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**This is the author's manuscript**

*Original Citation:*

*Availability:*

This version is available <http://hdl.handle.net/2318/1800561> since 2021-09-09T16:33:59Z

*Published version:*

DOI:10.1007/s12041-021-01306-1

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Investigating the association between common *DRD2/ANKK1* genetic polymorphisms and schizophrenia: a meta-analysis

PARHAM HABIBZADEH<sup>1</sup>, AZIM NEMATI<sup>2</sup>, HASSAN DASTSOOZ<sup>1,3</sup>, AFSANEH TAGHIPOUR-SHESHDEH<sup>1</sup>, PRISHO MARIAM PAUL<sup>4</sup>, ALI SAHRAIAN<sup>5</sup> and MOHAMMAD ALI FAGHIHI<sup>1,6\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Persian BayanGene Research and Training Center, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran

<sup>2</sup>Student Research Committee, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran

<sup>3</sup>Italian Institute for Genomic Medicine (IIGM), University of Turin, Turin, Italy

<sup>4</sup>Department of Biotechnology, CMS College Kottayam, Kottayam, India

<sup>5</sup>Research Center for Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran

<sup>6</sup>Center for Therapeutic Innovation, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, USA

\*For correspondence. E-mail: MFaghihi@med.miami.edu.

Received 30 June 2020; revised 18 November 2020; accepted 29 March 2021

**Abstract.** Genetic factors play an important role in the pathogenesis of schizophrenia. Dysregulations in the dopaminergic system have long been known to play an influential role in the development of this disorder. Although a large number of studies have investigated the association between genetic polymorphisms in the genes involved in this system and the risk of schizophrenia, the results have been inconsistent. In this meta-analysis, we searched for publications in Ovid Medline, Embase, Web of Science (science citation index expanded), and PsycNET for articles published until January 2020. We identified case-control studies investigating the association between four common genetic polymorphisms (rs6277, rs1799732, rs1800497, and rs1801028) and the risk of schizophrenia. The studies were subsequently selected according to the predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria. The data extraction was conducted according to the PRISMA guidelines. We also assessed the quality of the studies and investigated publication bias using funnel plot and Egger's regression test. The association analysis was conducted in allelic, dominant, and recessive genetic models. Subsequently, bioinformatics analysis of the effect of the polymorphisms found to be significantly associated with schizophrenia on protein stability, posttranslational modifications, and 3D protein structure was conducted. This meta-analysis showed that Taq1A (allelic model: OR, 0.856, 95% CI, 0.734–0.998) has a protective effect against the development of schizophrenia. Further, it was found that this variant may decrease ANKK1 protein stability. Further, this polymorphism was found to lead to the gain of modifications sites for ubiquitination (Ubi. score = -1.894) and methylation (Meth. score = -0.834). Several genetic factors contribute to the susceptibility of schizophrenia. The updated knowledge emerging from this meta-analysis showing the protective effect of rs1800497 polymorphism (Taq1A) can shed light on the role of Taq1A polymorphism in the susceptibility to schizophrenia and also pave way for further functional studies investigating the role of ANKK1 protein in the pathogenesis of schizophrenia.

**Keywords.** schizophrenia; polymorphism; single nucleotide; genetic variation; meta-analysis.

## Introduction

Schizophrenia is a common psychiatric disorder with an average lifetime prevalence of about 1% (Kahn *et al.* 2015). As pointed out by a plethora of investigations (e.g. twin

studies), this disorder is highly heritable (Cardno and Gottesman 2000). Notwithstanding the elusive aetiological basis of this disorder, for quite some time, dysregulations in dopaminergic neurotransmission have been hypothesized to have an instrumental role in the pathogenesis of schizophrenia (van Rossum 1966). One of the most studied markers for the development of schizophrenia has been the

Parham Habibzadeh and Azim Nemati contributed equally to this work.

*Supplementary Information:* The online version contains supplementary material available at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12041-021-01306-1>.

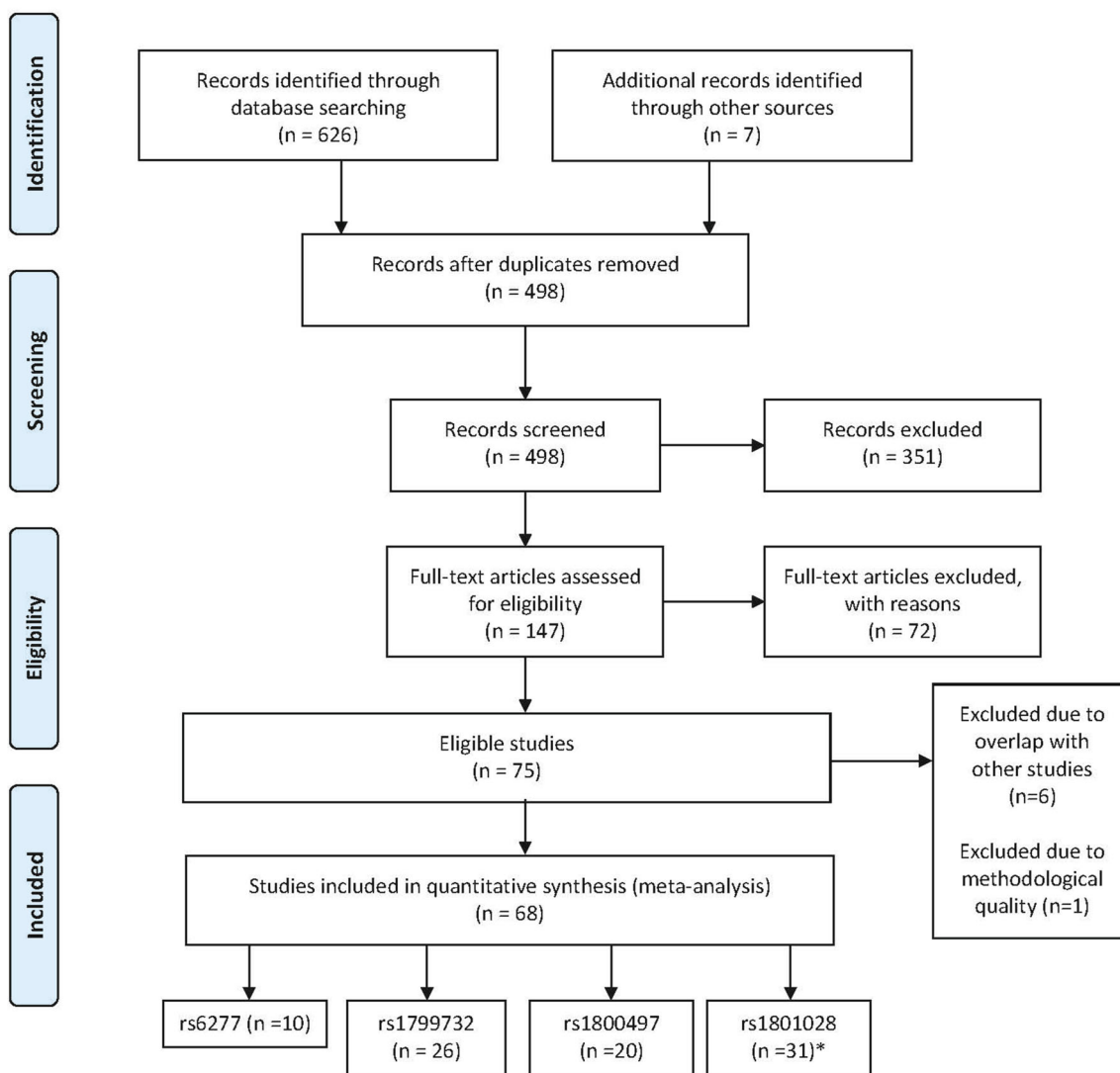
Published online: 12 August 2021

**Table 1.** Characteristics of the studied SNPs (data extracted from the NCBI database).

SNP	Chromosome (GRCh38)	Chromosome (GRCh37)	Canonical SPDI
rs6277	11:113412737	11:113283459	NC_000011.10:113412736:G:A
rs1799732	11:113475529	11:113346252	NC_000011.10:113475529:G:GG
rs1800497	11:113400106	11:113270828	NC_000011.10:113400105:G:A
rs1801028	11:113412762	11:113283484	NC_000011.10:113412761:G:C

SDPI, sequence position deletion insertion.

**PRISMA Flow Diagram**



\*Data for Himei, et al. (2002) had overlap with Tsutsumi, et al. (2011) and thus were excluded from analysis.

**Figure 1.** Flowchart of the study identification process.

DRD2 gene, located on chromosome 11q22.2, coding for dopamine receptor D2 (Seeman 1987). Further, the elevated striatal DRD2 density has been demonstrated in patients with

schizophrenia (Abi-Dargham et al. 2000). The association of DRD2, the target of all affective antipsychotic medications, with schizophrenia has also been corroborated by a

Table 2. The baseline characteristics of the included studies.

Author	Year of Publication	Country of origin	Ethnicity	Source of control population	Cases (n)	Control (n)	Male cases (n)	Male controls (n)	Mean age cases	Mean age controls	Diagnostic criteria	NOS score
Comings <i>et al.</i>	1991	USA	Caucasian	Hospital-based	87	69	—	—	—	—	DSM-III	4
Sanders <i>et al.</i>	1993	USA	Caucasian	Population-based	55	51	50	48	44	60	DSM-III-R and RDC	5
Campion <i>et al.</i>	1994	France	Caucasian	Population-based	80	80	—	—	—	—	DSM-III	5
Gejman <i>et al.</i>	1994	USA	Caucasian	Hospital-based	106	113	—	—	—	—	DSM-III-R	4
Asherson <i>et al.</i>	1994	UK	Caucasian	Hospital-based	112	64	—	—	—	—	DSM-III-R	5
Nothen <i>et al.</i>	1994	Germany	Caucasian	Population-based	179	138	—	—	—	—	—	5
Hattori <i>et al.</i>	1994	Japan	East Asian	Population-based	100	100	50	50	—	—	DSM-III-R	5
Laurent <i>et al.</i>	1994	France	Caucasian	—	113	184	79	110	42	49	DSM-III	4
Sobell <i>et al.</i>	1994	USA	Caucasian	—	338	1914	—	—	—	—	—	4
Arinami <i>et al.</i>	1996	Japan	East Asian	Hospital-based	136	279	166	—	44.9	49.2	DSM-III-R or ICD-10	5
Chen <i>et al.</i>	1996	China	East Asian	Population-based	114	88	57	35	40	27.5	DSM-III-R	6
Crawford <i>et al.</i>	1996	USA	Caucasian	Hospital-based	84	81	—	—	—	—	DSM-III-R	6
Dollfus <i>et al.</i>	1996	France	Caucasian	Population-based	62	161	—	—	—	—	DSM-III-R and 11 other diagnostic classifications	6
Jonsson <i>et al.</i>	1996	Sweden	Caucasian	—	104	67	75	45	45.8	38.7	DSM-III-R	6
Ohara <i>et al.</i>	1996	Japan	East Asian	Population-based	153	121	77	51	46.3	34.4	DSM-IV	6
Sasaki <i>et al.</i>	1996	USA, Canada, Italy	Caucasian	Hospital-based	273	255	182	88	32	36	DSM-III-R	5
Arinami <i>et al.</i>	1997	Japan	East Asian	Hospital-based	260	312	151	173	44.4	48.7	DSM-III-R	6
Harano <i>et al.</i>	1997	Japan	East Asian	Hospital-based	70	101	46	46	47	67	DSM-III-R	6
Fujiwara <i>et al.</i>	1997	Japan	East Asian	—	52	26	—	—	—	—	DSM-III-R and ICD-10	5
Kaneshima <i>et al.</i>	1997	Japan	East Asian	Population-based	78	112	35	36	36.3	23	RDC and DSM-IV	7
Li <i>et al.</i>	1998	UK	Caucasian	Hospital-based	151	145	145	—	29.48	—	DSM-III-R Or DSM-IV	6
Spurlock <i>et al.</i>	1998	Europe	Caucasian	Population-based	373	413	220	215	—	—	DSM-III-R	6
Ohara <i>et al.</i>	1998	Japan	East Asian	Population-based	170	121	89	51	43.5	35.4	DSM-IV	7
Stober <i>et al.</i>	1998	Germany	Caucasian	Population-based	260	290	157	159	—	29.3	ICD-10	7
Breen <i>et al.</i>	1999	UK	Caucasian	Population-based	439	437	—	—	—	—	DSM-III or DSM-III-R or DSM-IV	7
Inada <i>et al.</i>	1999	Japan	East Asian	Population-based	234	94	130	47	54	46	DSM-III-R or DSM-IV	7
Tallero <i>et al.</i>	1999	Canada	Caucasian	—	50	51	—	—	—	—	DSM-III-R	5
Jonsson <i>et al.</i>	1999	Sweden	Caucasian	—	129	179	82	86	44.6	45.3	DSM-III-R	6
Serretti <i>et al.</i>	2000	Italy	Caucasian	Hospital-based	366	267	161	128	—	46.62	DSM-IV	6
Dubertret <i>et al.</i>	2001	France	Caucasian	Population-based	50	50	37	39	—	—	DSM-IV	6
Hori <i>et al.</i>	2001	Japan	East Asian	Population-based	241	201	124	100	52.7	54.78	DSM-IV	7
Himeji <i>et al.</i>	2002	Japan	East Asian	Population-based	190	103	120	53	53.1	33.1	DSM-IV	7
Morimoto <i>et al.</i>	2002	Japan	East Asian	—	48	48	22	—	25.1	—	ICD-10	6
Jonsson <i>et al.</i>	2003	Sweden	Caucasian	—	173	236	109	148	44	39.8	DSM-III-R	7
Kampman <i>et al.</i>	2003	Finland	Caucasian	Population-based	93	94	—	—	—	—	DSM-IV	7
Dubertret <i>et al.</i>	2004	France	Caucasian	Population-based	103	83	81	67	—	—	DSM-IV	6

Table 2. (contd)

Author	Year of Publication	Country of origin	Ethnicity	Source of control population	Cases (n)	Control (n)	Male cases (n)	Male controls (n)	Mean age cases	Mean age controls	Diagnostic criteria	NOS score
Lawford et al.	2005	Australia	Caucasian	Population-based	154	148	133	105	36.2	36.8	DSM-IV	7
Hanninen et al.	2006	Finland	Caucasian	Population-based	188	384	103	206	43.1	44.4	DSM-IV	8
Hoienicka et al.	2006	Spain	Caucasian	Population-based	131	364	76	—	—	—	DSM-IV	7
Kukreti et al.	2006	India	Indian	Population-based	101	145	56	—	—	—	DSM-IV	7
Parsons et al.	2007	Spain	Caucasian	Population-based	119	165	78	81	41.2	26.89	DSM-IV	7
Vijayan et al.	2007	India	Indian	Population-based	213	196	81	—	34.4	—	DSM-IV	8
Behravan et al.	2008	Iran	Caucasian	—	38	63	17	24	42	46	DSM-IV	7
Lafuente et al.	2008	Spain	Caucasian	Hospital-based	243	291	132	112	34.05	61.7	DSM-IV	7
Monakhov et al.	2008	Russia	Caucasian	Population-based	311	364	163	138	35.3	31.7	DSM-IV	7
Sanders et al.	2008	Europe	Caucasian	Population-based	1870	2002	—	—	—	—	DSM-IV	8
Luu et al.	2008	China	East Asian	—	211	201	112	90	43	42	DSM-IV	6
Betcheva et al.	2009	Bulgaria	Caucasian	Population-based	255	556	124	289	45.3	50.5	DSM-IV	8
Cordeiro et al.	2009	Brazil	Mixed	Population-based	229	733	148	496	27.2	31.8	DSM-IV	8
Gupta et al.	2009	India	Indian	Population-based	254	225	155	139	29.22	31.08	DSM-IV	8
Shrivastava et al.	2009	India	Indian	Hospital-based	233	224	112	130	29.34	34.63	DSM-IV	7
Dubertret et al.	2010	France	Caucasian	Population-based	144	142	—	—	—	73.6	DSM-IV	8
Fan et al.	2010	China	East Asian	Population-based	421	404	—	—	30.74	28.15	DSM-IV	8
Saiz et al.	2010	Spain	Caucasian	Population-based	288	421	172	216	36.3	40.6	DSM-IV	9
Kurt et al.	2010	Turkey	Caucasian	Population-based	73	60	40	25	38.11	36.51	DSM-IV	8
Tsutsumi et al.	2011	Japan	East Asian	Population-based	407	384	221	194	47.2	42.1	DSM-IV-TR	8
Watanabe et al.	2012	Japan	East Asian	Population-based	648	664	348	337	39.8	38.4	DSM-IV	8
Xiao et al.	2013	China	East Asian	Population-based	120	100	65	55	44.6	45.3	DSM-IV-TR	8
Cordeiro et al.	2014	Brazil	Mixed	Population-based	235	834	—	—	—	—	DSM-IV	8
Zhang et al.	2014	China	East Asian	Population-based	396	399	260	224	31	31	DSM-IV	9
Arab et al.	2015	Egypt	African Arab	Population-based	120	100	72	—	32.6	—	DSM-IV	8
Han et al.	2017	China	East Asian	Population-based	690	430	398	231	27.2	26.9	CCMD-3	8
Alfimoa et al.	2019	Russia	Caucasian	Population-based	389	238	136	90	32.07	30.32	ICD-10	8
Kaur et al.	2019	India	Indian	Population-based	443	150	—	—	—	—	ICD-10	7
Zhang et al.	2019	China	East Asian	Population-based	306	324	154	157	44.6	45.3	DSM-IV	8
Funahashi et al.	2019	Japan	East Asian	Population-based	100	100	48	49	58.7	58.6	DSM-V	8
Nunes et al.	2019	Brazil	Mixed	Population-based	144	72	36	64	—	—	—	5
Poorshekar et al.	2019	Iran	Caucasian	Population-based	100	100	63	62	37.94	37.94	—	6

**Table 3.** rs6277 genotype and allele frequency distribution.

Reference	Cases (n)			Controls (n)			Cases (%)		Controls (%)		PHWE	
	C/C	C/T	T/T	C/C	C/T	T/T	C	T	C	T	Cases	Control
Lawford <i>et al.</i> (2005)	48	75	31	27	70	51	55.51948	44.48052	41.89189189	58.10810811	0.862481	0.728738
Hanninen <i>et al.</i> (2006)	59	92	37	104	176	104	55.85106	44.14894	50	50	0.91605	0.10247
Hoenicke <i>et al.</i> (2006)	30	61	40	46	174	144	46.18321	53.81679	36.53846154	63.46153846	0.469154	0.557312
Kukreti <i>et al.</i> (2006)	41	38	22	48	64	33	59.40594	40.59406	55.17241379	44.82758621	0.027094	0.194704
Monakhov <i>et al.</i> (2008)	99	152	60	78	183	103	56.2701	43.7299	46.56593407	53.43406593	0.903279	0.844807
Betcheva <i>et al.</i> (2009)	58	128	66	192	253	111	48.4127	51.5873	57.28417266	42.71582734	0.788511	0.097893
Gupta <i>et al.</i> (2009)	104	112	38	76	120	29	62.99213	37.00787	60.44444444	39.55555556	0.38721	0.083629
Fan <i>et al.</i> (2010)	366	52	3	368	34	1	93.11164	6.888361	95.53349876	4.466501241	0.446254	0.818987
Tsutsumi <i>et al.</i> (2011)	367	38	1	341	43	2	80.51471	19.48529	86.63366337	13.36633663	0.070923	0.340652
Han <i>et al.</i> (2017)	554	109	27	410	13	7	88.18841	11.81159	96.86046512	3.139534884	2.16E-10	1.84E-25

genomewide association study, identifying *DRD2* as one of the major risk genes for schizophrenia (Beaulieu and Gainetdinov 2011; Schizophrenia Working Group of the Psychiatric Genomics 2014). Ankyrin repeat and kinase domain containing 1 (*ANKK1*) is another gene that is closely associated with *DRD2* and is closely related to dopaminergic signalling (Koenke *et al.* 2020). Taq1A, a polymorphism originally associated with *DRD2* has recently been found to be located on the *ANKK1* gene (Neville *et al.* 2004).

Association between schizophrenia and the four common single-nucleotide polymorphisms, namely rs6277, rs1799732, rs1800497 and rs1801028 (table 1), which are associated with *DRD2* has been extensively studied (Dollfus *et al.* 1996; Breen *et al.* 1999; Jonsson *et al.* 2003). Unfortunately, due to different genetic backgrounds, potential confounding bias, and small sample size, the results of these investigations have been either conflicting or inconsistent. A meta-analysis including 10 case–control studies conducted by Glatt *et al.* in 2004 to assess the potential association between rs1799732 polymorphism and schizophrenia failed to show any associations (Glatt *et al.* 2004). Other meta-analyses have also been performed in recent years to evaluate the association between *DRD2* polymorphisms and schizophrenia with inconsistent results (Glatt and Jonsson 2006; Watanabe *et al.* 2015; Yao *et al.* 2015; Wang *et al.* 2016). New genetic association studies which have not been included in these meta-analyses have been recently conducted to shed light on the association between different *DRD2* polymorphisms and schizophrenia (Kaur *et al.* 2019b; Zhang *et al.* 2019a). We have conducted this meta-analysis to provide a comprehensive assessment of the association between four common genetic polymorphism and schizophrenia.

## Materials and methods

### Search strategy and selection criteria

Potentially relevant literature published before January 2020 were retrieved from Ovid Medline, Embase, Web of Science

(science citation index expanded), and PsycNET using the combination of following terms: ('DRD2' OR 'Dopamine receptor 2' OR 'Dopamine receptor D2' OR 'Dopamine D2 receptor') AND ('SNP' OR 'polymorphism' OR 'variant' OR 'genotype' OR 'allele') AND ('Schizophrenia'). The reference lists of all retrieved articles were also reviewed for other eligible articles. The search strategy was not confined to any language or time period.

Studies were considered eligible to test the research hypothesis of this meta-analysis if they met the following criteria: (i) case–control studies investigating the association between the mentioned polymorphisms (rs6277, rs1799732, rs1800497, and rs1801028) and schizophrenia; (ii) provide adequate data on genotype and/or allelic frequency of the studied variants in both cases (i.e., patients diagnosed with schizophrenia) and controls to calculate the odds ratio (OR) and 95% confidence interval (CI). Studies were excluded in case of one of the following conditions (i) not relevant to the mentioned genetic variants and schizophrenia; (ii) case reports and case series; (iii) book chapters, reviews, conference abstracts, comments, letters to the editor, animal studies and studies lacking a control group. In the case of repeated inclusion of subjects in more than one publication, we only included the study with the largest sample size.

### Data extraction and quality assessment

Two investigators (AN and AT) independently reviewed all abstracts to evaluate the appropriateness of the articles and the eligibility criteria. Disagreements were resolved by a consensus and discussion with a third investigator (PH). The following information was extracted from the eligible studies: the first author's name, year of publication, country of origin, the ethnicity of the studied population, gender (male percentage), source of control population, mean age of cases and controls, diagnostic criteria, number of genotyped cases and controls, genotype/allele frequency for cases and controls. Study authors were contacted to identify further study and also the missing information. Newcastle–Ottawa scale (NOS) was used to assess the methodological quality of the included

**Table 4.** rs1799732 genotype and allele frequency distribution.

References	Cases (n)			Controls (n)			Cases (%)		Controls (%)		PHWE	
	Ins/Ins	Ins/Del	Del/Del	Ins/Ins	Ins/Del	Del/Del	Ins	Del	Ins	Del	Cases	Control
Arinami et al. (1997)	190	66	4	193	102	17	85.76923	14.23077	78.20513	21.79487	0.520258	0.469118
Li et al. (1998)	112	39	0	118	26	1	87.08609	12.91391	90.34483	9.655172	0.068424	0.737736
Ohera et al. (1998)	136	34	0	84	36	1	90	10	84.29752	15.70248	0.147418	0.173126
Stober et al. (1998)	207	50	3	236	53	1	89.23077	10.76923	90.51724	9.482759	0.992078	0.271373
Breen et al. (1999)	318	111	10	345	87	5	85.07973	14.92027	88.9016	11.0984	0.931919	0.852793
Inada et al. (1999)	156	72	6	51	40	3	82.05128	17.94872	75.53191	24.46809	0.494667	0.142519
Tallerico et al. (1999)	40	10	0	43	7	1	90	10	91.17647	8.823529	0.432058	0.293968
Jonsson et al. (1999)	114	15	0	142	34	3	94.18605	5.813953	88.82682	11.17318	0.483241	0.564348
Hori et al. (2001)	162	71	8	142	54	5	81.95021	18.04979	84.0796	15.9204	0.948493	0.960274
Himei et al. (2002)	118	69	3	71	27	5	80.26316	19.73684	82.03883	17.96117	0.043838	0.262065
Kampman et al. (2003)	86	7	0	88	6	0	96.23656	3.763441	96.80851	3.191489	0.70608	0.749251
Dubertret et al. (2004)	83	19	1	43	33	7	89.80583	10.19417	71.68675	28.31325	0.939612	0.851407
Parsons et al. (2007)	88	20	0	135	18	0	90.74074	9.259259	94.11765	5.882353	0.288945	0.439474
Lafuente et al. (2008)	208	33	2	235	54	2	92.38683	7.613169	90.03436	9.965636	0.589515	0.560906
Sanders et al. (2008)	1495	354	21	1643	341	18	89.41176	10.58824	90.58442	9.415584	0.993121	0.947429
Luu et al. (2008)	165	44	2	163	34	4	88.62559	11.37441	89.55224	10.44776	0.618177	0.17336
Cordeiro et al. (2009)	183	38	8	498	206	29	88.20961	11.79039	81.99181	18.00819	0.00221	0.190838
Gupta et al. (2009)	205	44	3	169	50	4	90.07937	9.920635	86.99552	13.00448	0.714035	0.892319
Srivastava et al. (2009)	161	65	7	172	48	4	83.04721	16.95279	87.5	12.5	0.887637	0.76003
Dubertret et al. (2010)	104	37	3	120	21	1	85.06944	14.93056	91.90141	8.098592	0.890378	0.938291
Saiz et al. (2010)	181	76	15	301	98	5	80.51471	19.48529	86.63366	13.36634	0.070923	0.340652
Kurt et al. (2010)	45	26	2	34	25	1	79.45205	20.54795	77.5	22.5	0.437847	0.131433
Xiao et al. (2013)	96	22	2	68	28	4	89.16667	10.83333	82	18	0.576065	0.606619
Zhang et al. (2014)	257	34	15	275	44	5	89.54248	10.45752	91.66667	8.333333	1.12E-12	0.0455
Funahashi et al. (2019)	74	25	1	69	29	2	86.5	13.5	83.5	16.5	0.481217	0.599996
Nunes et al. (2019)	9	36	99	9	23	40	18.75	81.25	28.47222	71.52778	0.031252	0.067179

studies (Stang 2010). Only studies with moderate or high methodological quality were included in the meta-analysis.

### Statistical analysis

Chi-square goodness of fit test was used to determine deviation from Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) in the studied populations. Cochran's Q test and the  $I^2$  statistics were used to assess heterogeneity among included studies (Huedo-Medina et al. 2006). In case of  $I^2$  values  $> 50\%$  or Q statistic  $P$ -value  $< 0.1$ , random-effects model (Dersimonian-Laird method) was used. Otherwise, fixed-effects model was applied.

Pooled ORs with 95% CIs adopting dominant, recessive, and allelic models were used to estimate the strength of association between the genetic polymorphisms and schizophrenia. Subgroup analysis by ethnicity (Caucasian and East Asian) was also performed in the allelic model. Publication bias was assessed by visual inspection of the funnel plot and Egger's regression test (Begg and Mazumdar 1994; Egger et al. 1997). Statistical analysis was conducted using metaphor package in R software (v. 3.6.3) (see methods in electronic supplementary material at <http://www.ias.ac.in/jgenet/>) (Viechtbauer 2010).

### Bioinformatics analysis

The effect of genetic polymorphisms found to be significantly associated with schizophrenia on protein stability was

evaluated using the I-Mutant Suite tool (<http://gpcr2.biocomp.unibo.it/cgi/predictors/I-Mutant3.0/I-Mutant3.0.cgi>). Further, their effects on posttranslational modifications were investigated using AWESOME (<http://www.awesome-hust.com>) (Yang et al. 2019). The effect of SNP on protein structure was visualized using HOPE (<https://www3.cmbi.umcn.nl/hope/>) (Venselaar et al. 2010). Further, the 3D protein structure modelling was conducted using SWISSMODEL (<https://swissmodel.expasy.org/>) and energy minimization was carried out using SPDBV. Subsequently root-mean-square deviation (RMSD) value was calculated by PyMOL to evaluate the structural change in the protein as a result of the variant.

This meta-analysis was conducted in adherence to the preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses (PRISMA) guideline (Liberati et al. 2009).

## Results

### Study characteristics

The flow diagram depicting the study selection process is shown in figure 1. A total of 633 articles were initially identified through database search. This number was reduced to 498 after the removal of duplicates. Further, after assessing the articles based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria, 75 studies were found to be eligible (Comings et al. 1991; Itokawa et al. 1993; Sanders et al. 1993; Arinami

**Table 5.** rs1800497 genotype and allele frequency distribution.

References	Cases (n)			Controls (n)			Cases (%)		Controls (%)		PHWE	
	C/C	C/T	T/T	C/C	C/T	T/T	C	T	C	T	Cases	Control
Comings <i>et al.</i> (1991)	58	27	2	59	10	0	82.18391	17.81609	92.75362	7.246377	0.577131	0.516367
Sanders <i>et al.</i> (1993)	38	16	1	36	12	3	83.63636	16.36364	82.35294	17.64706	0.641393	0.173744
Campion <i>et al.</i> (1994)	60	19	1	58	20	2	86.875	13.125	85	15	0.710814	0.860783
Dollfus <i>et al.</i> (1996)	41	19	2	111	45	5	81.45161	18.54839	82.91925	17.08075	0.910937	0.866198
Jonsson <i>et al.</i> (1996)	70	30	4	45	18	4	81.73077	18.26923	80.59701	19.40299	0.728365	0.248359
Dubertret <i>et al.</i> (2001)	36	13	1	26	21	3	85	15	73	27	0.889728	0.643512
Dubertret <i>et al.</i> (2004)	71	29	3	30	40	13	83.00971	16.99029	60.24096	39.75904	0.985118	0.955967
Parsons <i>et al.</i> (2007)	92	24	3	93	68	4	87.39496	12.60504	76.9697	23.0303	0.355984	0.036911
Vijayan <i>et al.</i> (2007)	102	93	17	88	77	29	70.04717	29.95283	65.20619	34.79381	0.508453	0.080989
Behravan <i>et al.</i> (2008)	11	21	6	21	39	3	56.57895	43.42105	64.28571	35.71429	0.441939	0.005721
Lafuente <i>et al.</i> (2008)	157	81	5	184	90	13	81.27572	18.72428	79.79094	20.20906	0.137914	0.639709
Monakhov <i>et al.</i> (2008)	189	104	18	238	116	10	77.49196	22.50804	81.31868	18.68132	0.465598	0.350971
Srivastava <i>et al.</i> (2009)	123	93	17	107	96	21	72.74678	27.25322	69.19643	30.80357	0.919514	0.936423
Dubertret <i>et al.</i> (2010)	94	44	6	79	54	9	80.55556	19.44444	74.64789	25.35211	0.767561	0.955175
Cordeiro <i>et al.</i> (2014)	94	112	29	289	407	138	63.82979	36.17021	59.05276	40.94724	0.622044	0.792741
Zhang <i>et al.</i> (2014)	150	181	65	161	187	51	60.73232	39.26768	63.78446	36.21554	0.406561	0.772921
Arab <i>et al.</i> (2015)	77	43	0	55	33	12	82.08333	17.91667	71.5	28.5	0.016799	0.057062
Alfimova <i>et al.</i> (2019)	148	79	10	150	64	11	79.11392	20.88608	80.88889	19.11111	0.894106	0.230199
Kaur <i>et al.</i> (2019a, b)	202	205	36	63	72	15	68.73589	31.26411	66	34	0.106499	0.394532
Nunes <i>et al.</i> (2019)	75	61	8	35	29	8	73.26389	26.73611	68.75	31.25	0.329219	0.595141

*et al.* 1994; Asherson *et al.* 1994; Campion *et al.* 1994; Gejman *et al.* 1994; Hattori *et al.* 1994; Laurent *et al.* 1994; Nanko *et al.* 1994; Nothen *et al.* 1994; Shaikh *et al.* 1994; Sobell *et al.* 1994; Arinami *et al.* 1996; Chen *et al.* 1996; Crawford *et al.* 1996; Dollfus *et al.* 1996; Jonsson *et al.* 1996; Ohara *et al.* 1996; Sasaki *et al.* 1996; Tanaka *et al.* 1996; Arinami *et al.* 1997; Fujiwara *et al.* 1997; Harano 1997; Kaneshima *et al.* 1997; Verga *et al.* 1997; Li *et al.* 1998; Ohara *et al.* 1998; Spurlock *et al.* 1998; Stober *et al.* 1998; Breen *et al.* 1999; Inada *et al.* 1999; Jonsson *et al.* 1999; Tallerico *et al.* 1999; Serretti *et al.* 2000; Dubertret *et al.* 2001, 2004, 2010; Hori *et al.* 2001; Himei *et al.* 2002; Morimoto *et al.* 2002; Jonsson *et al.* 2003; Kampman *et al.* 2003; Lawford *et al.* 2005; Hanninen *et al.* 2006; Hoenicka *et al.* 2006; Kukreti *et al.* 2006; Parsons *et al.* 2007; Vijayan *et al.* 2007; Lafuente *et al.* 2008; Behravan *et al.* 2008; Luu *et al.* 2008; Monakhov *et al.* 2008; Sanders *et al.* 2008; Betcheva *et al.* 2009; Cordeiro *et al.* 2009; Gupta *et al.* 2009; Fan *et al.* 2010; Saiz *et al.* 2010; Srivastava *et al.* 2010; Kurt *et al.* 2011; Tsutsumi *et al.* 2011; Watanabe *et al.* 2012; Xiao *et al.* 2013; Alfimova *et al.* 2014; Cordeiro and Vallada 2014; Zhang *et al.* 2014; Arab and Elhawary 2015; Han *et al.* 2017; Alfimova *et al.* 2019; Funahashi *et al.* 2019; Kaur *et al.* 2019a; Nunes 2019; Poorshekar *et al.* 2019; Zhang *et al.* 2019b). However, after further investigations, six articles were not included in the meta-analysis due to the overlap of their studied populations with other published studies (Itokawa *et al.* 1993; Arinami *et al.* 1994; Nanko *et al.* 1994; Tanaka *et al.* 1996; Verga *et al.* 1997; Alfimova *et al.* 2014). The data for rs1801028 SNP presented in a study by Himei *et al.* (2002) was not

included in the meta-analysis for this variant since it was already included in an investigation conducted by Tsutsumi *et al.* (2011). Further, one study was excluded because of low NOS score (Shaikh *et al.* 1994). At the end, 68 studies with 15,200 cases and 18,111 controls investigating the association of four genetic polymorphisms and schizophrenia were included in the meta-analysis. There were 31 studies with 8639 cases and 9743 controls investigated the association between rs1801028 and schizophrenia. The relationship between rs1800497 and schizophrenia was assessed in 20 studies involving 3416 cases and 3780 controls. For rs1799732 polymorphism, 26 studies with 6625 cases and 7139 controls were carried out to elucidate the relationship between this variant and schizophrenia. Ten studies involving 2908 cases and 3405 controls investigated the correlation between rs6277 variant and schizophrenia. Overall, the included studies represented different populations, namely Caucasian, East Asian, Indian, African Arab and mixed. The characteristics of the included studies are displayed in table 2. The distribution of the genotypes and allele frequencies for the studied SNPs across the included studies are demonstrated in tables 3–6.

#### Quantitative synthesis

**Analysis of association between rs6277 and schizophrenia:** No significant association was observed between this polymorphism and schizophrenia under the studied genetic models: allelic model (OR, 0.998, 95% CI, 0.737–1.352), dominant model (OR, 1.131, 95% CI, 0.824–1.552), and recessive



**Table 6.** rs1801028 genotype and allele frequency distribution.

References	Cases (n)			Controls (n)			Cases (%)		Controls (%)		PHWE	
	C/C	C/G	G/G	C/C	C/G	G/G	C	G	C	G	Cases	Control
Gejman et al. (1994)	103	3	0	109	4	0	98.58491	1.415094	98.23009	1.769912	0.882513	0.848107
Asherson et al. (1994)	110	2	0	63	1	0	99.10714	0.892857	99.21875	0.78125	0.924043	0.949773
Nothen et al. (1994)	175	4	0	133	5	0	98.88268	1.117318	98.18841	1.811594	0.879837	0.828411
Hattori et al. (1994)	93	7	0	93	6	1	96.5	3.5	96	4	0.716833	0.028706
Laurent et al. (1994)	108	8	0	181	3	0	96.55172	3.448276	99.18478	0.815217	0.700493	0.911228
Sobell et al. (1994)	326	12	0	1848	65	1	98.22485	1.775148	98.24974	1.750261	0.739697	0.582425
Arinami et al. (1996)	124	12	0	265	14	0	95.58824	4.411765	97.49104	2.508961	0.59041	0.667294
Chen et al. (1996)	110	4	0	83	5	0	98.24561	1.754386	97.15909	2.840909	0.84879	0.783859
Crawford et al. (1996)	78	5	1	78	3	0	95.83333	4.166667	98.14815	1.851852	0.019597	0.865159
Ohara et al. (1996)	152	1	0	118	3	0	99.6732	0.326797	98.76033	1.239669	0.967651	0.890181
Sasaki et al. (1996)	261	12	0	245	9	1	97.8022	2.197802	97.84314	2.156863	0.710416	0.008913
Harano et al. (1997)	62	8	0	93	8	0	94.28571	5.714286	96.0396	3.960396	0.612108	0.678561
Fujiwara et al. (1997)	50	2	0	25	1	0	98.07692	1.923077	98.07692	1.923077	0.887559	0.92036
Kaneshima et al. (1997)	74	4	0	105	7	0	97.4359	2.564103	96.875	3.125	0.816216	0.732812
Spurlock et al. (1998)	359	14	0	396	17	0	98.12332	1.876676	97.94189	2.058111	0.711846	0.669345
Serretti et al. (2000)	329	37	0	252	15	0	94.94536	5.054645	97.19101	2.808989	0.308444	0.636742
Hori et al. (2001)	217	23	1	185	15	1	94.81328	5.186722	95.77114	4.228856	0.645064	0.264608
Morimoto et al. (2002)	42	6	0	42	6	0	93.75	6.25	93.75	6.25	0.644167	0.644167
Jonsson et al. (2003)	160	12	1	232	4	0	95.95376	4.046243	99.15254	0.847458	0.160443	0.895537
Dubertret et al. (2004)	97	6	0	80	3	0	97.08738	2.912621	98.19277	1.807229	0.760772	0.866838
Vijayan et al. (2007)	169	38	3	159	32	4	89.52381	10.47619	89.74359	10.25641	0.608971	0.12949
Sanders et al. (2008)	1796	73	1	1895	105	2	97.99465	2.005348	97.27772	2.722278	0.770417	0.662992
Gupta et al. (2009)	208	42	4	186	37	2	90.15748	9.84252	90.88889	9.111111	0.276386	0.915228
Srivastava et al. (2009)	200	32	1	189	34	1	92.70386	7.296137	91.96429	8.035714	0.815925	0.686484
Dubertret et al. (2010)	139	5	0	137	5	0	98.26389	1.736111	98.23944	1.760563	0.832096	0.830894
Fan et al. (2010)	387	32	1	377	26	0	95.95238	4.047619	96.77419	3.225806	0.695154	0.503392
Tsutsumi et al. (2011)	390	14	8	354	23	7	96.35922	3.640777	95.18229	4.817708	1.22E-25	1.06E-11
Watanabe et al. (2012)	607	40	1	617	46	1	96.75926	3.240741	96.38554	3.614458	0.689013	0.882635
Han et al. (2017)	632	51	7	396	26	8	95.28986	4.710145	95.11628	4.883721	3.5E-06	4.47E-13
Kaur et al. (2019a, b)	443	0	0	150	0	0	100	0	100	0	NA	NA
Poorshekar et al. (2019)	96	4	0	100	0	0	98	2	100	0	0.83829	NA

model (OR, 1.036, 95% CI, 0.681–1.575) (figure 2; table 7). Further, subgroup analysis in East Asian (OR, 0.575, 95% CI, 0.225–1.470) and Caucasian populations (OR, 1.265, 95% CI, 0.904–1.770) showed no significant associations.

**Analysis of the association between rs1799732 and schizophrenia:** Summary results of the meta-analysis showed no significant association between rs1799732 and schizophrenia under allelic (OR, 0.966, 95% CI, 0.822–1.135), dominant (OR, 0.952, 95% CI, 0.800–1.133), and recessive models (OR, 1.060, 95% CI, 0.744–1.511) (figure 3; table 7). In addition, subgroup analysis in East Asian (OR, 0.845, 95% CI, 0.672–1.062) and Caucasian populations (OR, 1.060, 95% CI, 0.837–1.342) demonstrated no significant associations.

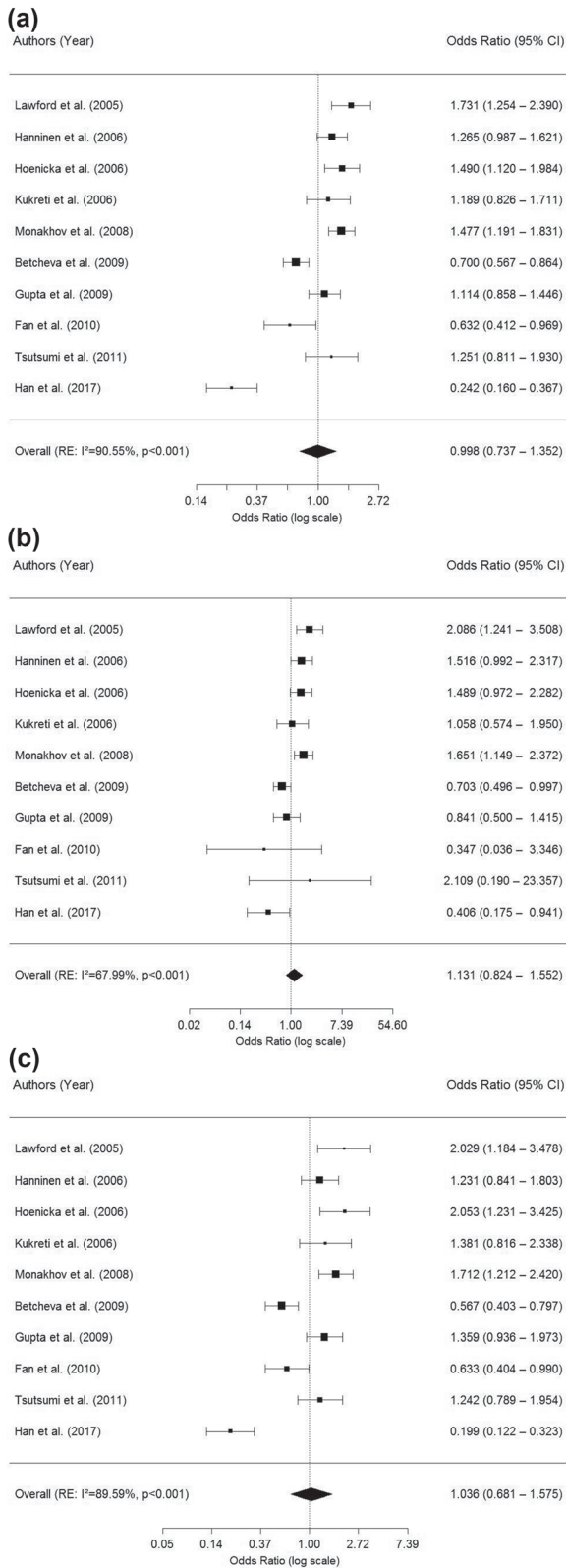
**Analysis of association between rs1800497 and schizophrenia:** The pooled results showed that rs1800497 polymorphism was significantly associated with schizophrenia in the studied populations under the allelic genetic model (OR, 0.856, 95% CI, 0.734–0.998) (figure 4). However, no significant associations were observed under other genetic models:

dominant model (OR, 0.861, 95% CI, 0.723–1.026), and recessive model (OR, 0.755, 95% CI, 0.555–1.025) (figure 4; table 7). Subgroup analysis in East Asian (OR, 1.139, 95% CI, 0.930–1.395) and Caucasian populations (OR, 0.873, 95% CI, 0.671–1.135).

**Analysis of the association between rs1801028 and schizophrenia:** This meta-analysis failed to find any significant associations between rs1801028 and schizophrenia under different genetic models: allelic model (OR, 1.009, 95% CI, 0.893–1.140), dominant model (OR, 1.020, 95% CI, 0.897–1.160), and recessive model (OR, 0.994, 95% CI, 0.402–2.456) (figure 5; table 7). The subgroup analysis in East Asian (OR, 0.995, 95% CI, 0.824–1.201) and Caucasian populations (OR, 1.292, 95% CI, 0.906–1.842) was also unable to detect any significant associations.

#### Evaluation of heterogeneity and publication bias

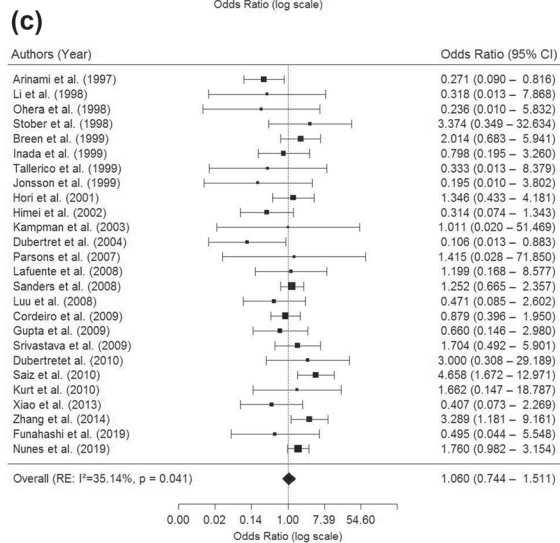
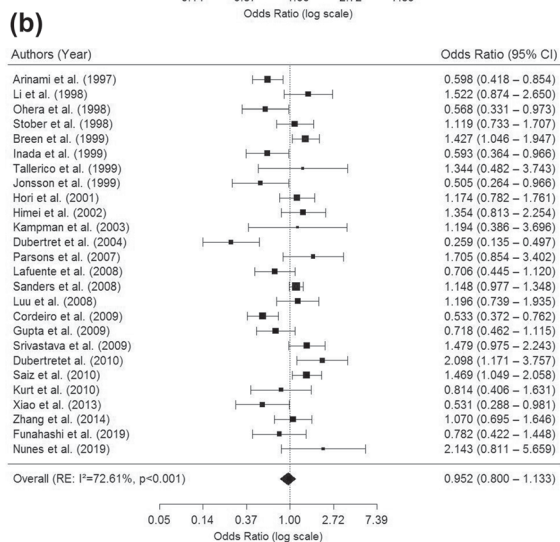
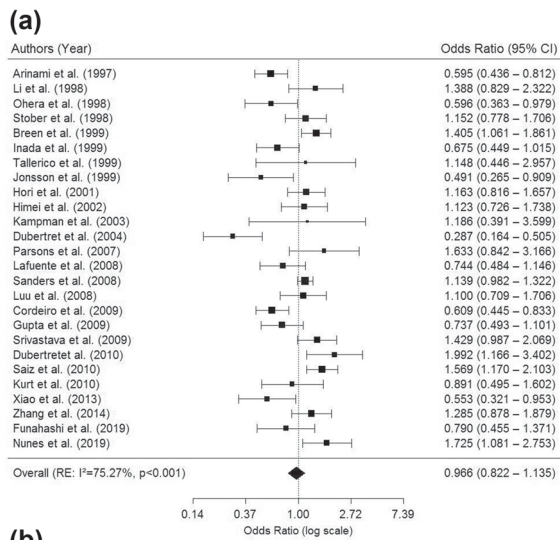
There was significant heterogeneity across the included studies for rs6277, rs1799732, and rs1800497 under all



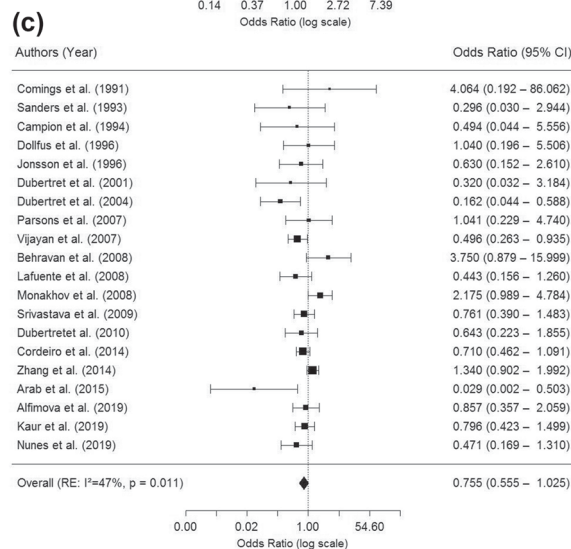
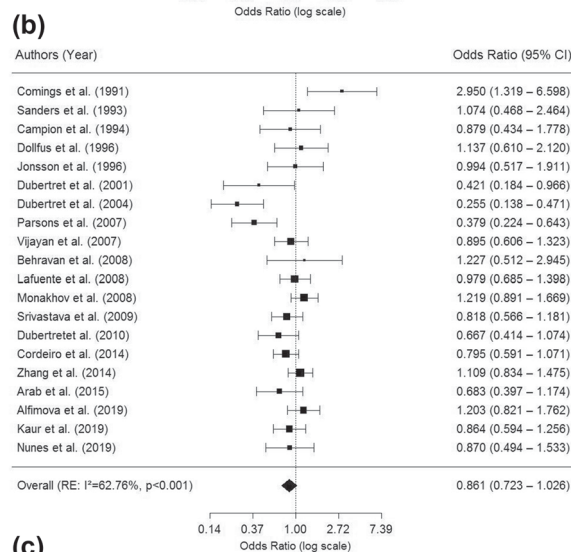
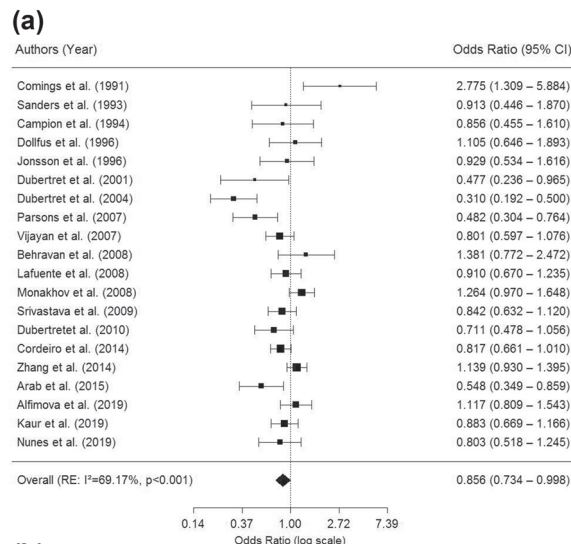
**Figure 2.** Forest plot of the risk of schizophrenia associated with rs6277 under (a) allelic, (b) dominant, and (c) recessive genetic models.

**Table 7.** Summary statistics of the meta-analysis findings.

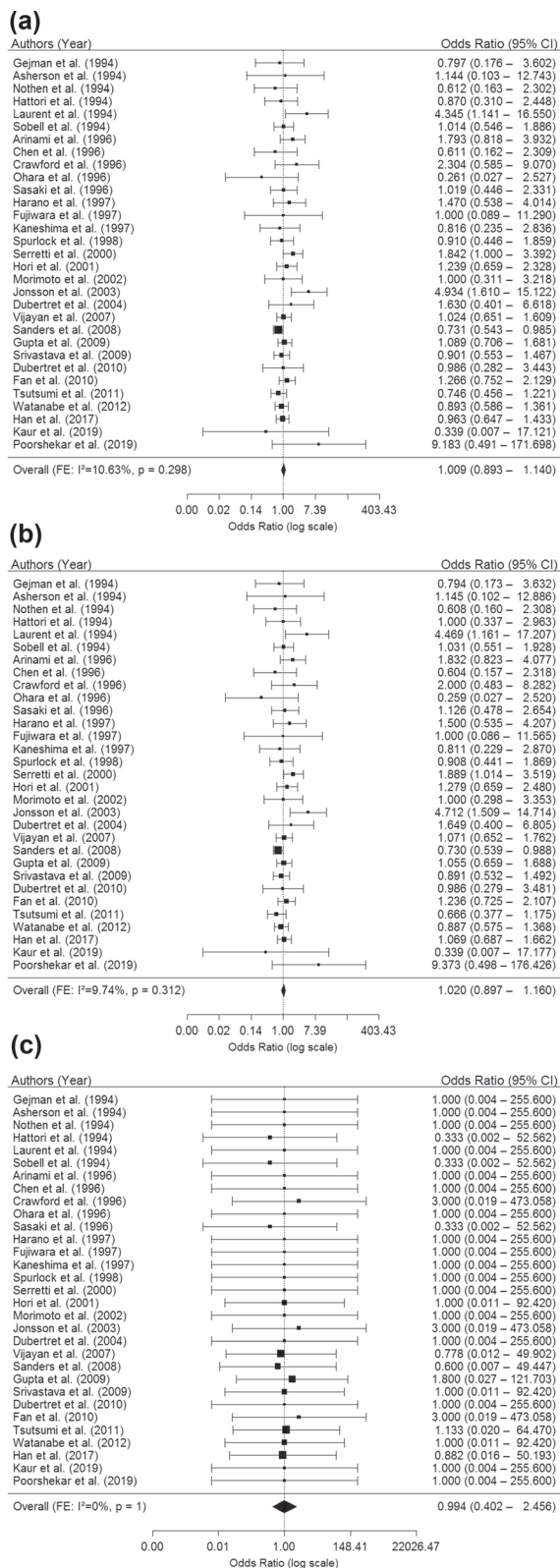
Polymorphism	Analysis	Number of studies	Statistical model	OR	95% CI	Association test P value	I <sup>2</sup>	Heterogeneity test P value	Egger's test P value
rs6277	Allelic model	10	Random effect	0.998	0.737–1.352	0.991	90.55%	< 0.0001	0.159
	Dominant model	10	Random effect	1.131	0.842–1.552	0.447	67.99%	0.0009	0.413
rs1799732	Recessive model	10	Random effect	1.036	0.681–1.575	0.869	89.59%	< 0.0001	0.798
	Allelic model	26	Random effect	0.966	0.822–1.135	0.672	75.27%	< 0.0001	0.624
rs1800497	Dominant model	26	Random effect	0.952	0.800–1.133	0.578	72.61%	< 0.0001	0.948
	Recessive model	26	Random effect	1.060	0.744–1.511	0.748	35.14%	0.0409	0.057
rs1801028	Allelic model	20	Random effect	0.856	0.734–0.998	0.047	69.17%	< 0.0001	0.830
	Dominant model	20	Random effect	0.861	0.723–1.026	0.094	62.76%	< 0.0001	0.760
rs1801028	Recessive model	20	Random effect	0.755	0.555–1.025	0.072	47.00%	0.011	0.217
	Allelic model	31	Fixed effect	1.009	0.893–1.140	0.891	10.63%	0.2984	0.061
rs1801028	Dominant model	31	Fixed effect	1.020	0.897–1.160	0.763	9.74%	0.3123	0.072
	Recessive model	31	Fixed effect	0.994	0.402–2.456	0.989	0	1	0.996



**Figure 3.** Forest plot of the risk of schizophrenia associated with rs1799732 under (a) allelic, (b) dominant, and (c) recessive genetic models.



**Figure 4.** Forest plot of the risk of schizophrenia associated with rs1800497 under (a) allelic, (b) dominant, and (c) recessive genetic models.



**Figure 5.** Forest plot of the risk of schizophrenia associated with rs1801028 under (a) allelic, (b) dominant, and (c) recessive genetic models.

studied genetic models. However, the included studies on rs1801028 did not show significant heterogeneity under all studied genetic models. Further, there was no evidence of publication bias according to Egger's regression test results (table 7). Funnel plots are also presented in figures 1–4 in electronic supplementary material.

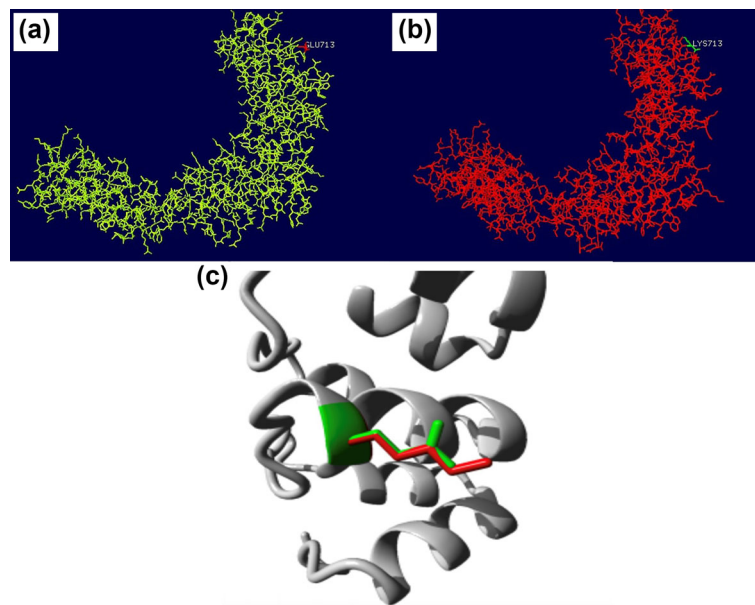
### Bioinformatics analysis

Analysis of the effect of rs1800497 on ANKK1 protein revealed that the substitution of glutamic acid by lysine caused by this mutation may decrease protein stability. Further, this polymorphism was found to lead to the gain of modifications sites for ubiquitination (ubi. score =  $-1.894$ ) and methylation (meth. score =  $-0.834$ ). The 3-D protein structure analysis of ANKK1 protein and the effects of this SNP on protein structure were also visualized (figure 6). The minimized total energy of wild type and mutant proteins were  $-20145.709$  kcal/mol and  $-20125.746$  kcal/mol, respectively. Further, the RMSD value was  $0.008\text{\AA}$ .

### Discussion

Schizophrenia is a common psychiatric disorder occurring throughout the globe presenting with chronic or recurrent psychosis. Believed to result from a complex interaction between genetic and environmental factors, schizophrenia is among the top 10 illnesses in the global burden of disease (Murray *et al.* 1996). Considering the paramount importance of this disorder and the contradicting results of the previous studies investigating the genetic factors involved in the pathogenesis of this common psychiatric disease, we conducted this meta-analysis including 68 studies with 15,200 cases and 18,111 controls investigating the association of four SNPs involved in dopaminergic signalling (rs6277, rs1799732, rs1800497 and rs1801028) and schizophrenia. Our meta-analysis has the largest sample size among the meta-analysis conducted to date on this matter. Nevertheless, lack of meta-regression analyses was a potential limitation of this study. Different sources of the control population, various ethnic backgrounds, differences in the mean age of the control groups, and variations in gender ratios among the studies were potential sources of heterogeneity. Overall, our results indicated that rs1800497 polymorphism shows a protective effect against schizophrenia. However, no associations were found between the other three studied variants and risk of schizophrenia.

Other meta-analyses have previously investigated the association between genetic polymorphisms and the risk of schizophrenia (Glatt *et al.* 2004; Yao *et al.* 2015; He *et al.* 2016). Although our results showing the lack of association



**Figure 6.** (a) Wild type and (b) mutant ANKK1 protein 3D structures. (c) Magnified view of protein. The protein is depicted in grey and the side chains of the wild-type and the mutant amino acids are illustrated in green and red, respectively.

of the mentioned SNPs with schizophrenia has largely been observed in the previous studies, the protective effect of rs1800497 against schizophrenia is a notable observation. This SNP which is also known as Taq1A was originally associated with the *DRD2* gene. However, it was later found to be located on the eighth exon of the *ANKK1* gene (Neville *et al.* 2004). This polymorphism which leads to an amino-acid substitution (p. Glu713Lys) in the 11th ankyrin repeat of the protein is postulated to modify substrate-binding specificity of the protein (Neville *et al.* 2004). Our bioinformatics analyses were also suggestive of decreased protein stability and gain of posttranslational modification sites for ubiquitination and methylation as a result of this polymorphism. The wild-type amino-acid in this position, glutamic acid, has a  $-\text{COO}^-$  group which causes it to have a negative charge at physiologic pH while lysine has a positive charge. This substitution can, therefore, disrupt the salt bridges formed between the wild-type glutamic acid and lysine amino acids at positions 709 and 747 and therefore affect the function of the protein through disturbing the interaction between these domains. However, the structural analysis did not reveal any significant changes in the protein conformation as a result of this variant.

The minor allele (i.e. A1, rs1800497(T)) in this polymorphism has been found to be associated with decreased number of dopamine D2 receptor density/availability in the brain (Pohjalainen *et al.* 1998). In addition, the A1 allele has been demonstrated to be associated with increased aromatic L-amino acid decarboxylase activity in the striatum (Laakso *et al.* 2005). This enzyme is the final enzyme in dopamine biosynthesis and will, therefore, cause increased dopamine synthesis in those carrying A1 allele. In addition, positron emission tomography (PET) studies have shown that this

allele is associated with decreased mean relative glucose metabolic rate in dopaminergic human brain regions (Noble *et al.* 1997). On the other hand, this allele has been reported to be associated with alcoholism and anti-social behaviour in alcohol-dependent individuals (Ponce *et al.* 2003; Munafo *et al.* 2007). Considering the complex nature of schizophrenia and also the multitude of factors playing a part in the development of this disorder and the limited amount of information available about *ANKK1*, it is not clear if Taq1A polymorphism exerts its effect on dopaminergic signalling through affecting the *DRD2* gene or *ANKK1* itself directly modulates the dopaminergic signalling. Further functional studies on this variant could shed light on the role of this polymorphism in the pathogenesis of neuropsychiatric disorders.

Overall, our meta-analysis provides supporting evidence for the protective effect of rs1800497 (Taq1A) polymorphism against schizophrenia. However, further studies with larger sample sizes, particularly in ethnic populations under-represented in this study (e.g. African populations) should be conducted to further investigate this association.

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Corresponding editor: ANALABHA BASU