Author’s response to reviews

Title: Angiotensin-converting enzyme gene insertion/deletion polymorphism and susceptibility to psoriasis: A systematic review and meta-analysis

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr. B. Azzouz (Reviewer 1)

Thank you very much for your nice comments. The following corrections are made:

Q1: Abstract, line 32: According to Figure 2, OR for ID vs II model is 0.81 [95%CI: 0.72, 0.91; p: 0.0003] (instead of 0.78 [95%CI: 0.62, 0.91; p: 0.00003]).
Answer 1: Corrected

Q2: Background, line 47: [10] --&gt; please use a recent reference dealing with "ACE inhibitors" and "psoriasis risk", this one for example: DOI: 10.1007/s40264-019-00865-8
Answer 2: Corrected

Q3: Results, "study characteristics" paragraph: According to Figure 2 the OR for ID vs II model is 0.81 [95%CI: 0.72, 0.91; p: 0.0003] (instead of 0.78 [95%CI: 0.62, 0.91; p: 0.00003]).
Answer 3: Corrected

Q4: Results, "subgroup analysis" paragraph: herein, some clarification is needed
Answer 4: Corrected

Q5: Table II "the presence of genotype ID had a slight protective effect against the disease [OR = 0.82; 95%CI: 0.69, 0.97]" --&gt; this refers only to "Causasians"?
Answer 5: Yes, this refers only to "Caucasians"

Q6: Table II "based on three models of DD versus II, ID versus II and ID+DD versus II the pooled OR was 0.69 (95%CI: 0.52, 0.91), 0.66 (95%CI: 0.50, 0.85) and 0.67 (95%CI: 0.52, 0.86)" --&gt; these results concern only the "Psoriatic arthritis subtype"?
Answer 6: Yes, these results concern only the "Psoriatic arthritis subtype"
Q7: Table II, "with regard to Caucasian population", the following ROR value "0.73 (95%CI: 0.58, 0.92) refers to "Iraqi, Pakistani and Turkish patients"?
Answer 7: Yes, of course "Irani, Pakistani and Turkish patients"

Q8: Results, "quality assessment": "In detail, ten studies had high quality (score &gt;7)" --&gt; According to Table I, i count eight studies!
Answer 8: Corrected

Dear Dr. C Yapijakis (Reviewer 2)

Thank you very much for your nice comments. The following corrections are made:

Q1. Several references do not correspond to what is mentioned in the text: references 4,7,8.
Answer 1: We change references 4 and 7 with suitable references and also we change the sentence for reference 8 based on this reference.

Answer 2: We corrected reference 34. Please see “https://www.alliedacademies.org/articles/angiotensinconverting-enzyme-id-polymorphism-and-susceptibility-of-psoriasis.pdf”. Also, there were references 20,21,24,36,41 in the text. References 20 and 21 in Results, line 5. References 24 in Results, Study characteristics, lines 5 and 8. Reference 36 in Discussion, paragraph 4, line 4. Reference 41 in Discussion, paragraph 6, line 5.

Q3. The first paragraph of the Results regarding inclusion/exclusion of studies is confusing and has to be rewritten in a straight forward way.
Answer 3: Corrected

Q4. It is mentioned in the Study Characteristics section that "five studies [21,22,27,30,31] enrolled controls of unknown origin" while 22 had controls of Turkish origin.
Answer 4: The researchers are from Turkey and Germany, but the origin of patients is not clearly mentioned.

Q5. It is mentioned in Background that "ACE and its related products might have widespread effects on immune responses and skin inflammation"... and "some meta-analyses have been previously published on this topic [12,13,14]" but reference 13 does not discuss this topic.
Answer 5: We change “some meta-analyses have been previously published on this topic” to “Three meta-analyses have been previously published on association of ACE polymorphism and psoriasis susceptibility”.
Q6. In Genotype Distribution it is mentioned that "two studies [6,10] reported type of psoriasis" but reference 10 doesn't state any specific psoriasis type.
Answer 6: Corrected, reference 10 is changed to new

Q7. Commas should be used properly in the text to avoid confusion. For example, in Discussion the phrase "no significant difference was found between polymorphisms and age at onset, [9,22,23,2425,28,33] type of psoriasis, [9,29,22] disease severity [9,28]," should be "no significant difference was found between polymorphisms and age at onset [9,22,23,2425,28,33], type of psoriasis [9,29,22], disease severity [9,28],"...
Answer 7: Corrected.

Best regards,