for the contributions of HG, as currently they do not automatically qualify for authorship. Contribution to procedures, alone, does not usually justify authorship.

An 'author' is generally considered to be someone who has made substantive intellectual contributions to a published study. According to the ICMJE guidelines, to qualify as an author one should have:

a) made substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; AND

b) been involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND

c) given final approval of the version to be published. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content; AND

d) agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Answer:

Thank you for your advice. In this study, HG performed the Whole-exome sequencing, Targeted NGS, PCR-Sanger sequencing and part of data analysis. He also made contributions on English language editing during manuscript revision. Above statements was added into the Authors' contributions section in this new submitted manuscript.

4. Thank you for including a consent to publish statement, however, some of the participants were under the age of 16, as so are considered minors who cannot consent for themselves. Please clarify in the consent to publish section, who provided consent for the minors.

Answer:
Thank you for your advice. Most of the participants were under the age of 16. So the consents were obtained from their parents. In the newly revised manuscript, we have made relative corrections.

5. Please clarify what the patients consented to be published in the Consent to publish section, e.g. medical data, images, etc.

Answer:

Thank you for your comments. Consent for publication (including medical data, and images) was obtained from parents of all patients in this study.

6. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Answer:

Thank you very much for your reminder. We have submitted the manuscript, figures, tables and additional files as requested.

We would once again thank the editors and reviewers for reviewing our manuscript for consideration of publication in BMC Medical Genetics. I hope the revised version of our manuscript would have clarified all the items in question. Please don’t hesitate to let me know if you have additional questions. Thank you!

Best wishes,

Jiaping Wang, Ph.D
Department of Pediatrics
Peking University First Hospital
Beijing 100034, China
Email: wangjiaping321@126.com