

## **Association between Serotonin Transporter Gene Polymorphism and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome**

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Interaction between the hypothalamo-pituitary-adrenal axis and the serotonergic system is thought to be disrupted in chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) patients. We examined a serotonin transporter (5-HTT) gene promoter polymorphism, which affects the transcriptional efficiency of 5-HTT, in 78 CFS patients using PCR amplification of the blood genomic DNA. A significant increase of longer (L and XL) allelic variants was found in the CFS patients compared to the controls both by the genotype-wise and the allele-wise analyses (both  $p < 0.05$ , by  $\chi^2$  test and Fisher's exact test). Attenuated concentration of extracellular serotonin due to longer variants may cause higher susceptibility to CFS.