

Expanded Genomewide Scan Implicates a Novel Locus at 3q28 Among Caribbean Hispanics With Familial Alzheimer Disease

Joseph H. Lee, DrPH; Rong Cheng, PhD; Vincent Santana, MBA; Jennifer Williamson, MS; Rafael Lantigua, MD; Martin Medrano, MD; Alex Arriaga, MD; Yaakov Stern, PhD; Benjamin Tycko, MD, PhD; Ekaterina Rogaeve, PhD; Yosuke Wakutani, PhD; Toshitaka Kawarai, MD; Peter St George-Hyslop, MD; Richard Mayeux, MD, MSc

Objectives: To identify novel candidate regions for late-onset Alzheimer disease (LOAD) and to confirm linkage in previously identified chromosomal regions.

Design: Family-based linkage analysis.

Setting: Probands with familial LOAD identified in clinics in the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and the United States.

Patients: We conducted a genome scan in 1161 members primarily clinically diagnosed as having LOAD; these members were from 209 families of Caribbean Hispanic ancestry.

Main Outcome Measures: We analyzed 376 microsatellite markers with an average intermarker distance of 9.3 centimorgan. We conducted linkage analysis using possible and probable LOAD, and we performed affecteds-only 2-point linkage analyses assuming either an autosomal dominant or a recessive model. Subsequently, we conducted a multipoint affected sibling pair linkage analysis.

Results: Two-point parametric linkage analysis identified a locus at 3q28 with a genomewide empirical *P* value

of .03 (logarithm of odds [LOD], 3.09) in a dominant model for probable and possible LOAD. Other regions suggestive of linkage included 2p25.3 (LOD, 1.77), 7p21.1 (LOD, 1.82), and 9q32 (LOD, 1.94). Under a recessive model, we also identified loci at 5p15.33 (LOD, 1.86), 12q24.21 (LOD, 2.43), 14q22.3 (LOD, 2.53), and 14q23.1 (LOD, 2.16) as suggestive for linkage. Restricted to probable LOAD, many of these loci continued to meet criteria suggestive for linkage, as did loci at 2p25.3 (LOD, 2.72), 3q28 (LOD, 2.28), 6p21.31 (LOD, 2.19), and 7p21.1 (LOD, 2.05). *APOE* conditional analysis indicated that the observed linkage at 3q28 was independent of the *APOE* ϵ 4 allele. Multipoint nonparametric affected sibling pair linkage analysis provided confirmation of suggestive linkage for most, but not all, loci.

Conclusions: Seven loci with LOD scores greater than 2.0 were identified among multiple affected Caribbean Hispanic families with LOAD. The highest LOD score was found at chromosome 3q28. At least 2 other independent studies have observed support for significant linkage at chromosome 3q28, highlighting this region as a locus for further genetic exploration.

Arch Neurol. 2006;63:1591-1598

THE ϵ 4 VARIANT OF THE apolipoprotein E (*APOE*) gene remains the only known genetic risk factor associated with late-onset Alzheimer disease (LOAD).¹ Daw et al² predicted that there may be as many as 4 additional genetic variants that influence the age at onset of LOAD. Several genomewide genetic linkage surveys also suggest additional LOAD loci.³⁻¹⁶ Despite these efforts, to our knowledge, no single gene has been found to show consistent associations in multiple data sets. Nevertheless, broadly overlapping loci conferring modest susceptibility to LOAD have been reported in families from North America or Europe on chromosomes 12p11 to 12q13,^{13,16,17} 10q21 to 10q25,^{4,6,18} and 9p21 to 9p22.^{12,14,19,20} Within these re-

gions, analyses have implicated several candidate genes, but most lack confirmation in independent studies or their replication has been inconsistent. The susceptibility locus for complex traits is often difficult to replicate because the number of families included in the follow-up study is too few.²¹ Nevertheless, replication of linkage or association remains the critical step in the validation of genetic studies.

In a previous genomewide study of Caribbean Hispanic families,¹⁰ confirmatory evidence for linkage to chromosome 12p²² and 10q,¹⁰ and evidence for a novel locus on 18q,¹⁰ were reported. In the present report, we describe the second phase of this study, with the results of a follow-up genome scan that included additional families of the same ethnic origin.

Author Affiliations are listed at the end of this article.

Table 1. Descriptive Characteristics of the Families Included in the Study*

Characteristic	Families		
	Phase 1 and 2	Phase 2 Only	Phase 1 Only
No of families	209	108	101
No. of family members examined†	1161	611	550
Individuals per family†	5.6	5.7	5.5
% of women	65.9	65.1	66.7
Age at onset of AD, mean, y	73.2	72.9	73.6
Affected status‡			
Probable and possible LOAD			
Total	585 (50.4)	267 (43.7)	318 (57.8)
Unaffected	490 (42.2)	285 (46.6)	205 (37.3)
Unknown (ambiguous)	86 (7.4)	59 (9.7)	27 (4.9)
Probable LOAD only			
Total	449 (38.7)	200 (32.7)	249 (45.3)
Unaffected	491 (42.3)	285 (46.6)	206 (37.5)
Unknown (ambiguous)	221 (19.0)	126 (20.6)	95 (17.3)
Families size by No. of members affected			
Probable and possible total	209	108	101
≥5	20	9	11
4	22	7	15
3	47	25	22
2	98	45	53
1	22	22	0
Probable only total§	202	102	100
≥5	11	2	9
4	10	2	8
3	33	19	14
2	97	45	52
1	51	34	17
Members with at least 1 copy of <i>APOE</i> ε4‡			
Those with probable and possible LOAD	314 (27.0)	164 (26.8)	150 (27.3)
Those with probable LOAD only	241 (20.8)	118 (19.3)	123 (22.4)
Unaffected individuals	221 (19.0)	143 (23.4)	78 (14.2)

Abbreviations: AD, Alzheimer disease; *APOE* ε4, apolipoprotein E ε4; LOAD, late-onset AD.

*Data do not always total the number of participants examined because of missing values.

†Probands are included.

‡Data are given as number (percentage) of total family members examined. Percentages may not total 100 because of rounding.

§The numbers of families are reduced when restricted to probable AD.

METHODS

FAMILIES

We included 1161 individuals from 209 Caribbean Hispanic families participating in a family study of AD. Of those families, 101 were included in the earlier study, whom we refer to as phase 1 families¹⁰; for the second scan, we added 108 families that included 611 individuals, whom we refer to as phase 2 families (**Table 1**). Three families from the first genome scan study were not included because many family members lacked adequate DNA for a genome scan at that time. There were approximately 5 members within each collected family. The sampling design and detailed characteristics of the participants have been described elsewhere.²³

A physician, typically a gerontologist (M.M.), internist (R.L.), or neurologist (R.M.), examined all patients and participating family members and obtained blood at the examination. To be included in the study, the proband and a living sibling were required to meet National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke and the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Associations²⁴ criteria for probable or possible AD. The Clinical Dementia Rating Scale was used to rate disease severity.²⁵ Brain imaging and other laboratory study

results were reviewed when they were available, and offered when medically required for diagnosis. The battery of neuropsychological tests used was developed and evaluated extensively in Hispanics.²⁶⁻²⁸ All diagnoses were established at a consensus conference that included physicians and the neuropsychologists. Eleven patients died during the study, and subsequent autopsies confirmed the clinical diagnoses in each person.

In the present genome scan, we conducted linkage analysis using 2 phenotypes for affection: (1) possible and probable LOAD (combined) and (2) probable LOAD only (restricted). Individuals with other forms of dementia or with mild cognitive impairment were considered unknown.

The institutional review board of Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center and Columbia University Health Sciences and the Bioethics National Committee for Research in the Dominican Republic approved the study. We obtained informed consent from the participants directly or from a family member (surrogate) when the individual had dementia.

GENOTYPING

A total of 376 autosomal microsatellite markers with an average intermarker distance of 9.3 centimorgan were genotyped at the Center for Medical Genetics, Marshfield Medical Re-

search Foundation, Marshfield, Wis. Marker heterozygosity ranged from 0.53 to 0.92 (average, 0.77). Maps from the Marshfield Medical Research Foundation (<http://research.marshfieldclinic.org/genetics/>) and the Ensembl (<http://www.ensembl.org/index.html>) were used for locus order and inter-marker distance. Order was confirmed by comparison with the UCSC Genome Browser (<http://genome.ucsc.edu/>).

We first checked and corrected nonpaternity problems using computer software (RELATIVE²⁹ and RELTEST³⁰). We checked for mendelian inconsistencies in marker data using other computer software (PEDCHECK).³¹ We estimated allele frequencies from data that included all genotyped individuals using a computer program (SIB-PAIR; <http://www2.qimr.edu.au/davidD/sib-pair.html>). *APOE* genotyping was performed as described in a previous study, with slight modifications.^{32,33}

STATISTICAL AND GENETIC ANALYSIS

To simplify the presentation, we report the results from the combined phase 1 and phase 2 families using the combined and restricted LOAD phenotypes.

We conducted 2-point analyses using a computer program (MLINK) from a computer package (FASTLINK),³⁴ producing 2-point logarithm of odds (LOD) scores. Because the mode of inheritance for LOAD is unknown, we tested dominant and recessive transmissions under an affecteds-only model.³⁵ We assumed genetic parameters used in other similar genome-wide linkage analyses: a disease allele frequency of 0.001 and a penetrance of 0.001 for gene carriers and 0 for noncarriers.

We also repeated the 2-point analysis, conditional on the *APOE* $\epsilon 4$ allele. For this purpose, we considered an individual with LOAD and at least 1 *APOE* $\epsilon 4$ allele affected. An individual was considered unknown if the individual had AD but did not have at least 1 *APOE* $\epsilon 4$ allele. Unaffected individuals were coded as unaffected regardless of their *APOE* status ($\epsilon 4$ -positive conditional analysis). To determine the effect of a locus, independent of *APOE*, we conducted an analogous conditional linkage analysis, in which an individual with LOAD was considered affected in the absence of an *APOE* $\epsilon 4$ allele ($\epsilon 4$ -negative conditional analysis). This conditional analysis eliminated the need to stratify families into *APOE* $\epsilon 4$ positive or negative families.

We also conducted multipoint nonparametric affected sibling pair linkage analysis using computer software (GENEHUNTER, version 2.1).^{36,37} Specifically, we used the weighted "all pairs" option and set the increment function to scan at a distance of 1.0 centimorgan throughout the genetic map. Affected sibling pair analysis calculates the probabilities of sharing 0, 1, or 2 alleles (z_0 , z_1 , or z_2 , respectively) identical by descent between sibling pairs, because loci that are involved in susceptibility to a trait will have probabilities (z_0 , z_1 , and z_2) that differ from the expected mendelian proportions.^{38,39} Under the assumption of dominance variation, we limited the sharing probabilities to the "possible triangle," as described elsewhere,^{40,41} to ensure biological consistency. This is defined as follows: $z_0 + z_1 + z_2 = 1$, $z_1 \leq 0.5$, and $z_1 \geq (2 \times z_0)$.

To adjust for multiple testing, we computed empirical *P* values using the genotyping information and marker allele frequencies from the data to simulate genotypes under the assumption of no linkage. We simulated 100 replicates with probable and possible LOAD as the phenotype using computer software (SIMULATE).⁴² We then used a computer program (MLINK) to analyze the simulated data sets under the same analytical models as we applied in the original data set. Based on our empirical data, *suggestive linkage* was defined as a 2-point LOD score of 1.77 (dominant) or 1.79 (recessive), *significant linkage* was defined as an LOD score of 2.81 (dominant) or 2.67 (recessive), and *highly significant linkage* was defined as an LOD

score of 3.73 (dominant) or 3.59 (recessive). These definitions were based on guidelines suggested by Lander and Kruglyak,⁴³ in which *suggestive linkage* was defined as statistical evidence that the linkage would occur once at random in a genome scan, *significant linkage* was defined as statistical evidence that linkage would occur once in 20 such genome scans or $P < .05$ (ie, empirical $P = .05$), and *highly significant linkage* was defined as statistical evidence that linkage would occur once in 100 scans or $P < .01$ (ie, empirical $P = .01$).

RESULTS

DEMOGRAPHICS

Among the 1161 family members in the 209 families, 65.9% were women (Table 1). The average age at onset was 73.2 years, and 50.4% of the participants met the criteria for probable or possible LOAD. Other forms of dementia or no consensus diagnosis were determined in 7.4% of family members.

Compared with the phase 1 set of 101 families, the phase 2 set of 108 families had a similar age at onset and there were no differences in the proportion of women. There were differences in the proportion of affected family members and in those with probable or possible LOAD (Table 1), but the number of individuals per family was approximately the same. The frequency of *APOE* $\epsilon 4$ did not differ between the first and second set of families.

2-POINT ANALYSIS

Four microsatellite markers achieved LOD scores that were suggestive for linkage in the combined families in the dominant model, and 3 were suggestive for linkage when the phenotype was restricted to probable LOAD (**Table 2**). While markers at 2p25.3 and 3q28 were suggestive in both dominant models, only the marker at 3q28 met the criteria for significant linkage (Table 2). In the recessive model, 5 markers had LOD scores suggestive for linkage in the combined phenotypes and 3 markers were suggestive using the restricted phenotype. Of these markers, only 2q25.3 and 3q28 also met the criteria for significant linkage and were either suggestive or significant for linkage regardless of the phenotype definition or the model specified. Additional data available (eTable; available at: <http://www.archneurol.com>) show the locations of 26 microsatellite markers with LOD scores greater than 1.0 in the phase 1 and phase 2 families and by the diagnoses (probable and possible LOAD, or probable LOAD only). Review of the e-Table also shows the individual LOD scores for each model and each phenotype definition in the phase 1 and phase 2 families.

APOE Conditional Analysis

We repeated the analysis conditioning on the presence or absence of an *APOE* $\epsilon 4$ allele (**Figure 1**). The LOD scores for the *APOE* conditional analysis were much lower than those from the unadjusted analysis. The *APOE* conditional model specifically tests for a "joint effect" of the marker and the *APOE* $\epsilon 4$ allele. This results in a reduction of linkage score in the unadjusted model, which in-

Table 2. Summary of 2-Point LOD Scores From the Combined Set of Phase 1 and Phase 2 Families

Chromosome Locus	Marker	LOD Score			
		Probable and Possible LOAD		Probable LOAD	
		Dominant Model	Recessive Model	Dominant Model	Recessive Model
2p25.3	<i>D2S1780</i>	1.77*	1.49	2.72*	2.58*
2p25.1	<i>D2S1400</i>	0.61	0.25	1.36	1.46
3q28	<i>D3S2418</i>	3.09*	2.67*	2.28*	2.28*
5p15.33	<i>D5S2488</i>	1.52	1.86*	0.10	0.04
6p21.31	<i>D6S1051</i>	1.67	1.30	2.19*	2.13*
7p21.1	<i>D7S3051</i>	1.82*	0.94	2.05	1.71
8p22	<i>ATT070</i>	0.52	1.26	1.01	1.24
9q32	<i>D9S930</i>	1.94*	1.68	0.14	0.00
10q26.2	<i>D10S1222</i>	0.68	0.60	1.15	1.72
11p15.1	<i>D11S1981</i>	1.23	0.77	0.53	0.34
12p13.32	<i>D12S372</i>	1.03	0.42	0.17	0.10
12q24.21	<i>D12S2070</i>	0.99	2.43*	0.57	0.75
14q22.3	<i>D14S750</i>	1.50	2.53*	1.39	1.49
14q23.1	<i>D14S592</i>	1.29	2.16*	0.77	1.01
20q13.12	<i>D20S481</i>	0.50	0.45	0.88	1.00
22q11	<i>AGAT120</i>	0.63	1.08	0.25	0.23

Abbreviations: LOAD, late-onset Alzheimer disease; LOD, logarithm of odds.
*Score meets the criteria for suggestive or significant linkage.

icates the independent effects of the marker. Among markers with LOD scores greater than 1.0 in Table 2, 2 (*D6S1051* and *D14S750*) had *APOE* conditional LOD scores greater than 1.0, suggesting that *APOE* influence on most of the markers was weak. A few markers (eg, *D3S2387*, *D8S592* and *D22S532*) were significant for *APOE* conditional analysis only.

Multipoint Linkage Analysis

Four loci (2p25.3, 3q28, 7p21.1, and 14q23.1) achieved LOD scores greater than 1.0 (**Figure 2A**). These loci corresponded well with the results of the single-point analysis previously described. When the diagnosis was restricted to include only probable LOAD, the results differed (Figure 2B). Eight loci had LOD scores greater than 1.0, and 4 of these loci exceeded LOD scores of 2.0. The highest LOD score was on chromosome 2 at 2p25.3 (LOD, 2.9), which was significant for linkage. Additional loci suggestive for linkage included 2q34 (LOD, 2.75), 3q28 (LOD, 2.75), and 6q21 (LOD, 2.1). There were slight, but no significant, differences in the phase 1 and phase 2 families compared with the combined families (data not shown).

To model genetic heterogeneity, we conducted heterogeneity LOD (HLOD) analysis for the chromosomal loci with substantial evidence of linkage, namely, chromosomes 2, 3, 6, 7, 12, and 14. Overall, the HLOD scores for probable LOAD (range, 0.59-2.34) were higher than those for probable and possible LOAD (range, 0.09-3.64). However, the highest HLOD of 3.64 was observed at 7p (28 centimorgan) for possible and probable LOAD. Individual plots for the multipoint linkage analysis for all 22 chromosomes and the plots for HLOD analysis for chromosomes 2, 3, 6, 7, 12, and 14 are available on request.

COMMENT

During the past 10 years, 10 genomewide linkage studies^{3,5,7,9,10,12-15,19} of LOAD have been published. These studies suggest that the most consistent evidence for linkage for LOAD occurs at 6p, 9q, 10q, 12p, and 19q.⁴⁴ Linkage at 19q most likely represents *APOE*, but other genetic variants may reside at this locus as well.⁴⁵ With the exception of *APOE*, investigators have encountered difficulty in refining the exact locations for each of the putative loci identified in genomewide scans. This difficulty has been attributed to clinical and genetic heterogeneity, population variability, and sample size requirements for replication of initial linkage findings. Several attractive candidate genes have been identified within these intervals, including α -2-macroglobulin due to its ability to mediate the clearance and degradation of amyloid β , the major component of β -amyloid deposits; catenin (cadherin-associated protein), α -3 (*CTNNA3*) binds with β catenin, which interacts with presenilin 1 (*PSEN1*); plasminogen activator, urokinase (*PLAU*), which converts plasminogen to plasmin and may be involved in amyloid precursor protein processing; insulin-degrading enzyme (*IDE*), a protease involved in the termination of the insulin response and cleavage of amyloid β ; glutathione S-transferase omega-1 (*GSTO1*) involved in apoptosis and the inflammatory response; glutathione S-transferase omega-2 (*GSTO2*) involved in oxidative stress and glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (*GAPDH*) involved in apoptosis and binds to amyloid precursor protein and amyloid β , but independent replication remains inconsistent.⁴⁶⁻⁵⁴

For this study, we augmented a previous genomewide scan¹⁰ by doubling the number of families included. The cohort represents a unique collection of families from the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. It was previously re-

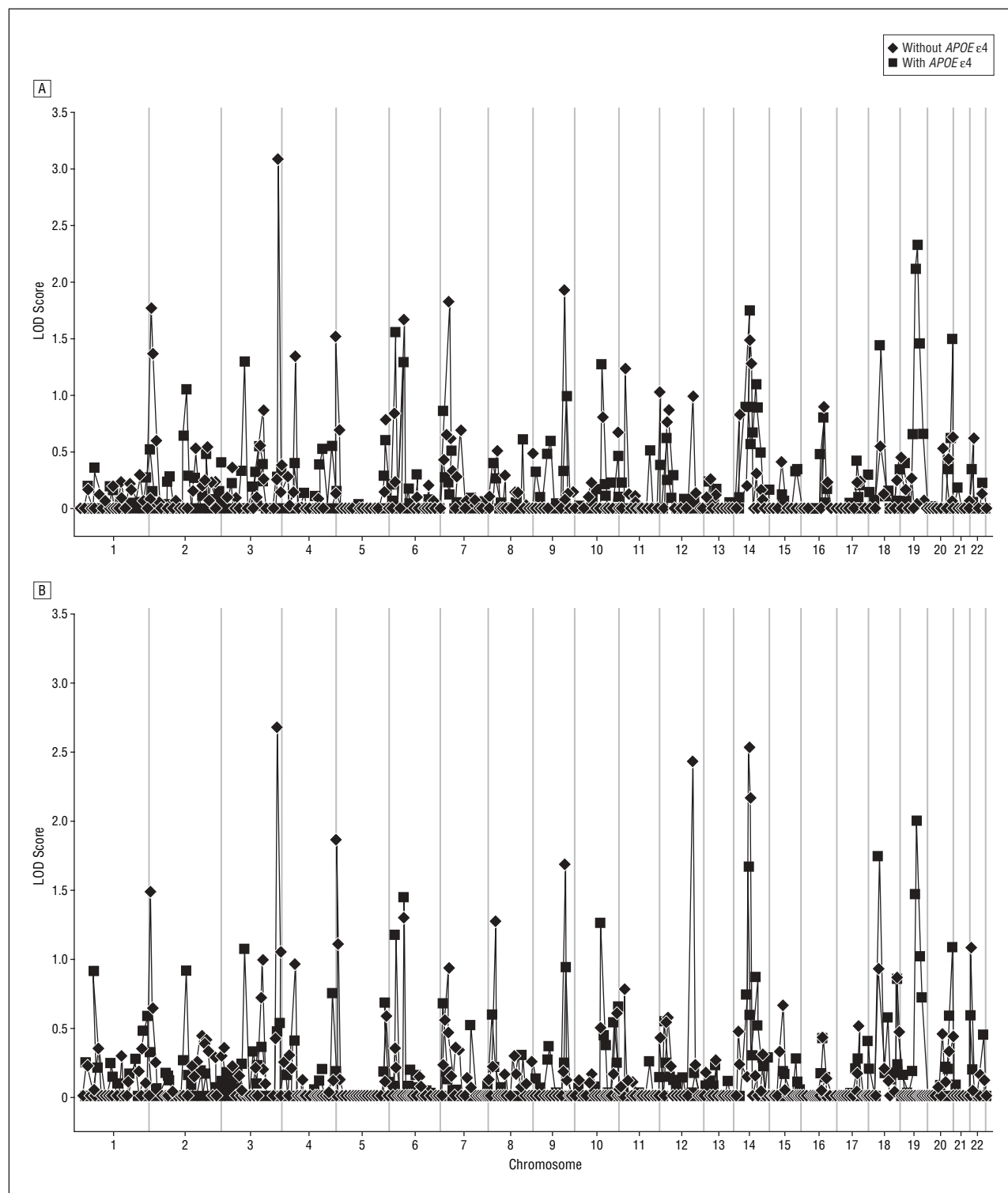


Figure 1. Summary of unadjusted and apolipoprotein E $\epsilon 4$ (*APOE* $\epsilon 4$) (the only known genetic risk factor associated with late-onset Alzheimer disease) conditional 2-point linkage analysis in the dominant (A) and recessive (B) models. LOD indicates logarithm of odds.

ported that LOAD is more frequent in this population than in non-Hispanic populations of European or US ancestry^{55,56} and that the risk of LOAD associated with *APOE* $\epsilon 4$ in Caribbean Hispanics is lower than in non-Hispanic populations in Europe or the United States.⁵⁷

We have identified several loci meeting genomewide criteria for suggestive linkage and 2 loci (2p25.3 and 3q28)

that would meet the criteria for significant linkage according to the criteria suggested by Lander and Kruglyak⁴³ for LOAD among multiple affected Caribbean Hispanic families. The highest LOD score was at 3q28, meeting genomewide criteria for significant linkage in the 2-point analysis and for suggestive linkage in the multipoint analysis. The same conclusion was reached when

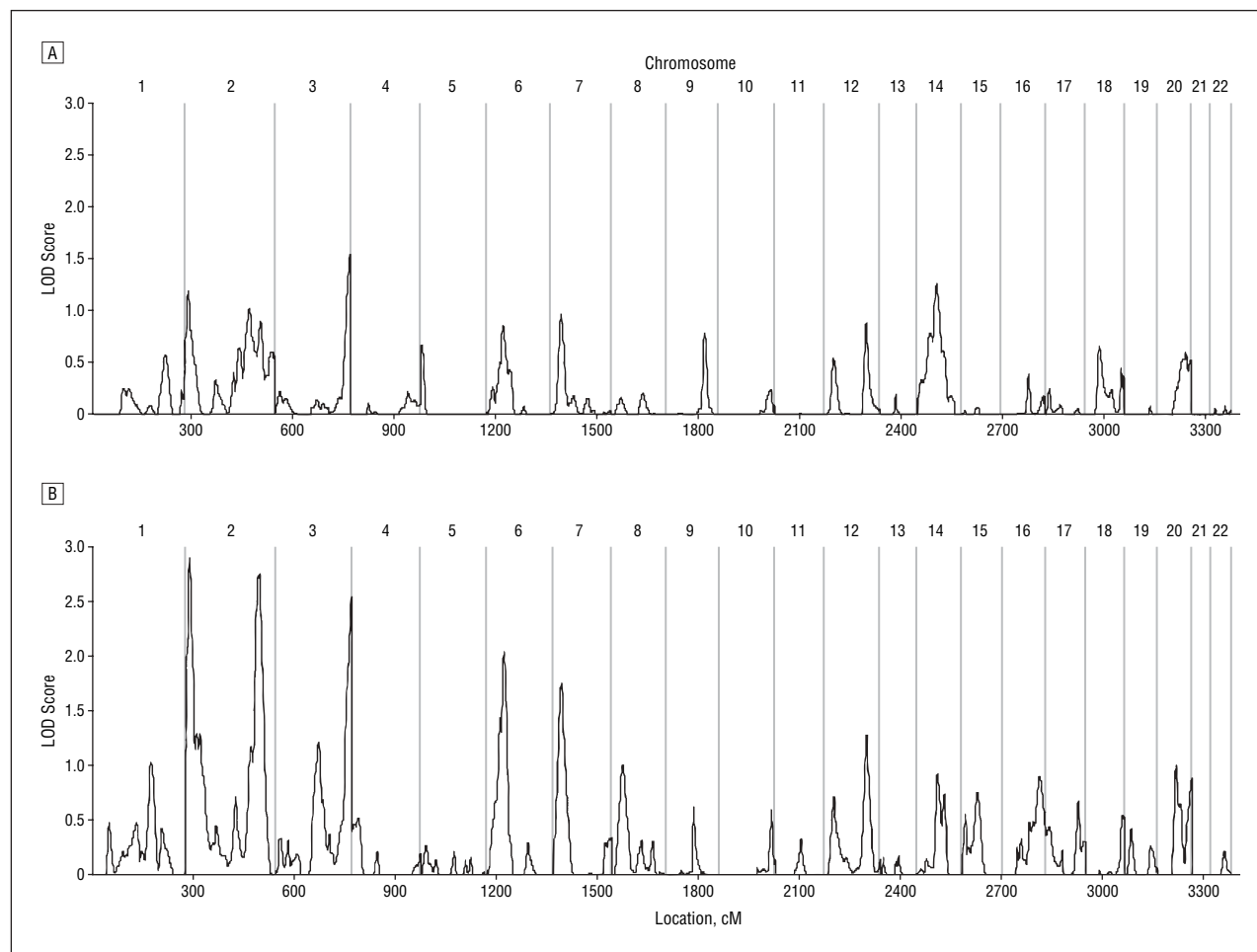


Figure 2. Multipoint linkage analysis in probable and possible late-onset Alzheimer disease (LOAD) (A) and in probable LOAD only (B). In A, loci at 2p25.3, 3q28, 7p21, and 14q23 achieved logarithm of odds (LOD) scores greater than 1.0; all chromosomes are included. In B, 8 loci had LOD scores greater than 1.0, and 4 of these loci exceeded LOD scores of 2.0. The highest LOD scores were at positions 2p25.3 (LOD, 2.9), 2q34 (LOD, 2.75), 3q28 (LOD, 2.75), and 6q21 (LOD, 2.1). cM indicates centimorgan.

a more restrictive diagnosis was used in the follow-up analyses. For most markers with significant or suggestive linkage, including the markers at 3q28, the influence of the $\epsilon 4$ allele of *APOE* was minimal.

Noticeably positive scores with markers from 3q28 have been previously reported. Hiltunen et al⁸ used linkage disequilibrium mapping to associate specific microsatellite markers with familial LOAD in a case-control study in the geographically distinct population of Finland. The association reached a genome-wide significance level of $P < .05$ and a haplotype that included several markers near 3q28 associated with LOAD. More recently, a genetic linkage study⁹ of dementia in the Amish reported LOD scores of 1.89 and 2.16 at position 3q28, which were among the highest LOD scores in that investigation. Candidate genes at 3q28 include somatostatin (*SST*) and an autosomal homologue of the fragile X mental retardation gene (*FXR1*). It is remarkable that 3 independent studies of LOAD, a case-control study and 2 family-based studies, of individuals from different ethnic backgrounds have identified the same locus as possibly harboring a genetic variant that increases LOAD susceptibility. Clearly, additional genetic investigations, including fine mapping of this

region, may lead to the identification of the LOAD-linked genetic variant.

Less striking was the suggestive linkage at 5p15.33 in our study. In the 2-point analysis, the LOD score was 1.5 (dominant model) and 1.9 (recessive model). Pericak-Vance et al¹⁴ reported an LOD score of 2.2 (recessive model) and Hiltunen et al⁸ found a strong association with marker *D5S807* in their Finnish case-control study. However, the LOD score in our study decreased below 1.0 when the analysis was restricted to probable LOAD. Additional genetic mapping will be required to determine whether this locus is important.

Among the suggestive linkage observed at 2p25.1, 6p21.31, 7p21.1, 10q26.2, and 14q23.1, only the chromosome regions containing 6p21.31 and 14q23.1 have been previously reported. By using the National Institute of Mental Health families, Blacker et al⁵ found suggestive linkage at 6p21.1 with marker *D6S1017*, as did Hiltunen et al⁸ in the case-control association in a Finnish cohort. Supplementing the National Institute of Mental Health families with families from the Indiana Alzheimer Disease Center National Cell Repository (now referred to as the National Cell Repository for Alzheimer Disease), Myers et al¹² also reported suggestive link-

age that was significant only among individuals with an *APOE* $\epsilon 4$ allele. At least 2 studies^{3,5} have reported suggestive linkage at 14q22, which is proximal to *PSEN1*. *PSEN1* is involved in γ -secretase activity, resulting in proteolytic cleavage of amyloid precursor protein. Mutations in *PSEN1* are the most frequent cause of early-onset, familial AD. However, it is unlikely that an allelic variant in the promoter region of *PSEN1* represents linkage to 14q22.3, even though CC homozygosity in the promoter of *PSEN1* was associated with LOAD in 1 study.⁵⁸ We are not aware of prior reports suggesting linkage at 2p25. While this result may represent a false positive, it is notable that the LOD score for this locus increased when the diagnosis was restricted to probable LOAD and was not modified in the *APOE* conditional analysis. Zubenko et al⁵⁹ found suggestive linkage at 12q24, as we observed in the 2-point recessive model. Despite several reports of linkage,^{13,17,22,60} to our knowledge, no genetic variant has been identified. Furthermore, there seem to be 2 independent AD loci at 12p and 12q.^{5,12,13,19,22}

Unlike previous reports,^{5,12,13,19} we did not find evidence for linkage at 9p, where several other reports have provided support for linkage. Differences in the ethnic background of the population we have studied and the possibility of variability in genetic markers used may partially explain the absence of linkage. Alternatively, the markers we used may not have been close enough to the sites to detect the linkage signal reported by other groups. For example, we observed no evidence for linkage at 19q13, near the *APOE* locus. However, a strong association was previously detected between LOAD and the *APOE* $\epsilon 4$ allele in our familial AD data set of Caribbean Hispanics.²³

We observed differences in the results for multipoint linkage analysis under 2 different definitions, namely, combined (probable and possible) LOAD vs probable LOAD only, illustrating the difficulties of gene identification in complex neuropsychiatric disorders. Closer examination of our results revealed that the restricted definition (probable LOAD only) reduced the number of affected individuals in many families. The excluded families in this restricted analysis had contributed negative scores toward the overall support for linkage in the combined (probable and possible LOAD) phenotype. One possible explanation for decreased LOD scores in analyses with the less restrictive diagnostic definition is a higher level of genetic heterogeneity. Support for this view came from our multipoint HLOD analysis, which showed results that were substantially higher for several chromosomes. However, that multipoint analysis was consistent with the 2-point analyses and is unlikely to be the main reason for the discrepancy.

This report describes the results of a genomewide screen of 209 families with multiple affected family members of Caribbean Hispanic ancestry that included 1161 individuals. Despite the fact that ethnic background differs from previously published studies, many of the linkage signals overlap with those reported from studies of whites in the United States and Western Europe. On the other hand, this report differs from other genetic linkage studies in that we observed little evidence for linkage at 9p, 10q, or 19q. Given the

strength of the linkage signal in the present study and others, 3q28 is a promising chromosomal region for further genetic exploration.

Accepted for Publication: May 12, 2006.

Author Affiliations: Gertrude H. Sergievsky Center (Drs Lee, Cheng, Arriaga, Stern, and Mayeux; Mr Santana; and Ms Williamson) and Departments of Neurology (Drs Stern and Mayeux), Psychiatry (Drs Stern and Mayeux), Medicine (Dr Lantigua), and Pathology (Dr Tycko), College of Physicians and Surgeons, Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer's Disease and the Aging Brain (Drs Lee, Cheng, Lantigua, Arriaga, Stern, Tycko, and Mayeux; Mr Santana; and Ms Williamson), and Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health (Drs Lee and Mayeux), Columbia University, New York, NY; Universidad Tecnológica de Santiago, Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic (Dr Medrano); and Centre for Research in Neurodegenerative Diseases and Department of Medicine, University of Toronto, and Toronto Western Hospital Research Institute, Toronto, Ontario (Drs Rogaeva, Wakutani, Kawarai, and St George-Hyslop).

Correspondence: Richard Mayeux, MSc, MD, Gertrude H. Sergievsky Center, Columbia University, 630 W 168th St, New York, NY 10032 (rpm2@columbia.edu).

Author Contributions: *Study concept and design:* Lee, St George-Hyslop, and Mayeux. *Acquisition of data:* Santana, Williamson, Lantigua, Medrano, Stern, Tycko, St George-Hyslop, and Mayeux. *Analysis and interpretation of data:* Lee, Cheng, Arriaga, Stern, Rogaeva, Wakutani, Kawarai, St George-Hyslop, and Mayeux. *Drafting of the manuscript:* Lee, Williamson, Medrano, Arriaga, Rogaeva, Wakutani, Kawarai, St George-Hyslop, and Mayeux. *Critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content:* Lee, Cheng, Santana, Lantigua, Arriaga, Stern, Tycko, Rogaeva, Wakutani, St George-Hyslop, and Mayeux. *Statistical analysis:* Lee, Cheng, Arriaga, and Mayeux. *Obtained funding:* Rogaeva, St George-Hyslop, and Mayeux. *Administrative, technical, and material support:* Santana, Williamson, Lantigua, Stern, Kawarai, and St George-Hyslop. *Study supervision:* Lee, Santana, Medrano, Stern, Tycko, and St George-Hyslop.

Financial Disclosure: None reported.

Funding/Support: This study was supported by grant R37 AG15473 from the National Institutes on Aging, National Institutes of Health; grant HV48141 from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; the Canadian Institutes of Health Research; and the Charles S. Robertson Gift for Research on Alzheimer's Disease from the Banbury fund.

Additional Information: The eTable is available at <http://www.archneurol.com>.

REFERENCES

1. Corder EH, Saunders AM, Strittmatter WJ, et al. Gene dose of apolipoprotein E type 4 allele and the risk of Alzheimer's disease in late onset families. *Science*. 1993;261:921-923.
2. Daw EW, Payami H, Nemens EJ, et al. The number of trait loci in late-onset Alzheimer disease. *Am J Hum Genet*. 2000;66:196-204.
3. Avramopoulos D, Fallin MD, Bassett SS. Linkage to chromosome 14q in Alzheimer's disease (AD) patients without psychotic symptoms. *Am J Med Genet B Neuropsychiatr Genet*. 2005;132:9-13.

4. Bertram L, Blacker D, Mullin K, et al. Evidence for genetic linkage of Alzheimer's disease to chromosome 10q. *Science*. 2000;290:2302-2303.
5. Blacker D, Bertram L, Saunders AJ, et al; NIMH Genetics Initiative Alzheimer's Disease Study Group. Results of a high-resolution genome screen of 437 Alzheimer's disease families. *Hum Mol Genet*. 2003;12:23-32.
6. Ertekin-Taner N, Graff-Radford N, Younkin LH, et al. Linkage of plasma A β 42 to a quantitative locus on chromosome 10 in late-onset Alzheimer's disease pedigrees. *Science*. 2000;290:2303-2304.
7. Holmans P, Hamshere M, Hollingworth P, et al. Genome screen for loci influencing age at onset and rate of decline in late onset Alzheimer's disease. *Am J Med Genet B Neuropsychiatr Genet*. 2005;135:24-32.
8. Hiltunen M, Mannermaa A, Thompson D, et al. Genome-wide linkage disequilibrium mapping of late-onset Alzheimer's disease in Finland. *Neurology*. 2001;57:1663-1668.
9. Hahs DW, McCauley JL, Crunk AE, et al. A genome-wide linkage analysis of dementia in the Amish. *Am J Med Genet B Neuropsychiatr Genet*. 2006;141:160-166.
10. Lee JH, Mayeux R, Mayo D, et al. Fine mapping of 10q and 18q for familial Alzheimer's disease in Caribbean Hispanics. *Mol Psychiatry*. 2004;9:1042-1051.
11. Li YJ, Scott WK, Hedges DJ, et al. Age at onset in two common neurodegenerative diseases is genetically controlled. *Am J Hum Genet*. 2002;70:985-993.
12. Myers A, Wavrant-De Vrieze F, Holmans P, et al. Full genome screen for Alzheimer disease: stage II analysis. *Am J Med Genet*. 2002;114:235-244.
13. Pericak-Vance MA, Bass MP, Yamaoka LH, et al. Complete genomic screen in late-onset familial Alzheimer disease: evidence for a new locus on chromosome 12. *JAMA*. 1997;278:1237-1241.
14. Pericak-Vance MA, Grubber J, Bailey LR, et al. Identification of novel genes in late-onset Alzheimer's disease. *Exp Gerontol*. 2000;35:1343-1352.
15. Sillen A, Forsell C, Lilius L, et al. Genome scan on Swedish Alzheimer's disease families. *Mol Psychiatry*. 2006;11:182-186.
16. Wu WS, Holmans P, Wavrant-De Vrieze F, et al. Genetic studies on chromosome 12 in late-onset Alzheimer disease. *JAMA*. 1998;280:619-622.
17. Rogaeve A, Premkumar S, Song Y, et al. Evidence for an Alzheimer disease susceptibility locus on chromosome 12 and for further locus heterogeneity. *JAMA*. 1998;280:614-618.
18. Myers A, Holmans P, Marshall H, et al. Susceptibility locus for Alzheimer's disease on chromosome 10. *Science*. 2000;290:2304-2305.
19. Kehoe P, Wavrant-De Vrieze F, Crook R, et al. A full genome scan for late onset Alzheimer's disease. *Hum Mol Genet*. 1999;8:237-245.
20. Farrer LA, Bowirrat A, Friedland RP, Waraska K, Koczyn AD, Baldwin CT. Identification of multiple loci for Alzheimer disease in a consanguineous Israeli-Arab community. *Hum Mol Genet*. 2003;12:415-422.
21. Suarez BK, Hampe CL, van Eerdewegh P. Problems of replicating linkage claims in psychiatry. In: Gershon ES, Cloninger CR, eds. *Genetic Approaches to Mental Disorders*. Washington, DC: American Psychopathological Association; 1994:23-46.
22. Mayeux R, Lee JH, Romas SN, et al. Chromosome-12 mapping of late-onset Alzheimer disease among Caribbean Hispanics. *Am J Hum Genet*. 2002;70:237-243.
23. Romas SN, Santana V, Williamson J, et al. Familial Alzheimer disease among Caribbean Hispanics: a reexamination of its association with APOE. *Arch Neurol*. 2002;59:87-91.
24. McKhann G, Drachman D, Folstein M, Katzman R, Price D, Stadlan EM. Clinical diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease: report of the NINCDS-ADRDA Work Group under the auspices of Department of Health and Human Services Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease. *Neurology*. 1984;34:939-944.
25. Hughes CP, Berg L, Danziger WL, Coben LA, Martin RL. A new clinical scale for the staging of dementia. *Br J Psychiatry*. 1982;140:566-572.
26. Stern Y, Andrews H, Pittman J, et al. Diagnosis of dementia in a heterogeneous population: development of a neuropsychological paradigm-based diagnosis of dementia and quantified correction for the effects of education. *Arch Neurol*. 1992;49:453-460.
27. Stricks L, Pittman J, Jacobs DM, Sano M, Stern Y. Normative data for a brief neuropsychological battery administered to English- and Spanish-speaking community-dwelling elders. *J Int Neuropsychol Soc*. 1998;4:311-318.
28. Pittman J, Andrews H, Tatemichi T, et al. Diagnosis of dementia in a heterogeneous population: a comparison of paradigm-based diagnosis and physician's diagnosis. *Arch Neurol*. 1992;49:461-467.
29. Goring HH, Ott J. Relationship estimation in affected sib pair analysis of late-onset diseases. *Eur J Hum Genet*. 1997;5:69-77.
30. *Statistical Analysis for Genetic Epidemiology* [computer program]. Version Release 5.0. Cleveland, Ohio: Case Western Reserve University; 2004.
31. O'Connell JR, Weeks DE. PedCheck: a program for identification of genotype incompatibilities in linkage analysis. *Am J Hum Genet*. 1998;63:259-266.
32. Maestre G, Ottman R, Stern Y, et al. Apolipoprotein E and Alzheimer's disease: ethnic variation in genotypic risks. *Ann Neurol*. 1995;37:254-259.
33. Hixson JE, Vernier DT. Restriction isotyping of human apolipoprotein E by gene amplification and cleavage with *HhaI*. *J Lipid Res*. 1990;31:545-548.
34. Cottingham RW Jr, Idury RM, Schaffer AA. Faster sequential genetic linkage computations. *Am J Hum Genet*. 1993;53:252-263.
35. Terwilliger JD, Ott J. *Handbook of Human Genetic Linkage*. Baltimore, Md: The Johns Hopkins University Press; 1994.
36. Kruglyak L, Daly MJ, Reeve-Daly MP, Lander ES. Parametric and nonparametric linkage analysis: a unified multipoint approach. *Am J Hum Genet*. 1996;58:1347-1363.
37. Kruglyak L, Daly MJ, Lander ES. Rapid multipoint linkage analysis of recessive traits in nuclear families, including homozygosity mapping. *Am J Hum Genet*. 1995;56:519-527.
38. Risch N. Linkage strategies for genetically complex traits, III: the effect of marker polymorphism on analysis of affected relative pairs. *Am J Hum Genet*. 1990;46:242-253.
39. Risch N. Linkage strategies for genetically complex traits, II: the power of affected relative pairs. *Am J Hum Genet*. 1990;46:229-241.
40. Holmans P. Asymptotic properties of affected-sib-pair linkage analysis. *Am J Hum Genet*. 1993;52:362-374.
41. Faraway JJ. Improved sib-pair linkage test for disease susceptibility loci. *Genet Epidemiol*. 1993;10:225-233.
42. Terwilliger JD, Speer M, Ott J. Chromosome-based method for rapid computer simulation in human genetic linkage analysis. *Genet Epidemiol*. 1993;10:217-224.
43. Lander E, Kruglyak L. Genetic dissection of complex traits: guidelines for interpreting and reporting linkage results. *Nat Genet*. 1995;11:241-247.
44. Kamboh MI. Molecular genetics of late-onset Alzheimer's disease. *Ann Hum Genet*. 2004;68:381-404.
45. Wijsman EM, Daw EW, Yu CE, et al. Evidence for a novel late-onset Alzheimer disease locus on chromosome 19p13.2. *Am J Hum Genet*. 2004;75:398-409.
46. Bagnoli S, Tedde A, Cellini E, Rotondi M, Nacmias B, Sorbi S. The urokinase-plasminogen activator (PLAU) gene is not associated with late onset Alzheimer's disease [letter] [published correction appears in *Neurogenetics*. 2005;6:105]. *Neurogenetics*. 2005;6:53-54.
47. Blacker D, Wilcox MA, Laird NM, et al. Alpha-2 macroglobulin is genetically associated with Alzheimer disease. *Nat Genet*. 1998;19:357-360.
48. Blomqvist ME, Silburn PA, Buchanan DD, et al. Sequence variation in the proximity of IDE may impact age at onset of both Parkinson disease and Alzheimer disease. *Neurogenetics*. 2004;5:115-119.
49. Ertekin-Taner N, Allen M, Fadale D, et al. Genetic variants in a haplotype block spanning IDE are significantly associated with plasma A β 42 levels and risk for Alzheimer disease. *Hum Mutat*. 2004;23:334-342.
50. Ertekin-Taner N, Ronald J, Asahara H, et al. Fine mapping of the α -T catenin gene to a quantitative trait locus on chromosome 10 in late-onset Alzheimer's disease pedigrees. *Hum Mol Genet*. 2003;12:3133-3143.
51. Li YJ, Oliveira SA, Xu P, et al. Glutathione S-transferase omega-1 modifies age-at-onset of Alzheimer disease and Parkinson disease [published correction appears in *Hum Mol Genet*. 2004;13:573]. *Hum Mol Genet*. 2003;12:3259-3267.
52. Li YJ, Scott WK, Zhang L, et al. Revealing the role of glutathione S-transferase omega in age-at-onset of Alzheimer and Parkinson diseases. *Neurobiol Aging*. 2006;27:1087-1093.
53. Ozturk A, Desai PP, Minster RL, Dekosky ST, Kamboh MI. Three SNPs in the GSTO1, GSTO2 and PRSS11 genes on chromosome 10 are not associated with age-at-onset of Alzheimer's disease. *Neurobiol Aging*. 2005;26:1161-1165.
54. Prince JA, Feuk L, Gu HF, et al. Genetic variation in a haplotype block spanning IDE influences Alzheimer disease. *Hum Mutat*. 2003;22:363-371.
55. Tang MX, Cross P, Andrews H, et al. Incidence of AD in African-Americans, Caribbean Hispanics, and Caucasians in northern Manhattan. *Neurology*. 2001;56:49-56.
56. Gurland BJ, Wilder DE, Lantigua R, et al. Rates of dementia in three ethnorracial groups. *Int J Geriatr Psychiatry*. 1999;14:481-493.
57. Tang MX, Stern Y, Marder K, et al. The APOE- ϵ 4 allele and the risk of Alzheimer disease among African Americans, whites, and Hispanics. *JAMA*. 1998;279:751-755.
58. Theuns J, Remacle J, Killick R, et al. Alzheimer-associated C allele of the promoter polymorphism -22C>T causes a critical neuron-specific decrease of pre-senilin 1 expression. *Hum Mol Genet*. 2003;12:869-877.
59. Zuberko GS, Hughes HB, Stiffler JS, Hurtt MR, Kaplan BB. A genome survey for novel Alzheimer disease risk loci: results at 10-cM resolution. *Genomics*. 1998;50:121-128.
60. Li Y, Nowotny P, Holmans P, et al. Association of late-onset Alzheimer's disease with genetic variation in multiple members of the GAPD gene family. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2004;101:15688-15693.

eTable. LOD Scores in Phase 1 and 2 Families With LOAD

Cytogenetic Region	Position, cM†	Probable and Possible LOAD*				Probable LOAD Only*			
		Phase 2 Families		Phase 1 Families		Phase 2 Families		Phase 1 Families	
		Dominant	Recessive	Dominant	Recessive	Dominant	Recessive	Dominant	Recessive
1p36.12	46.6	0.34	1.03	0.02	0.00	0.46	0.94	0.05	0.03
2p25.3	10	1.60	1.22	0.34	0.27	1.05	1.43	1.68	1.23
2p25.1	27.6	0.00	0.00	1.11	0.93	0.00	0.00	0.72	1.11
3p21.31	71	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.73	0.00	0.00	1.27	1.37
3q28	209.4	0.03	0.00	0.10	0.02	0.06	0.00	0.77	1.21
3q28	216	1.58	1.21	1.51	1.46	0.68	0.51	1.60	1.76
4p15.33	25.9	0.05	0.00	0.88	1.09	0.00	0.00	1.49	1.59
4p15.31	35	0.00	0.00	0.78	1.23	0.00	0.00	0.72	0.92
4p12.5	43	0.00	0.00	1.01	0.72	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.15
5p15.33	0	0.98	1.11	0.73	0.76	0.09	0.10	0.10	0.04
6p21.31	51	0.69	1.01	0.98	0.28	0.51	0.72	1.80	1.41
7p21.3	17	0.00	0.00	0.95	1.24	0.00	0.00	0.88	0.76
7p21.1	29	0.03	0.00	1.79	1.47	1.35	0.65	0.70	1.06
7p12.3	70	0.00	0.00	1.25	0.71	0.15	0.06	0.01	0.00
8p22	30	0.45	0.71	0.10	0.55	1.04	0.98	0.29	0.27
9q32	120	0.23	0.14	1.94	1.63	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.27
10q22.3	101	0.00	0.00	1.04	0.66	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.09
10q26.2	156	0.00	0.00	1.18	1.79	0.00	0.00	1.79	2.01
12p13.3	18	0.00	0.00	0.75	0.34	0.00	0.00	1.92	1.41
12p13.1-2	27	0.00	0.00	1.33	1.29	0.00	0.00	0.67	1.08
12q24.21	125	0.03	0.28	1.12	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.59	0.84
14q12	23.2	1.46	0.88	0.00	0.00	1.06	0.66	0.00	0.02
14q22.3	60	0.83	1.44	0.77	1.09	0.65	0.95	0.59	0.54
14q23.1	67	0.04	0.24	1.59	2.03	0.06	0.14	0.84	0.88
17q23.2	82	0.47	0.60	0.00	0.00	1.02	0.92	0.00	0.00
18q22.3	116	0.00	0.00	1.09	1.58	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.91
20q13.12	62	0.01	0.00	0.82	0.80	0.03	0.04	1.10	1.34
20q13.2	80	0.21	0.09	0.23	0.11	0.00	0.00	1.23	1.19
20q12.32	101	2.13	1.91	0.00	0.00	0.93	0.68	0.10	0.02

Abbreviations: LOAD, late-onset Alzheimer disease; LOD, logarithm of odds.

*LOD scores greater than or equal to 1.00 are highlighted in bold.

†Chromosomal locations in centimorgan (cM) are based on the Kosambi map function.