Author’s response to reviews

Title: Association of IL10 and TGFB Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms with Intervertebral Disc Degeneration in Iranian Population: A case control study

Authors:
Sara Hanaei (sara.hanaei@gmail.com)
Sina Abdollahzadeh (sina21@gmail.com)
Maryam Sadr (m.sadr62@gmail.com)
Mohammad Hossein Mirbolouk (Hosan.mirbolouk@gmail.com)
Alireza Khoshnevisan (akhoshnevisan@tums.ac.ir)
Nima Rezaei (rezaei_nima@tums.ac.ir)

Version: 3 Date: 17 Mar 2018

Author’s response to reviews:

Association of Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms of IL10 and TGFB with Intervertebral Disc Degeneration

Nima Rezaei

Research Center for Immunodeficiencies, Children's Medical Center, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

Children’s Medical Center Hospital, Dr Qarib St, Keshavarz Blvd, Tehran 14194, Iran.

Tel: +9821-6692-9234,
Fax: +9821-6692-9235
E-mail: rezaei_nima@tums.ac.ir
03/17/2018

Dear Dr. Pasini,

Thank you for your consideration of the manuscript “Association of Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms of IL10 and TGFB with Intervertebral Disc Degeneration” by the BMC Medical Genetics.

Our responses to the technical comments are discussed below. A clear draft of the revised manuscript is respectfully enclosed accordingly to the instructions.

Please address all correspondence concerning this manuscript to me at rezaei_nima@tums.ac.ir.

Thank you for your consideration of this manuscript.

Sincerely,

Nima Rezaei

Reviewer reports:

Georg Omlor (Reviewer 1): Thank you very much.

Bianca Bianco (Reviewer 2): Thank you very much.
Technical Comments:

Q1: Ethics approval and consent to participate

Please confirm whether informed consent, written or verbal, was obtained from all participants and clearly state this in this statement of the Declarations. If verbal, please state the reason and whether the ethics committee approved this procedure.

A1: The informed consent was obtained from all participants, which is stated in the Declarations as (page 13, lines 8-9):

“All the study participants were requested to fill informed consent forms prior to recruitment and sampling. The study was approved by Ethics Committee of Tehran University of Medical Sciences.”

Q2: Authors' contributions

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.

A2: All the authors of this study have read the manuscript and confirmed the content. The statement of authors’ approval of the manuscript is mentioned as (page 14, line 2):

“All authors have read and approved the final version of manuscript.”

Q3: Tables

Please include all tables at the end of the manuscript file, after the References.
A3: All the 4 tables are included at the end of the manuscript file, after references (Pages 17-20)

Q4: Figures

Figure files should contain only the image/graphic, as well as any associated keys/annotations. If titles/legends are present within the figure files, please remove them. Please provide figure titles/legends under a separate heading of 'Figure Legends' after the References.

A4: All figure files (figures 1-3) contain only the image/graphic; and their titles are removed from their files. The figure titles are mentioned under a separate heading of 'Figure Legends' after the References. (Page 21)

Q5: Supplementary material

Please remove cover letter and authors' conflict of interest statements as these files will not be included in the published article.

A5: The cover letter and authors’ conflict of interest statement files are removed.

Q6: Clean manuscript

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.
A6: The final version of clean manuscript is uploaded. The tables are included in the main manuscript and the figures are uploaded as separate files.