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Schizophrenic NOTCH?

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A recent report linked the human **NOTCH4** locus with susceptibility to schizophrenia. In the June issue of *Nature Genetics*, two reports cast doubt on the *NOTCH4*-schizophrenia association. Sklar *et al.* conducted a large-scale study involving 519 parent-offspring trios in three independent families (compared to 80 trios in the original linkage study; *Nature Genetics* 2001, **28**:126-128). Extensive association analyses failed to confirm the previous linkage results. McGinnis *et al.* analysed (CTG)_n and (TAA)_n microsatellite alleles in 300 Scottish schizophrenics and also failed to detect association (*Nature Genetics* 2001, **28**:128-129). Thus, two large-scale studies employing **transmission equilibrium test** (TDT) analysis and case-control samples suggest that there is not a general association between *NOTCH4* and schizophrenia.

References

1. The NOTCH4 locus is associated with susceptibility to schizophrenia.
2. *Nature Genetics* , [<http://genetics.nature.com>]
3. A powerful likelihood method for the analysis of linkage disequilibrium between trait loci and one or more polymorphic marker loci.