

A Single Nucleotide Polymorphism Fine Mapping Study of Chromosome 1q42.1 Reveals the Vulnerability Genes for Schizophrenia, *GNPAT* and *DISC1*: Association with Impairment of Sustained Attention

Yu-Li Liu, Cathy Shen-Jang Fann, Chih-Min Liu, Wei J. Chen, Jer-Yuarn Wu, Shuen-lu Hung, Chun-Houh Chen, Yuh-Shan Jou, Shih-Kai Liu, Tzung-Jeng Hwang, Ming H. Hsieh, Wen-Chen Ouyang, Hung-Yu Chan, Jiann-Jyh Chen, Wei-Chih Yang, Chin-Yu Lin, Sandy F.C. Lee, and Hai-Gwo Hwu

Background: The marker *D1S251* of chromosome 1q42.1 showed significant association with schizophrenia in a Taiwanese sample. We used single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) fine mapping to search for the vulnerability genes of schizophrenia.

Methods: We selected 120 SNPs covering 1 Mb around *D1S251* from the public database. These selected SNPs were initially validated if allele frequency was >10%. Forty-seven validated SNPs were genotyped in 102 families with at least 2 siblings affected with schizophrenia.

Results: Two SNP blocks showed significant association with schizophrenia. Block 1 (five-SNP), located between intron 2 and intron 13 of the glyceronephosphate O-acyltransferase (*GNPAT*) gene, showed the most significant associations using single-locus TDT ($z = -2.07$, $p = .038$, $df = 1$) and haplotype association analyses ($z = -1.99$, $p = .046$, $df = 1$). Block 2 (two-SNP), located between intron 4 and intron 5 of the disrupted-in-schizophrenia 1 (*DISC1*) gene, also showed the most significant results in both the single-locus ($z = -3.22$, $p = .0013$, $df = 1$) and haplotype association analyses ($z = 3.35$, $p = .0008$, $df = 1$). The association of the *DISC1* gene with schizophrenia was mainly in the patient group with sustained attention deficits as assessed by the Continuous Performance Test.

Conclusions: Chromosome 1q42.1 harbors *GNPAT* and *DISC1* as candidate genes for schizophrenia, and *DISC1* is associated with sustained attention deficits.

Key Words: Schizophrenia, sustained attention, *DISC1*, *GNPAT*, haplotype association, quantitative TDT

Schizophrenia is a complex genetic disorder with several genes in epistasis for its etiology (Risch 1990). One promising chromosome region, possibly hosting the candidate vulnerability genes of schizophrenia, is 1q 42, where a balanced translocation (1; 11)(q42.1; q14.3) disrupted two genes (i.e., disrupted-in-schizophrenia 1 [*DISC1*] and *DISC2*); this region has been found to be associated with major mental illnesses including schizophrenia in a large Scottish family pedigree (Blackwood et al 2001; Millar et al 2000; Millar et al 2001). This region of linkage evidence has also been independently confirmed in a Finnish family sample (Hovatta et al 1999) a North American white population

From the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Research (Y-LL), National Health Research Institutes, Taipei; the Institute of Biomedical Sciences (CS-JF, Y-SJ, WCY, C-YL), Academia Sinica, Taipei; the Department of Psychiatry (C-ML, WJC, S-KL, T-JH, MHH, H-GH), National Taiwan University Hospital; the Institute of Epidemiology (WJC, H-GH), College of Public Health, National Taiwan University, Taipei; the National Genotyping Center (J-YW, S-IH), the Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Academia Sinica, Taipei; the Institute of Statistical Science (C-HC), Academia Sinica, Taipei; the National Chia-Nan Psychiatric Center (W-CO), Tainan; the National Taoyuan Psychiatric Center (H-YC, J-JC, SFCL), Taoyuan; and the Department of Psychology (H-GH), College of Science, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan.

Address reprint requests to Hai-Gwo Hwu, M.D., Department of Psychiatry, National Taiwan University Hospital, No. 7, Chung Shan South Road, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC 100; E-mail: haigohwu@ha.mc.ntu.edu.tw.

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(Hodgkinson et al 2004), and a Taiwan family sample (Hwu et al 2003). There is even evidence showing that the variations in *DISC1* may affect hippocampal structure and function (Callicott et al 2005). However, the linkage evidence has not been consistently supported in other ethnic groups (Bassett et al 2002; Levinson et al 2002; Macgregor et al 2002).

Because of the concern about the heterogeneity and inconsistent findings regarding linkage studies of schizophrenia, using certain endophenotype to refine the phenotype characterization has been advocated (Gottesman and Gould 2003). Both sustained attention deficit and executive dysfunction have substantial empirical evidence to support them as potential candidates for such endophenotypic markers. First, sustained attention deficits as measured on the Continuous Performance Test (CPT) (Rosvold et al 1956) have been shown to be presented not only in schizophrenic patients, but also in subjects with schizotypal personality disorder and in nonpsychotic relatives of schizophrenic patients (Cornblatt and Keilp 1994; Chen and Faraone 2000). Using SDs of 2.5 or more below the population mean as the threshold, we found that the recurrence risk ratio for CPT performance among parents or siblings was higher than that of schizophrenia alone (Chen et al 1998b; Chen et al 2004). Second, executive functions as measured by the Wisconsin Card Sorting Test (WCST) (Robinson et al 1980) are known to be impaired in schizophrenic patients (Goldberg et al 1987; Koren et al 1998) and their first degree relatives (Wolf et al 2002). Among schizophrenic patients, impaired executive functioning has been related to hypofrontality (Weinberger et al 1988).

Using both the CPT and WCST to define endophenotypes for schizophrenia might be helpful in addressing the heterogeneity and variable expression of schizophrenia in linkage analyses. On the basis of a previous finding that the short tandem repeat

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marker D1S251 located within the gap between the *TRAX* and *DISC1* genes had significant linkage with schizophrenia in a Taiwanese sample (Hwu et al 2003), we aimed in this study to pursue the possible significant association of SNP markers located near the D1S251 region using the SNP fine mapping. Our first hypothesis was that if there are some SNP markers near the D1S251 marker found to be significantly associated with schizophrenia; these SNP markers would belong to a significant haplotype located in some functional genes expressed in the brain. In addition to the clinical diagnosis of schizophrenia, we intended to examine the relations between the CPT and WCST performance and the SNPs. If there is an association between schizophrenia and some SNPs, our second hypothesis was that the association would become more significant in the subgroup of patients with a certain endophenotype but become nonsignificant in the subgroup without the endophenotype.

Methods and Materials

Subjects

Schizophrenic patients who had at least one affected sibling (the proband cases) were identified from the Department of Psychiatry, National Taiwan University Hospital, and the university-affiliated Taoyuan Psychiatric Center. This research project was approved by the Institutional Review Board of National Taiwan University Hospital. Data collection was initiated after informed consents were obtained from the identified study subjects and their families. All family members were personally interviewed by the research psychiatrists with the use of the Psychiatrist Diagnostic Assessment (PDA) (Hwu 1999). The final diagnostic assessment was formulated by integrating the PDA data and clinical information of medical chart records. The final diagnosis was done following the DSM-IV criteria for schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, and other nonaffective psychoses. Clinical data of age at onset of initial symptoms, negative symptoms, and positive symptoms were collected. The negative and positive symptoms were assessed with the use of the schedule for assessment of negative symptoms (SANS; Andreasen 1983) and the schedule for assessment of positive symptoms (SAPS; Andreasen 1984) with satisfactory reliability. A negative symptom score was the sum of all global scores of five negative symptom dimensions, including affective flattening, avolition/apathy, anhedonia/asociality, and impaired attention. Positive symptom score was the sum of all global scores of four positive symptom dimensions, including hallucination, delusion, excitements, and thought derailment.

In total, 102 schizophrenic nuclear families with at least two affected siblings were recruited for this study. Among the 399 individuals, 231 individuals underwent an undegraded CPT test, and 225 individuals underwent a degraded CPT test. Meanwhile, 164 subjects underwent WCST assessment.

Neuropsychological Assessment

Continuous Performance Test. A CPT machine from Sunrise System version 2.20 (Pembroke, Massachusetts) was used to assess sustained attention. The procedure has been described in detail elsewhere (Chen et al 1998a). Briefly, numbers from 0 to 9 were randomly presented for 50 msec each, at a rate of one per second. Each subject undertook two CPT sessions: the undegraded 1-9 task and the 25% degraded 1-9 task. Subjects were asked to respond whenever the number “9” preceded by the number “1” appeared on the screen. A total of 331 trials, 34 (10%) of which were target stimuli, were presented over 5 min for each session. During the 25%

degraded session, a pattern of snow was used to toggle background and foreground so that the image was visually distorted. Each test session began with 2 min of practice (repeated if subjects required). One signal-detection index of performance on the test, sensitivity (d'), was derived from the hit rate (probability of response to target trials) and false-alarm rate (probability of response to nontarget trials) (Nuechterlein 1991). Sensitivity is an individual's ability to discriminate target stimuli from nontarget stimuli. In a 1-week test-retest reliability study (Chen et al 1998a) of the CPT versions used in this study, the intraclass correlation coefficients or reliability of d' were .83 and .82 for the undegraded and the 25% degraded 1-9 task, respectively.

Wisconsin Card Sorting Test. We employed a computerized version of the WCST (Tien et al 1996) that had been applied in a previous study in a Taiwanese population (Lin et al 2000). During the WCST, subjects were required to match response cards to the four stimulus cards according to one of three dimensions (color, form, or number) by pressing one of the 1 to 4 number keys on the computer keyboard. Subjects were not informed of the correct sorting principle nor were they told when the principle would shift during the test, but they were given feedback (“Right” or “Wrong”) on the screen after each trial. Unlike one common form of the traditional WCST in which the test ends after six correct categories are achieved, the testing in this study continued until all 128 cards were sorted. All of the indexes defined in the WCST manual (Heaton et al 1993), except for Total Correct, were used for analysis. The Total Correct index was not included, since it is complementary to Total Errors. The indexes used were 1) Total Errors: total number of perseverative and nonperseverative errors; 2) Nonperseverative Errors: number of errors that were not perseverative; 3) Perseverative Errors: number of errors that were perseverative, reflecting a tendency toward perseveration; 4) Perseverative Responses: number of responses that were perseverative, regardless of whether they were correct or not; 5) Categories Achieved: number of times that 10 correct responses in a row were made, reflecting overall success; 6) Trials to Complete First Category: number of trials to successfully complete the first category (counted as 129 if no category was completed), reflecting initial conceptual ability; 7) Conceptual Level Response: proportion of consecutive correct responses occurring in runs of three or more, reflecting insight into the correct sorting principles; 8) Failure to Maintain Set: number of times subject makes five to nine correct responses in a row, reflecting efficiency of sorting; and 9) Learning to Learn: average difference in percent errors between successive categories, reflecting the average change in conceptual efficiency during the test (Heaton et al 1993). The last index can be calculated only for subjects whose total numbers of Categories Achieved and categories attempted are larger than three.

SNP Selection Criteria and Validation

Fine mapping studies were using SNP dense markers spreading upstream and down stream of the dinucleotide marker D1S251 located at 1q42.1. In the defined region of 2 cM around DIS251, a total of 120 SNPs were selected covering 10 genes from public database (http://www.ensembl.org/Homo_sapiens/martview). The inter SNP marker distance ranged from 5 kb to 60 kb, with an average of 32.5 kb. According to the location of these SNPs relative to the position of the functional genes, the SNPs were selected based upon the following priority of exon (including 5'-untranslated and 3'-untranslated regions), promoter (CpG island), intron, and gap between functional genes that are expressed in the central nervous system. The 120 SNPs selected this

way were nearly evenly distributed, with 8 being in exons, 3 in promoters, and the rest in introns. We used 31 trios and 2 independent individuals, a total of 95 individuals, to validate the 120 SNPs.

SNP Genotyping

All SNP genotypings were performed by the method of matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization-time of flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF MS) (Rodi et al 2002). Primers and probes flanking the SNPs were designed by using SpectroDESIGNER software (Sequenom, San Diego, California). A DNA fragment (100–300 bp) encompassing the SNP site was amplified by using the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) (GeneAmp 9700 thermocycler, Applied Biosystems, Foster City, California) according to the manufacturer's instruction.

After removing the unincorporated deoxynucleotide triphosphate (dNTP) and inactivating the shrimp alkaline phosphatase (SAP) from the PCR product, primer extension was performed by adding the probe, Thermo Sequenase (Amersham Pharmacia, Piscataway, New Jersey), and appropriate dideoxynucleotide triphosphate (ddNTP)/dNTP mixture, and was followed by 55 cycles of denaturing at 94°C for 5 sec, annealing at 52°C for 5 sec, and extension at 72°C for 5 sec. Different extension products were differentiated by mass through MALDI-TOF.

This genotyping method has been applied to a broad variety of clinical applications, since it fulfills criteria such as accuracy of SNP detection, sensitivity to score SNPs using a small amount of template throughput capacity, flexibility of the procedure, and cost-effectiveness (Tost and Gut 2005).

Statistical Analysis

To verify the sample accuracy, including family relationship and genotype, we used PEDCHECK version 1.1 (O'Connell and Weeks 1998) and UNKNOWN version 5.23 (Terwilliger and Ott 1994) to check Mendelian inheritance, and Procedure ALLELE in SAS/GENETICS release 8.2 (SAS Institute, Cary, North Carolina; SAS 2002) was used to test for Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. Linkage disequilibrium of intermarkers was measured by using coefficient D' (Hedrick 1987), which was also used to define haplotype blocks. A graphic presentation of block pattern was completed with the use of Haploview software (Barrett et al 2005).

Family-based transmission disequilibrium tests were applied to test linkage disequilibrium. Both single-locus and haplotype-based association analyses were carried out simultaneously by using two popular programs for the nuclear family data, haplotype FBAT version 1.4.1 for affected offspring association analyses (Horvath et al 2001; Horvath et al 2004; Laird et al 2000) and TRANSMIT version 2.5.4 for parent to affected offspring association analyses (Clayton 1999). An individual's haplotype was inferred with the use of SimWalk2 version 2.86 (Sobel and Lange 1996; Sobel et al 2001; Sobel et al 2002), which uses the Markov Chain Monte Carlo algorithm. Moreover, the Generalized Estimating Equations (GEE) method (Liang and Zeger 1986) was applied to test the interaction between haplotype blocks with the use of the Proc GENMODE of SAS version 8.0 for Windows (SAS Institute, Cary, North Carolina).

Multiple tests were considered to be necessary. However, the SNP markers used in this study were high density and the application of the Bonferroni procedure might yield too conservative results. In this study, we applied a simulation study, using Merlin software (Abecasis et al 2002) to simulate the pedigree for 5000 times assuming no linkage/no association on the interested SNP marker identified in the TRANSMIT and FBAT programs. The

empirical p values ($\alpha = .05$) for these identified SNP markers of interest were considered equivalent to the results of multiple testing.

Besides the analysis of qualitative trait, quantitative analysis using highly heritable quantitative trait was also considered. The analysis of heritability and quantitative-type transmission disequilibrium test based on variance component approach was applied with the use of QTD version 2.4.3 (Abecasis et al 2000a; Abecasis et al 2000b).

Results

SNP Validation

An SNP was considered valid if the frequency of minor allele was larger than 10% and the genotyping missing rate was smaller than 30%. Forty-seven of 120 SNPs met the validity criteria. The 47 SNPs span across 1591 kb around the D1S251 marker (Table 1) and cover 12 known functional genes of *COG2*, *AGT*, *CAPN9*, *FLJ14525*, *FLJ 22584*, *ARV1*, *TRIM67*, *GNPAT*, *DKFZP547N043* (*Clorf124*), *EGLN1*, *TRAX*, and *DISC1*. Four genes, *CAPN9*, *ARV1*, *TRIM67*, and *Clorf124*, did not have valid SNPs for further analyses. As only founders were included in the Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium test, five SNPs (SNP495, 506, 513, 527, 581) that violate the test were excluded from further analysis.

Construction of SNP Block

To perform haplotype analysis, we evaluated haplotype blocks using intermarker linkage disequilibrium coefficient. Two SNP blocks were identified by using two criteria: 1) a significant intermarker association based on the chi-square test, and 2) coefficient D' is higher than .8. The locations of these two SNP blocks are shown in Figure 1. The first block covers the SNP markers of 482 (intron 2), 485 (intron 2), 479 (intron 5), 488 (intron 11), and 489 (intron 13) in the *GNPAT* gene region, and the second block covers the markers of 517 (intron 4) and 518 (intron 5) in the *DISC1* gene region (Figure 2).

Single-Locus Association Analysis

Preliminary analyses were conducted in nuclear families to evaluate the potential association between each SNP and phenotype, defined in either a narrow model (DSM-IV schizophrenia only) or broad model (DSM-IV schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, and other nonaffective psychotic disorders). From the results of single-locus association analyses using the computer program FBAT, which is robust for population admixtures, we found that some SNP variants exhibited a significant association with schizophrenia (Table 2). For the broad model, the significant SNP marker on the *GNPAT* gene was SNP 485 (rs508908) ($p = .0383$), and those on the *DISC1* gene were SNP517 (rs2793092) ($p = .0053$) and SNP518 (rs2793091) ($p = .0076$). For the narrow model, the SNP marker 485 (rs508908) ($p = .0701$) on the *GNPAT* gene showed a borderline effect, whereas SNP 517 (rs2793092) ($p = .0013$) and 518 (rs2793091) ($p = .0071$) on the *DISC1* gene exhibited highly significant associations. For comparison, similar analyses using the computer program TRANSMIT, which can utilize data from all families, even when parental genotypes are unknown, yielded similar results but with more significance, especially for the SNPs on the *GNPAT* gene under the narrow model of phenotype (i.e., 485 [rs508908] [$p = .019$] and 479 [rs538643] [$p = .049$]).

These three identified SNP markers, rs508908 (*GNPAT*, primer id 485), rs2793092 (*DISC1*, primer id 517), and rs2793091 (*DISC1*, primer id 518), were under simulation for 5000 times assuming no linkage and no association. For these simulated pedigrees, FBAT was used to calculate p values. The simulated results have

Table 1. Description of 47 SNP Markers

Gene or Gap (G)	SNP Study Number	SNP ID	No. of Families	Allele Type	Minor Allele Frequency	Chromosomal Position
G	565	rs917384	101	G/C	.5652	chr1:227185526
COG2	472	rs1887492	101	G/A	.1585	chr1:227252942
AGT	471	rs699	102	G/A	.2000	chr1:227318982
FLJ14525	478	rs1202566	100	G/A	.3648	chr1:227461322
FLJ22584	484	rs2275333	101	A/T	.4024	chr1:227530435
FLJ22584	475	rs2153051	101	T/C	.4187	chr1:227549768
G	576	rs2024816	98	C/T	.1250	chr1:227707934
G	569	rs765265	91	G/A	.385	chr1:227749195
GNPAT	482	rs487047	101	G/A	.3871	chr1:227850811
GNPAT	485	rs508908	100	A/T	.3843	chr1:227859800
GNPAT	479	rs538643	102	T/C	.388	chr1:227873448
GNPAT	488	rs539699	102	T/C	.384	chr1:227880149
GNPAT	489	rs578945	102	T/C	.388	chr1:227883303
EGLN1	483	rs1435167	102	A/T	.468	chr1:227975433
TSNAX	494	rs1621135	102	A/T	.504	chr1:228137941
TSNAX	501	rs1655290	102	C/T	.504	chr1:228143015
TSNAX	491	rs1615409	101	A/C	.4797	chr1:228156605
TSNAX	496	rs766288	101	G/T	.3252	chr1:228166876
G	581	rs892356	102	C/T	.2114	chr1:228220138
DISC1	6055	rs1030711	85	A/T	.1316	chr1:228228649
DISC1	6054	rs1865226	94	C/T	.2714	chr1:228231070
DISC1	502	rs1865225	101	A/G	.4065	chr1:228236192
DISC1	498	rs2082552	101	T/C	.4836	chr1:228241078
DISC1	495	rs1094658	102	C/G	.18	chr1:228246585
DISC1	499	rs980394	102	A/G	.184	chr1:228252695
DISC1	506	rs1417585	79	T/C	.1822	chr1:228276792
DISC1	513	rs1417584	100	C/T	.1736	chr1:228292238
DISC1	524	rs1977797	92	T/A	.4363	chr1:228298262
DISC1	514	rs1954175	92	T/C	.4451	chr1:228328598
DISC1	517	rs2793092	102	A/G	.449	chr1:228353528
DISC1	518	rs2793091	101	G/A	.4569	chr1:228367796
DISC1	590	rs2812393	100	C/G	.3941	chr1:228386861
DISC1	526	rs1407598	99	T/G	.3621	chr1:228420013
DISC1	529	rs1000730	85	C/T	.396	chr1:228436789
DISC1	527	rs734551	85	G/A	.4624	chr1:228467621
DISC1	531	rs999710	89	A/G	.4485	chr1:228484131
DISC1	544	rs999709	100	A/G	.4487	chr1:228484218
DISC1	535	rs967433	101	T/C	.3554	chr1:228505003
DISC1	541	rs2038636	101	G/A	.1992	chr1:228528437
DISC1	548	rs928100	102	G/C	.3525	chr1:228543084
DISC1	543	rs1417866	91	A/G	.3333	chr1:228560101
DISC1	547	rs701160	101	C/T	.2438	chr1:228565669
DISC1	552	rs701161	98	A/G	.4397	chr1:228577302
DISC1	557	rs821664	102	C/T	.2917	chr1:228595110
DISC1	6056	rs821616	102	A/T	.127	chr1:228617786
G	582	rs1338302	102	C/T	.2927	chr1:228751787
G	583	rs1766982	101	A/G	.3571	chr1:228847915

shown that empirical p values were .043, .043, and .05 for rs508908, rs2793092, and rs2793091, respectively. Thus, we considered that these results were not false positive.

Haplotype-Based Association Analysis

Since there were SNPs in each block that exhibited single-locus association with schizophrenia, either narrowly or broadly defined, haplotype-based association analysis was further pursued. The results from the haplotype FBAT program version 1.4.1 (Horvath et al 2004) showed that haplotype GATTT in the *GNPAT* gene SNP block (block 1) is only slightly significant for the broad model of schizophrenia phenotype ($p = .0461$) (Table 2). The haplotypes AG and GA in the *DISC1* gene SNP block (block 2) exhibited a

significant association for both the narrow model ($p = .0091$ for AG and $p = .0008$ for GA) and the broad model ($p = .0295$ for AG and $p = .0017$ for GA) of schizophrenia. It seemed that haplotype GA was a risk haplotype (negative Z statistic), whereas AG possessed a protection effect. When the haplotypes in the *DISC1* gene block were examined separately for females and males, a similar pattern of overtransmission for GA and undertransmission for AG was found in each gender, although the magnitude of significance was reduced (data not shown). Analyses carried out with the TRANSMIT program yielded a similar pattern, but the results are not shown here. The interaction of two haplotype blocks was investigated by using the GEE method. However, no significant interaction effect between the two was found.

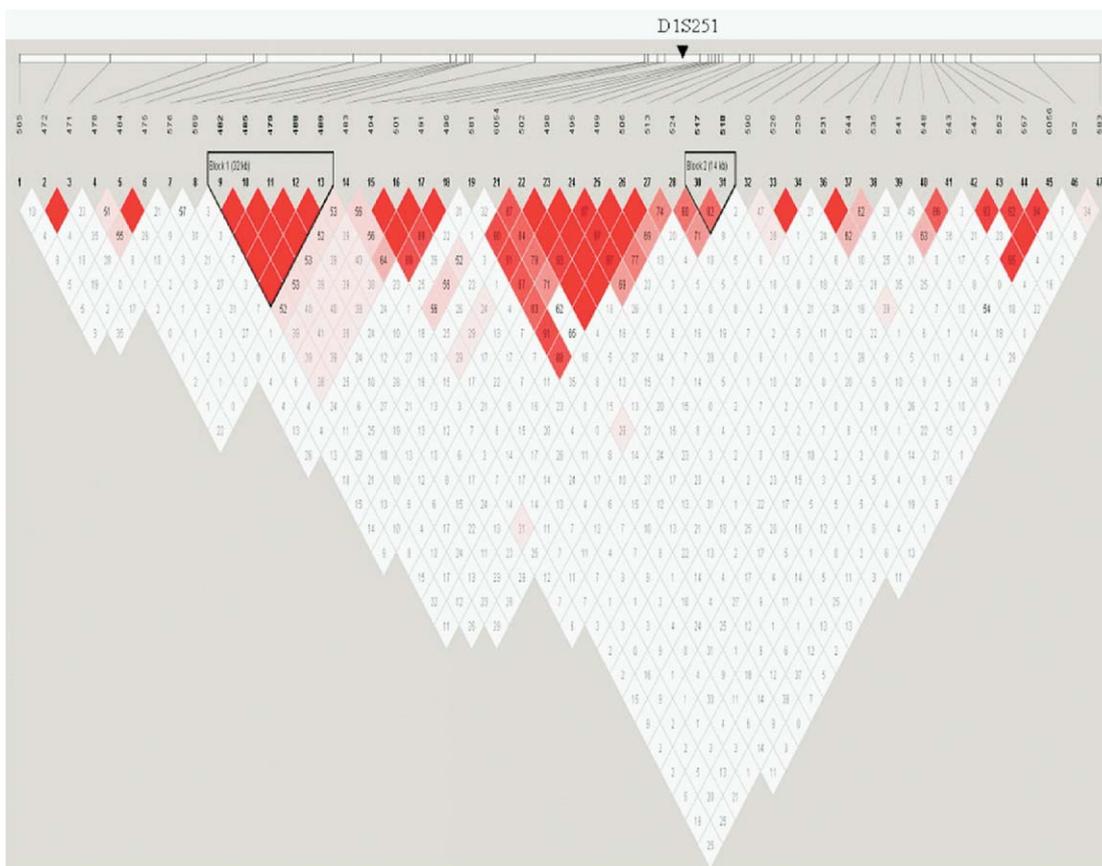


Figure 1. Linkage disequilibrium of all SNP markers showed two significant SNP blocks located within a block of 482, 485, 479, 488, and 489, and a block of 517 and 518.

Quantitative TDT for Phenotypic Indicators

In exploring the relationship between the SNP genotypes and potential endophenotypes, we examined four types of traits: the age of onset of the initial symptom, clinical symptoms (Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale [PANSS] Negative Scale scores, PANSS Positive Scale scores), CPT scores (undegraded CPT d',

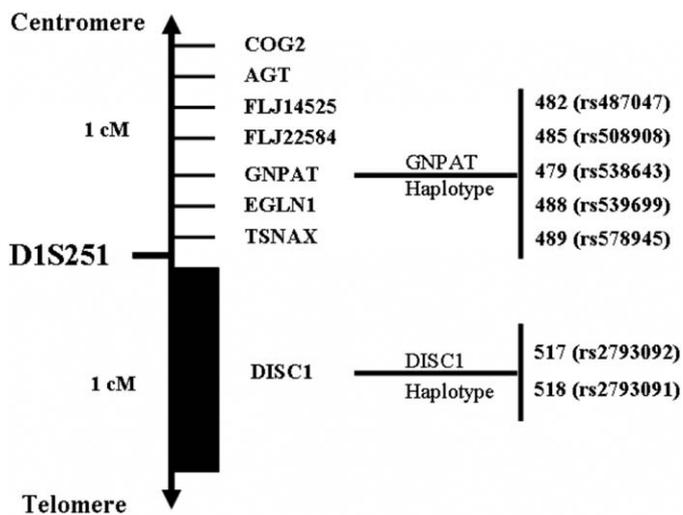


Figure 2. Blocks of SNPs located within genes of *GNPAT* and *DISC1* showed significant linkage disequilibrium and associations among nine other functional genes in the 2-cM ranges around D1S251 marker.

degraded CPT d'), and WCST scores (total errors, nonperseverative errors, perseverative errors, perseverative responses, categories achieved, conceptual level responses, trials to complete first category, learning to learn, and failure to maintain set). The heritability analysis using QTDT was conducted among the schizophrenic families to screen for important quantitative phenotypes, in which the variance components were decomposed because of environment (σ_e^2) and genetic effect (σ_g^2). Heritability b^2 is defined as the explained proportion of the variance attributable to genetic component (i.e., $\sigma_g^2/(\sigma_g^2 + \sigma_e^2)$). Among the 14 definitions examined, only two traits were found to have a significant heritability on the basis of the likelihood ratio test: the undegraded CPT d' ($b^2 = .831, p = 8 \times 10^{-7}$) and the degraded CPT d' ($b^2 = .751, p = 2 \times 10^{-7}$).

A quantitative haplotype analysis that detects unbalanced allelic transmission and important variance components was then conducted by using these two highly heritable traits. Among different phenotypic mean and variance component models, we applied the Akaike information criterion (AIC) to select the optimum genetic model underlying the linkage and association with schizophrenia. Since the AIC was used only as a criterion to evaluate the fitness of model, we did not describe the significance level and did not perform the correction for multiple testing in these analyses either. Of note, the response criterion $\ln\beta$ of the CPT was regarded as a covariate to be adjusted for in the model fitting because it reflected an individual motivation for the test. The fitted models showed that the first haplotype block was linked and associated the degraded CPT d' (log likelihood =

Table 2. Haplotype Analysis of All Families Using FBAT Program

	HF	Narrow Model			Broad Model		
		N ^a	Z ^b	p Value	N	Z	p Value
GNPAT (Block 1)							
SNP							
482		58	-1.133	.2573	32	-1.462	.1437
485		52	-1.811	.0701	31	-2.072	.0383
479		59	-1.316	.1882	33	-1.623	.1045
488		55	-1.065	.2870	31	-1.401	.1611
489		59	-1.316	.1882	33	-1.623	.1045
Haplotype 482-485-479-488-489							
GATTT	.608	28	-1.721	.0853	31	-1.994	.0461
ATCCC	.381	26	1.453	.1463	29	1.761	.0782
DISC1 (Block 2)							
SNP							
517		28	-3.215	.0013	26	-2.786	.0053
518		39	-2.694	.0071	37	-2.67	.0076
Haplotype 517-518							
AG	.505	33	-2.608	.0091	31	-2.177	.0295
GA	.416	31	3.347	.0008	30	3.146	.0017

HF, haplotype frequency.
^aN: the number of the informative family.
^bZ: the test statistic.

-105.14, AIC = 222.28), and the second haplotype block was linked and associated with the undegraded CPT d' (log likelihood = -164.57, AIC = 343.14).

To further examine the relationship between the SNPs and CPT performance, we next treated schizophrenic patients' CPT performance as a covariate in the association between schizophrenia diagnosis and the SNPs. We first inferred each individual's haplotype using the SimWalk2 and then subjected the individual's clinical diagnosis (schizophrenic or not) to logistic regression on the haplotypes with the deficit status in CPT d' (with an adjusted z score ≤ -2.5) as a covariate using the PROC GENMOD. The reason for choosing -2.5 was based on a previous finding that a recurrence risk ratio analysis of the CPT among the nonpsychotic relatives of schizophrenic patients indicated that a criterion more stringent than 2 SDs below the population mean led to a risk ratio higher than schizophrenia itself (Chen et al 2004).

Because the effect of CPT d' was significant in these logistic regression analyses, we then stratified the sample into those without CPT deficit and those with CPT deficit, and conducted the logistic regression analysis separately for these two subgroups. It turned out that the haplotypes of the second block (i.e., SNP517-518) tended to exhibit significant association with schizophrenia in those with CPT deficit but not in those without CPT deficit (Table 3). For patients with a deficit on the undegraded CPT, a single copy of the haplotype GA had an increased risk for schizophrenia (those with genotype GA/GA or GA/others had an odds ratio [OR] of 3.84 or 3.86, respectively, in the narrow model and 5.48 or 5.72, respectively, in the broad model), whereas two copies of haplotype AG had a protective effect for schizophrenia (those with genotype AG/AG had an OR of .19 in the narrow model and .13 in the broad model). However, for patients without deficit on the undegraded CPT, the pattern was less consistent (only those

Table 3. Logistic Regression Analysis of Schizophrenia on DISC1 Genetic Haplotypes of SNP517-SNP518 Stratified by CPT Deficit Status

CPT Version	Haplotypes	Without CPT Deficit ^a					With CPT Deficit				
		N	Narrow Model		Broad Model		N	Narrow Model		Broad Model	
			OR	p Value	OR	p Value		OR	p Value	OR	p Value
Undegraded CPT	GA/GA	20	1.67	.342	1.04	.941	15	3.84	.074	5.48	.003
	GA/others	50	.51	.123	.38	.016	26	3.86	.047	5.72	.001
	Others/others	40	1.00		1.00		17	1.00		1.00	
Degraded CPT	GA/GA	18	2.98	.059	2.40	.111	16	1.69	.307	0.98	.976
	GA/others	52	.92	.856	.81	.558	23	1.10	.882	0.82	.796
	Others/others	39	1.00		1.00		22	1.00		1.00	
Undegraded CPT	AG/AG	33	.78	.595	1.44	.426	17	.19	.038	0.13	.001
	AG/others	54	.83	.647	.97	.931	23	.63	.562	0.58	.398
	Others/others	27	1.00		1.00		18	1.00		1.00	
Degraded CPT	AG/AG	28	.38	.066	.52	.156	22	.66	.371	1.18	.814
	AG/others	56	.75	.461	.81	.594	20	.77	.684	1.07	.913
	Others/others	25	1.00		1.00		19	1.00		1.00	

CPT, Continuous Performance Test; OR, odds ratio.
^aCPT deficit was defined as an adjusted z score of ≤ -2.5.

with genotype GA/others had a decreased risk for schizophrenia). Intriguingly, no association between SNP517-518 haplotypes and schizophrenia were found when the sample was stratified by the degraded CPT. When similar stratified analyses were conducted for the haplotypes of the first block (i.e., SNP482, 485, 479, 488, and 489), none of the haplotypes exhibited a significant association with schizophrenia in either those with or without CPT deficit (data not shown).

Discussion

We found two haplotype blocks using SNP fine mapping study around the D1S251 marker with significant association with schizophrenia. The first block of rs487047-rs508908-rs538643-rs539699-rs578945 covers the genetic region of the *GNPAT* (or *DHAPAT*) gene, and the second block of rs2793092-rs2793091 is located within the *DISC1* gene. The first block in the *GNPAT* gene encodes the dihydroxyacetone-phosphate acyltransferase enzyme (DHAPAT) that is located within peroxisomes and catalyzes the biosynthesis of ether phospholipids. This enzyme was found to be in deficiency in varying degrees in patients with congenital peroxisomal disorders, compared with normal controls (Hajra 1997; Schutgens et al 1984). A girl with deficient DHAPAT was reported to have severe mental retardation, developmental delay, and growth failure (Elias et al 1998). Our result suggests that *GNPAT* may also be involved in the broad definition of schizophrenia ($p = .046$), although it may not play a major role because of its weak association. Since this is the first report of the potential involvement of the *GNPAT* gene in schizophrenia, further work examining the SNP markers located within the exons of the gene is warranted.

The second block that was significantly associated with schizophrenia is located within the *DISC1* gene, and consistently exhibited significant associations in both single-locus and haplotype-based association analysis. The *DISC1* gene was found to be closer to the peak NPL score of the D1S251 marker than to the adjacent lowest NPL score of the D1S404 marker in the previous Taiwan study (Hwu et al 2003). Furthermore, the D1S251 marker also showed a highest log of the odds (LOD) score of 2.5 ($p = .002$) in the populations of Britain and Iceland (Curtis et al 2003). Thus, this study in an expanded sample of affected sibpair families for 48% provides a replication of the linkage of *DISC1* to schizophrenia. Although an inconsistent result has been reported in the Chinese ethnic group (Chen et al 2006), further analyses on the risk polymorphisms deserve further study.

In terms of haplotype analysis, our results suggest that the haplotypes consisting of SNPs in introns 4 and 5 of the *DISC1* gene were significantly associated with schizophrenia. In contrast, the significant haplotype constituted by two SNPs for the Finnish population is located between the intron 1 and exon 2 (Hennah et al 2003). The discrepancy in the composition of the associated haplotype between the two studies could have two explanations. First, these reported regions may be in linkage disequilibrium, and the associations of the haplotypes merely suggest that the *DISC1* gene is nearby a true susceptibility gene for schizophrenia. This possibility is further supported by the variations in linkage disequilibrium across ethnic groups. Second, both regions may be truly involved in the genetic susceptibility to schizophrenia. However, both regions of the *DISC1* gene may interact with different cytoskeletal proteins. The exons 1 and 2 of the *DISC1* gene encode the putative globular domains that bind strongly with the cytoplasmic microtubules of α -tubulin, while the

exons 3–13 encode the putative helical tail (coiled-coil motif) that is essential for interaction with neurodevelopmental protein NUDEL (Brandon et al 2004; Ozeki et al 2003). The exon 5, which covers the amino acid 425–467 of *DISC1*, may bind *MIPT3* (Morris et al 2003), *kendrin* (Miyoshi et al 2004), and *FEZ1* (Miyoshi et al 2003), and involve a self-associated domain that is related to the microtubule organization at the centrosome (Kamiya et al 2005). It is less likely to bind *PDE4B*, which requires amino acid 219–283 of *DISC1* (Millar et al 2005; Sawa and Snyder 2005). If the second explanation holds, it implies different pathological pathways in different ethnic groups. Further investigation to see whether there are risk mutations in the exon 5 of *DISC1* in our study population is warranted to distinguish these two possibilities.

There are two more differences in the results between the Finnish study (Hennah et al 2003) and ours. Neither the gender difference in the undertransmission of the *DISC1* gene nor the association of the *TRAX* gene located upstream of the *DISC1* gene with schizophrenia in the Finnish sample was found in our study. Nevertheless, the two studies did have a consistent finding that the *DISC1* gene was not associated with the age onset of schizophrenia. Since we have ruled out the possible existence of the balanced translocation (q42.1; q14.3) in our schizophrenia DNA samples (Liu et al, unpublished results), the involvement of the *DISC1* gene in our schizophrenic patients may be exerted through mechanisms other than genomic disruption.

One unique feature of this study is that we further revealed that the association of *DISC1* with schizophrenia was limited to those with CPT deficits. The CPT is a measure of sustained attention and has been demonstrated to be highly sensitive to brain damage or dysfunction (Riccio et al 2002). Previous studies in Taiwanese population indicated that the heritability for the CPT performance in the nonpsychotic first-degree relatives of schizophrenic patients ranged from .48 to .62 (Chen et al 1998a), and the CPT deficits in schizophrenic patients were not amenable to 3-month neuroleptic treatment (Chen and Faraone 2000). In this study, the heritability for the CPT in the families of the affected sibpairs was even higher (.751 to .831). These consistent results indicate that the CPT deficits are likely to be a useful indicator for the genetic susceptibility to schizophrenia.

Under the AIC test for the optimum genetic model, the *GNPAT* genetic haplotype was significantly associated with the degraded CPT scores, whereas the *DISC1* genetic haplotype was significantly associated with the undegraded CPT scores. After further stratifying the CPT performance into deficit or nondeficit according to the threshold of an adjusted z score of -2.5 , we found that the GA haplotype of the *DISC1* gene was found to be the dominant susceptible indicator for the undegraded CPT deficit, yet the AG haplotype was the dominant protective indicators for the CPT deficit. In contrast, *GNPAT* did not show such an association with schizophrenia in the similar stratification analysis. The differential association of both versions of the CPT with the two blocks might be due to chance finding, since the significance level of some association was borderline only (e.g., the *GNPAT* block with the degraded CPT). Another possibility is that the two versions of the CPT tap different aspects of neuropsychological functioning: the undegraded session involved mainly a working memory component, whereas the degraded session included a sensory-perceptual component as well (Chen and Faraone 2000). Our results suggest that the *DISC1* gene, especially the intron 4–intron 5 region, may be involved in regulating sustained attention per se (i.e., working memory) of schizophrenia. The opposite direction in predicting the risk of

sustained attention deficit for the GA and AG haplotypes might be accounted for by binding affinities with different regulators. Intriguingly, recent studies using different neuropsychological instruments also reported similar association of the *DISC1* gene with memory-related neuropsychological impairment in schizophrenia, such as a haplotype at exon 8 with impaired semantic processing in long-term memory (Cannon et al 2005), a haplotype between exon 1 and exon 2 with poorer short-term visual memory and attention (Hennah et al 2005), SNP hCV1650649 with rapid search and verbal working memory (Burdick et al 2005), as well as exon 11 variation (rs821616) with cognitive ageing (Thomson et al 2005). Whether all these findings point to a specific neuropsychological mechanism that is regulated via the *DISC1* gene warrants further investigation.

The *DISC1* locus at 1q42 receives linkage support not only in schizophrenia but also in schizoaffective disorder (Hamshere et al 2005) and bipolar disorder (Macgregor et al 2004). Evidence for allelic association of polymorphisms at this locus has been reported not only for schizophrenia, but also for schizoaffective disorder and bipolar disorder (Hodgkinson et al 2004; Thomson et al 2005). Recently, the *DISC1* has even been proposed as a common susceptibility gene for both schizophrenia and mood disorder (Craddock et al 2006). In this study, we found that the *DISC1* locus was specifically associated with the endophenotype of CPT in schizophrenia. The CPT deficits in schizophrenic inpatients persisted from admission to discharge despite improvements in clinical symptoms (Cornblatt et al 1997; Epstein et al 1996; Liu et al 2002). However, the CPT deficit improved in bipolar disorder when remission was achieved (Liu et al 2002; Sax et al 1998; Sax et al 1999). Thus, the CPT deficit is a stable vulnerability indicator for schizophrenia but a mediator for bipolar disorder (Liu et al 2002). If *DISC1* is involved in the pathophysiologic process of the two disorders through CPT deficits, we suggest that it may play a vulnerability role in schizophrenia but a modifying role in bipolar disorder.

Unlike the results of the CPT, the WCST scores were associated with neither the *DISC1* nor the *GNPAT* gene. It appears that the 1q42.1 region may have little contribution to the pathologic process of executive functioning in schizophrenia.

In summary, a 2-cM region surrounding the D1S251 marker was screened with SNPs for genetic association with schizophrenia. Two blocks of SNP haplotypes in this region showed significant associations with schizophrenia. These two blocks were located within the regions of *GNPAT* (a five-SNP block) and *DISC1* (a two-SNP block) genes, respectively. The potential involvement of *GNPAT* with schizophrenia is preliminary, while the finding for *DISC1* is a replication of previous studies. We further revealed that the association of *DISC1* with schizophrenia was limited to those with CPT deficits and may indicate a potential biological pathway for future investigation.

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