Genetic Variant in SLC1A2 is Associated with Elevated Anterior Cingulate Cortex Glutamate and Lifetime History of Rapid Cycling

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Material and methods

Genotyping Cohort description

The BD cohort consisted of patients from the Mayo Clinic Individualized Medicine Biobank for Bipolar Disorder and patients recruited from the Unit of Affective disorders at Psychiatry Southwest, Karolinska University Hospital, Huddinge.

Patients in the Swedish cohort were consecutively recruited between 2003 and 2010, mostly from specialized outpatient clinics for affective disorders. Life-time manic and depressive symptoms were assessed. The assessment was based on interviews and medical records focusing on the most severe manic episode and performed by a psychiatrist specialized in bipolar disorder or by a trained psychiatric nurse. Manic and depressive symptoms were assessed using the modules for mania and depression in the Schedules for Clinical Assessment in Neuropsychiatry (SCAN) (Wing et al., 1990) or with the Affective Disorder Evaluation as has been described elsewhere (Ryden et al., 2009) Depressive symptoms were assessed according to DSM-IV. On the basis of these assessment patients were considered as fulfilling the diagnostic criteria for BD-I, BD-II, schizoaffective disorder, or not otherwise specified (NOS). The rapid cycling phenotype was also assessed. Venous blood DNA was obtained at the time of interview. In total from 726 unrelated BD patients were included. The genetic study was approved by the Regional Ethical Review Board in Stockholm in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975. All bipolar participants were in euthymic phase. In both studies all
individuals had full capacity to consent and the informed consent process was both verbal and written during a visit to a special trained psychiatric nurse.

Patients in the American cohort were recruited from the Mayo Clinic. Patients in the American genotyping cohort were recruited from the Individualized Medicine Biobank for Bipolar Disorder, a collaborative project between the Mayo Clinic, the Lindner Center of HOPE/University of Cincinnati, and the University of Minnesota, each with site-specific institutional review board approval. The written informed consent process was followed by a comprehension test questionnaire to ensure key points of study participation were understood. The biobank procedures for participant recruitment, clinical phenotyping, and biological specimen sampling, processing, and storage were published previously (Frye et al., 2015).

Eligible participants were adults (aged 18 years or older at enrollment) with clinical diagnoses of BD-I, BD-II, or schizoaffective disorder who were able to provide valid informed consent. Individuals who were actively psychotic or actively suicidal and needing psychiatric hospitalization were not approached initially for participation; however, patients who were initially excluded for these reasons were approached after acute psychiatric problems resolved.

Bipolar Biobank procedures included a detailed evaluation at baseline. BD-I and BD-II diagnoses, age of BD symptom onset, and comorbid psychiatric diagnoses were established using the Structured Clinical Interview for the DSM-IV (SCID). The baseline assessment included structured patient-rated and clinician-administered questionnaires to ascertain demographic variables, clinical variables, and illness characteristics (including lifetime history of rapid cycling).

Lifetime history of rapid cycling (RC) was defined as a self-reported history of having four or more distinct bipolar mood episodes in a 12 months period, with each episode separated by a return to baseline mood state for at least 2 months, or a switch to the opposite mood pole. Manic and hypomanic episodes were counted as being on the same mood pole.

Patient with MDD were derived from the PART study, a longitudinal population-based study in Stockholm County, Sweden (Hällström et al., 2003). PART includes data from 8613 randomly-selected Swedish nationals who have responded to an extensive questionnaire on mental health, work and relations twice (in two waves with a 3-yr interval), including the Major Depression Inventory (MDI). Individuals characterized as having depression were those diagnosed with major depression, mixed
anxiety depression or dysthymia, in at least one of the two PART waves. Depression was defined according to DSM-IV and was identified using the MDI.

The collection of the Swedish samples was approved by the Regional Ethical Review Board in Stockholm and informed consent was obtained from all participants.

**MRI - Voxel positioning**

For the midline anterior cingulate cortex (MACC) voxel, a reference slice was taken from an axial cut approximately 1 cm above the genu of the corpus callosum, demonstrating a continuous view of the anterior and posterior horns of the lateral ventricles. On this reference image, an 8-cm$^3$ voxel (2x2x2 cm) of predominantly gray (prefrontal) matter was centered on the frontal interhemispheric fissure. The posterior margin of the voxel was placed immediately anterior to the genu of the corpus callosum in an area corresponding to the pregenual ACC (Brodmann area 24a, 24b, and 32), as described by Vogt and Vogt (2003). For the left dorsolateral prefrontal cortex voxel (LDLPFC), a reference coronal oblique localizer slice was positioned on the sagittal anatomical images such that it was positioned perpendicular to the average plane of the corpus callosum, and the posterior margin of the slice was located immediately anterior to the anterior-most portion of the genu of the corpus callosum. On this reference image, an 8-cm$^3$ voxel (2x2x2 cm) encompassing the LDLPFC was placed such that: 1) the superolateral corner of the voxel abutted, but did include, the skull, 2) the medial margin of the voxel excluded the medial frontal cortex, and 3) the voxel was placed as superiorly as possible given constraints 1 and 2. This positioning typically includes the superior frontal sulcus and large portions of the superior and middle frontal gyri, containing Brodmann’s areas 9 and 46.

**References**

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Supplementary Figure 1. Chromosomal location of SLC1A2 and CD44 and proposed Mechanism for the Impact of Genetic Variations in SLC1A2 on Glutamatergic Neurotransmission and Rapid Cycling

(A) Single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), rs3829280 and rs3812778, are located in the 3’-untranslated region of the excitatory amino acid transporter 2 (EAAT2) gene (SLC1A2) in chromosome 11. CD44 is situated downstream of SLC1A2.

(B) Proposed mechanism for the impact of SNPs rs3829280 and rs3812778 on glutamatergic neurotransmission and rapid cycling.
**Supplementary Table 1.** Association of single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP) with glutamate concentration measured by MR-spectroscopy in the left dorsolateral prefrontal cortex voxel (LDLPFC) and midline anterior cingulate cortex (MACC) of depressed patients. MAF = minor allele frequency. 2DJ = 2-dimensional J-resolved averaged PRESS sequence. TE80 = TE-optimized PRESS sequence. GLUL encoding glutamine synthetase, SLCA17 encoding excitatory amino acid transporter (EAAT) 5, SLC1A2 encoding EAAT2, SLC1A3 encoding EAAT1.

| SNP        | Minor | Major | MAF | Gene | Elements          | LDLPFC 2DJ | p   | LDLPFC TE80 | p   | MACC 2DJ | p   | MACC TE80 | p   |
|------------|-------|-------|-----|------|-------------------|------------|-----|-------------|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|
| rs1058111  | A     | G     | 0.48| GLUL | exon              | -3.18      | 0.306| -0.59       | 0.082| -9.64    | 0.147| 0.56     | 0.349|
| rs912901   | C     | G     | 0.17| GLUL | 5'UTR             | -3.65      | 0.348| -0.08       | 0.853| 6.18     | 0.455| -0.80    | 0.239|
| rs62126236 | G     | A     | 0.27| SLC17A7| upstream 2kb     | -3.72      | 0.306| 0.00        | 0.998| -16.47   | 0.064| 0.04     | 0.957|
| rs1042113  | G     | A     | 0.34| SLC1A2| exon             | 0.02       | 0.996| 0.14        | 0.685| 11.12    | 0.126| -1.05    | 0.067|
| rs1043101  | G     | A     | 0.31| SLC1A2| 3'UTR            | -1.39      | 0.683| -0.36       | 0.329| 1.04     | 0.890| 0.71     | 0.242|
| rs10768121 | C     | A     | 0.31| SLC1A2| 3'UTR            | -1.39      | 0.683| -0.36       | 0.329| 1.04     | 0.890| 0.71     | 0.242|
| rs11033046 | T     | A     | 0.31| SLC1A2| 3'UTR            | -1.39      | 0.683| -0.36       | 0.329| 1.04     | 0.890| 0.71     | 0.242|
| rs12361171 | T     | A     | 0.31| SLC1A2| 3'UTR            | -1.39      | 0.683| -0.36       | 0.329| 1.04     | 0.890| 0.71     | 0.242|
| rs3088168  | G     | A     | 0.31| SLC1A2| 3'UTR            | -1.39      | 0.683| -0.36       | 0.329| 1.04     | 0.890| 0.71     | 0.242|
| rs12294045 | A     | G     | 0.25| SLC1A2| 3'UTR            | 4.14       | 0.253| -0.14       | 0.735| 8.10     | 0.307| 0.86     | 0.193|
| rs3812778  | A     | G     | 0.16| SLC1A2| 3'UTR            | 1.00       | 0.799| 0.24        | 0.580| 22.63    | 0.004| 0.97     | 0.159|
| rs3829280  | T     | A     | 0.16| SLC1A2| 3'UTR            | 1.00       | 0.799| 0.24        | 0.581| 22.63    | 0.004| 0.97     | 0.159|
| rs7936950  | G     | A     | 0.25| SLC1A2| 3'UTR            | 3.14       | 0.343| 0.36        | 0.326| -10.08   | 0.154| 0.74     | 0.217|
| rs10742338 | A     | G     | 0.25| SLC1A2| 3'UTR            | 3.14       | 0.343| 0.36        | 0.326| -10.08   | 0.154| 0.74     | 0.217|
| rs2229894  | A     | G     | 0.39| SLC1A3| 3'UTR            | -3.32      | 0.317| -0.38       | 0.324| -7.91    | 0.278| 0.16     | 0.789|
### Supplementary Table 2. Effect sizes and p-values for all Affimetry transcripts associated with CD44 in different brain regions. Common homozygotes vs. Minor allele carriers. Data obtained from braineac.org. FDR = False discovery rate.

| Affimetry Transcript | All areas | Cerebellar cortex | Frontal cortex | Hippocampus | Medulla | Occipital cortex | Putamen | Substantia nigra | Temporal cortex | Thalamus | Intralobular white matter | Legend |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------|-------------|---------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|--------------------------|--------|
| 3326636              | 0.06      | -0.01             | 0.13           | -0.03       | -0.06   | 0.15            | -0.01   | 0.23            | 0.21            | 0.05     | -0.01                    | FDR ≤ 0.1 |
| 3326653              | 0.21      | 0.29              | 0.17           | 0.26        | 0.27    | 0.37            | 0.44    | 0.21            | 0.19            | 0.19     | 0.15                     | 0.10 < FDR ≤ 0.15 |
| 3326658              | 0.18      | 0.22              | 0.08           | 0.23        | 0.3     | 0.24            | 0.38    | 0.17            | 0.16            | 0.08     | 0.15                     | 0.15 < FDR ≤ 0.20 |
| 3326666              | 0.33      | 0.36              | 0.04           | 0.25        | 0.34    | 0.28            | 0.38    | 0.04            | 0.19            | 0.17     | 0.19                     | Bold: p < 0.05 |
| 3326669              | 0.18      | 0.15              | 0.18           | 0.21        | 0.15    | 0.34            | 0.38    | 0.04            | 0.19            | 0.17     | 0.19                     |                  |
| 3326672              | 0.05      | 0.04              | 0.11           | 0.03        | 0.1     | 0.18            | 0.18    | 0.01            | 0.04            | 0.02     | 0.02                     |                  |
| 3326682              | 0.2       | 0.29              | 0.32           | 0.25        | 0.01    | 0.36            | 0.36    | 0.1       | 0.26            | 0.23     | 0.19                     |                  |
| 3326683              | 0.26      | 0.05              | 0.05           | 0.22        | 0.32    | 0.36            | 0.36    | 0.16            | 0.26            | 0.23     | 0.23                     |                  |
| 3326684              | 0.35      | 0.012             | 0.23           | 0.36        | 0.13    | 0.31            | 0.65    | 0.33            | 0.04            | 0.33     | 0.33                     |                  |
| 3326685              | 0.1       | 0.16              | 0.13           | 0.1        | 0.01    | -0.03           | 0.21    | 0.1       | 0.12            | 0.08     | 0.08                     |                  |
| 3326687              | 0.09      | -0.05             | 0.04           | 0.13        | 0.04    | 0.28            | 0.27    | 0.07            | 0.02            | 0.42     | 0.42                     |                  |
| 3326694              | 0.07      | 0.18              | 0.12           | 0.25        | 0.16    | 0.13            | 0.31    | 0.04            | 0.01            | 0.12     | 0.12                     |                  |
| 3326696              | 0.1       | 0.08              | -0.03          | 0.14        | 0.18    | 0.17            | 0.15    | 0.13            | 0.19            | 0.12     | 0.12                     |                  |
| 3326705              | 0.05      | 0.03              | 0.08           | 0.04        | 0.05    | 0.02            | 0.13    | 0.12            | 0.17            | 0.06     | 0.06                     |                  |
| 3326717              | 0.2       | 0.26              | 0.17           | 0.26        | 0.04    | 0.11            | 0.03    | 0.07            | 0.09            | 0.28     | 0.28                     |                  |
| 3326720              | 0.05      | 0.22              | 0.13           | -0.16       | 0.04    | 0.08            | 0.18    | -0.01           | 0.1              | 0.06     | 0.06                     |                  |
| 3326721              | 0.16      | 0.18              | 0.05           | 0.08        | 0.22    | 0.16            | 0.39    | 0.27            | 0.04            | 0.17     | 0.17                     |                  |
| 3326722              | 0.21      | 0.26              | 0.19           | 0.26        | 0.32    | 0.49            | 0.5     | 0.16            | 0.08            | 0.19     | 0.19                     |                  |
| 3326723              | 0.15      | 0.27              | -0.08          | 0.13        | 0.32    | 0.36            | 0.36    | 0.1              | 0.12            | 0.32     | 0.32                     |                  |
| 3326726              | 0.16      | 0.27              | 0.1            | 0.28        | 0.2     | 0.32            | 0.4     | 0.19            | 0.15            | 0.12     | 0.12                     |                  |
| 3326728              | 0.2       | 0.22              | 0.1            | 0.26        | 0.25    | 0.43            | 0.52    | 0.16            | 0.13            | 0.11     | 0.11                     |                  |
| 3326729              | 0.21      | 0.17              | 0.22           | 0.28        | 0.17    | 0.53            | 0.47    | 0.19            | 0.18            | 0.11     | 0.11                     |                  |
| 332635               | 0.15      | 0.16              | 0.13           | 0.19        | 0.16    | 0.27            | 0.28    | 0.14            | 0.13            | 0.18     | 0.18                     |                  |
**Supplementary Table 3.** GWAVA results. Output from the GWAVA annotation tool for all SNPs in perfect LD with rs3812778/rs3829280. Region score, TSS score and Unmatched score are scores from 3 different versions of the classifier, which are all in the range 0-1. Higher scores indicate that variants are predicted to be more likely to be functional. The other columns show the scores for the underlying annotations used to compute these scores.

| ID        | Chromosome | Position   | Region score | TSS score | Unmatched score | Average GERP | Average DAF | Average het | GERP | %GC | TSS distance | SS distance |
|-----------|------------|------------|--------------|-----------|----------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|------|-----|--------------|-------------|
| rs67384276| 11         | 35,270,584 | 0.27000      | 0.14000   | 0.08000            | 0.10341      | 0.00228     | 0.00188     | 0.11600 | 46.5%| 30107        | 5771        |
| rs56193087| 11         | 35,271,028 | 0.20000      | 0.30000   | 0.13000            | -1.07033     | 0.00291     | 0.00249     | -3.04000 | 53.5%| 30551        | 5327        |
| rs12360706| 11         | 35,276,059 | 0.57000      | 0.80000   | 0.79000            | 0.58727      | 0.00018     | 0.00033     | 1.23000  | 53.5%| -27300       | -296        |
| rs3829280 | 11         | 35,277,270 | 0.42000      | 0.68000   | 0.68000            | -0.09887     | 0.00135     | 0.00082     | 0.66700  | 43.6%| -26636       | 365         |
| rs3829280 | 11         | 35,276,723 | 0.50000      | 0.64000   | 0.70000            | -0.25067     | 0.00133     | 0.00076     | -0.37600  | 43.6%| -26089       | 912         |
| rs4508184 | 11         | 35,276,096 | 0.58000      | 0.61000   | 0.66000            | 0.53791      | 0.00033     | 0.00057     | 3.25000  | 49.5%| -21263       | -416        |
| rs1570216 | 11         | 35,282,334 | 0.62000      | 0.67000   | 0.69000            | 2.74575      | 0.00035     | 0.00062     | -7.09000  | 33.7%| -21025       | -178        |
| rs10836358| 11         | 35,287,500 | 0.37000      | 0.18000   | 0.11000            | 0.04928      | 0.00022     | 0.00040     | 1.39000  | 40.6%| -15859       | 192         |

| ID        | CEBPB | DNase | EXON | FAIRE | H3K27ac | H3K27me3 | H3K36me3 | H3K4me1 | H3K4me2 | H3K9ac | INTRON | REP | STAT3 | TRAN | UTR3 | WEAK_ENH | dnase_fps | repeat |
|-----------|-------|-------|------|-------|---------|----------|----------|----------|---------|----------|--------|-----|------|------|------|---------|----------|--------|
| rs67384276| 1     | 1     | -    | 1     | -       | -        | -        | -        | -       | 3        | -      | 1   | -    | -    | -    | -       | -        | 1      |
| rs56193087| -     | -     | -    | -     | -       | 1        | -        | -        | -       | 6        | -      | -   | -    | 1    | -    | -       | -        | 1      |
| rs12360706| -     | -     | 1    | 1     | -       | 2        | -        | 1        | -       | 5        | -      | 1   | 1    | -    | -    | -       | -        | -      |
| rs3829280 | -     | -     | 1    | -     | -       | 2        | -        | 1        | -       | 1        | 5      | 1   | 1    | -    | -    | -       | -        | -      |
| rs3829280 | -     | 2     | 1    | -     | -       | 2        | -        | -        | 1       | 5        | 1      | 1   | -    | -    | -    | -       | -        | -      |
| rs4508184 | -     | 1     | 1    | 2     | 4       | 1        | -        | 2        | 4       | 1       | 1    | 4   | 1    | 4    | 1     | 2       | 2      |
| rs1570216 | -     | 63    | 1    | 1     | 4       | 1        | -        | 2        | 4       | 1       | 1    | 5   | 3    | -    | 1     | 1       | 21     |
| rs10836358| -     | -     | 1    | -     | 2       | 1        | 1        | -        | 1       | 4        | -     | 1   | -    | -    | 1     | -       | -      |
Supplementary Table 4. Effects of Genetic Variations in SLC1A2 (rs3812778) and P2RX7 (rs2230912) on Rapid Cycling Using Logistic Regression.

Model 1. Additive model of the effects of the minor alleles of rs3812778 and rs2230912 on rapid cycling. Patients with rapid cycling BD versus patients with non-rapid cycling BD, logistic regression.
Model 2. Interactive model of the effects of the minor alleles of rs3812778 and rs2230912 on rapid cycling. Patients with rapid cycling BD versus patients with non-rapid cycling BD, logistic regression.
Model 3. Additive model of the effects of the minor alleles of rs3812778 and rs2230912 on rapid cycling. Patients with rapid cycling BD versus combined patients with non-rapid cycling BD and unipolar depression, logistic regression.
Model 4. Interactive model of the effects of the minor alleles of rs3812778 and rs2230912 on rapid cycling. Patients with rapid cycling BD versus combined patients with non-rapid cycling BD and unipolar depression, logistic regression.

OR = Odds Ratio; CI = Confidence Interval

|                       | Model 1 |            | Model 2 |            | Model 3 |            | Model 4 |            |
|-----------------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|
|                       | OR (95% CI) | p   | OR (95% CI) | p   | OR (95% CI) | p   | OR (95% CI) | p   |
| **rs3812778**         |         |          |         |          |         |          |         |          |
| Minor allele carriers | 1.36 (1.05-1.76) | 0.018 | 1.54 (1.14-2.10) | 0.005 | 1.37 (1.08-1.72) | 0.008 | 1.56 (1.18-2.05) | 0.002 |
| Common allele homozygotes | Ref |          | Ref |          | Ref |          | Ref |          |
| **rs2230912**         |         |          |         |          |         |          |         |          |
| Minor allele carriers | 0.92 (0.72-1.17) | 0.50  | 1.03 (0.77-1.36) | 0.86  | 0.88 (0.70-1.09) | 0.25  | 0.98 (0.76-1.27) | 0.901 |
| Common allele homozygotes | Ref |          | Ref |          | Ref |          | Ref |          |
| **Interaction**       |         |          |         |          |         |          |         |          |
| rs3812778 x rs2230912 | 0.65 (0.37-1.14) | 0.13  |          |         | 0.64 (0.39-1.07) | 0.091 |          |         |