Relationship between 5-HTTLPR polymorphism and post-stroke depression

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ABSTRACT. Post-stroke depression (PSD) is a mental illness characterized by subjective feelings of depression, cognitive dysfunction, and decreased interest. The serotonergic system is involved in the pathogenesis of depressive disorders and is regulated by the serotonin transporter gene. The serotonin transporter-linked polymorphic region (5-HTTLPR) has been examined as a factor associated with depression and other mental disorders. This study was performed to explore the relationship between 5-HTTLPR and PSD in a Han Chinese population. In total, 199 patients with PSD and 202 unrelated non-PSD patients were recruited from psychiatric hospitals. Depression was diagnosed using the Diagnostic
Blood samples were collected from all patients for 5-HTTLPR genotyping. Genotype and allele frequencies were compared between the two groups. SS genotype frequency was significantly higher in the PSD group than in the non-PSD group. LL genotype frequency was significantly higher in the non-PSD group than in the PSD group (P < 0.01). This study describes a positive association between 5-HTTLPR and PSD in a Han Chinese population and provides genetic evidence to support the genetic susceptibility of PSD.

**Key words:** 5-HT transporter gene-linked polymorphic region; Gene polymorphism; Post-stroke depression; Stroke