Author’s response to reviews

Title: Association of rs610604 in TNFAIP3 and rs17728338 in TNIP1 gene polymorphisms with psoriasis susceptibility: A meta-analysis of case-control studies

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Matteo Pasini,

On behalf of my co-authors, we thank you very much for giving us an opportunity to revise our manuscript, we appreciate editor and reviewers very much for their positive and constructive comments and suggestions on our manuscript entitled " Association of rs610604 in TNFAIP3 and rs17728338 in TNIP1 gene polymorphisms with psoriasis susceptibility: A meta-analysis of case-control studies". (ID: MGTC-D-19-00486).

We have studied reviewer’s comments carefully and have made revision which marked in red in the paper. We have tried our best to revise our manuscript according to the comments. We would like to express our great appreciation to you and reviewers for comments on our paper. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you and best regards.

Yours sincerely,

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Reply to reviewers
List of Responses
Responds to the reviewer’s comments:
Response to Dr Zhang (Reviewer #1):

1. We have revised these words in the “introduction part”, and give the reasons why we choose rs610604 in TNFAIP3 and rs17728338 in TNIP1 into meta-analysis. Revised portion are marked in red.

2. We have revised these words and provide the explanations of why “the interrelation network of TNFAIP3 and TNIP1 with their nearest associated functional protein” is relevant with the purpose of this study. Revised portion are marked in red. Figure 1 was from STRING database (http://string-db.org/) displayed the network of TNFAIP3, TNIP1 and their closest functional partners.

3. The purpose of this study focused on how polymorphisms in TNFAIP3 and TNIP1 confer risk for psoriasis, thus we did not concentrate on other characteristics of include participants, and most included studies do not have those information on other characteristics.

4. The heterogeneity of rs610604 was 70%, we tried to conduct subgroup meta-analyses and meta-regression to explore the sources of heterogeneity. But there were no sufficient information and enough include study numbers to realize it. Therefore, we used random effect model to conduct meta-analysis for rs610604. We used leave-one-out sensitivity analyses to test heterogeneity of the rest studies, the heterogeneity remained all most the same.

5. Sensitivity and Publication bias were shown by figures. See details in the revised manuscript (Figs. 5-8).

6. All these functional analysis were from online databases. Functional analysis can only provide us clues for a better understanding of the functional role of rs610604 and rs17728338 in TNFAIP3 and TNIP1.

7. Revisions of some details

(1) HWE of some included studies were not available because neither the included original study provide HWE nor can it be calculated by original data. Therefore, it may lead to Information bias.

(2) In the part of "Inclusion and exclusion criteria", we are very sorry for that, “BD”should be “psoriasis”. we made that mistake because another similar meta-analysis of BD (Behcet's disease) was undertaken when I was writing this manuscript. And that article about meta-analysis of BD has been published now (Association of Interleukin-23R Gene Polymorphisms with Behcet’s Disease Susceptibility: A Meta-Analysis of Case-control Studies, PMID: 31814470).

(3) We have revised these statements and marked them in red.
Special thanks to you for your good comments.

Response to Dr Jorge Santos-Juanes (Reviewer #2):
Line 25. A type of psoriasis is missing; it is repeated pustular psoriasis
Reply: we have revised these statements. Sorry for that mistake.
Line 32 mild localized trauma
Reply: we have revised it.
Line 35 exposure to natural sun light is one of the psoriasis treatment, it is a rarely trigger factor, it is better to remove.
Reply: we have removed it.
Page 6: BD????? I don’t understand what is the meaning of BD
Reply: In the part of "Inclusion and exclusion criteria", we are very sorry for that, “BD”should be “psoriasis”. We made that mistake because another similar meta-analysis of BD (Behcet's disease) was undertaken when I was writing this manuscript. And that article about meta-analysis of BD has been published now (Association of Interleukin-23R Gene Polymorphisms with Behcet’s Disease Susceptibility: A Meta-Analysis of Case-control Studies, PMID: 31814470).
Page 10 line 31.32 correct line break
Reply: we have revised it.

Once again, thank you very much for your comments and suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

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