



Letter to the Editor

**Reply to commentary by G. Sikri and S. Dua
on the article “Correlation between single
nucleotide polymorphisms in hypoxia-related
genes and susceptibility to acute high-altitude
pulmonary edema” published in Genetics and
Molecular Research 14 (3): 11562-11572 to the
letter published in Genet. Mol. Res. 14 (4):
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L.J. Wu

Research and Service Center of Laboratory Medicine, Chengdu Military General
Hospital, Chengdu, Sichuan, China

Corresponding author: L.J. Wu
E-mail: 379197283@qq.com

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The object in this study was a Han Chinese population in Lhasa, with 3658 m in altitude from Chengdu, which has 505 m in altitude by air. Within 24 to 48 h before the subjects arrived in the plateau, they completed a basic situation questionnaire, under the guidance of medical staff. Within 24 to 48 h after they reached the plateau, the subjects completed an acute plateau disease questionnaire. The diagnostic standard of HAPE and the diagnosis of acute plateau disease were adopted by the Lake Louise diagnostic standards in 1991 and the Chinese Medical Association promulgated the domestic diagnostic criteria on the Third National Plateau Medical

Academic Seminar. Other diseases that cause acute symptoms of altitude sickness, such as plateau pulmonary edema, plateau cerebral edema, acute respiratory infections and neurosis, were excluded. According to the Lake Louise standard, questionnaire and symptom score values >3 points were diagnosed as HAPE. According to the national standard, the questionnaire and symptom score values >5 points were diagnosed as HAPE.

At the present, morbidity of HAPE remains relatively high in China. The research shows that usually in the case of not taking preventive measures, according to the factors such as altitude, speed, and time of arrival, the incidence of HAPE is 30 to 90%. Epidemiological survey shows that HAPE happens at an altitude of 2500 m above the plateau. And an altitude of 3000 m above the plateau of China is occupied 1/6 of the total land area, the population of permanent residents is more than sixty million. We detected the 200 cases who adapted to plateau and the 106 cases of patients with HAPE susceptibility gene SNP locus, and got the key SNP loci of HAPE susceptibility genes. We made the corresponding gene chip diagnostic kits.