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## Association between *ADORA2A* and *DRD2* Polymorphisms and Caffeine-Induced Anxiety

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### Abstract

Caffeine produces mild psychostimulant and sometimes anxiogenic effects by antagonizing adenosine at A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2A</sub> receptors, and perhaps through interactions with other transmitter systems. Adenosine receptors are colocalized and functionally interact with dopamine receptors in the brain. Thus, functional polymorphisms in the genes for either adenosine or dopamine receptors may affect responses to caffeine. In this study, we examined associations between self-reported anxiogenic effects of caffeine and variation in the genes for A<sub>2A</sub> (*ADORA2A*) and DRD<sub>2</sub> (*DRD2*) receptors. Healthy male and female individuals ( $n = 102$ ), who consumed less than 300 mg caffeine per week, ingested capsules containing 0, 50, 150, and 450 mg caffeine under double-blind conditions in four separate experimental sessions. Subjective anxiety was measured before and at repeated times after capsules were consumed. At the 150 mg dose of caffeine, we found a significant association between caffeine-induced anxiety (Visual Analog Scales, VAS) and *ADORA2A* rs5751876 (1976C/T), rs2298383 (intron 1a) and rs4822492 (3'-flank), and *DRD2* rs1110976 (intron 6). Caffeine-induced anxiety (VAS) was also associated with two-loci interactions of selected *ADORA2A* and *DRD2* polymorphisms. The lowest dose of caffeine did not increase ratings of anxiety while the highest dose increased anxiety in the majority of subjects. These findings provide support for an association between an *ADORA2A* polymorphism and self-reported anxiety after a moderate dose of caffeine. It is likely that other *ADORA2A* and *DRD2* polymorphisms also contribute to responses to caffeine.

### Keywords

caffeine; adenosine; dopamine; polymorphism; single nucleotide; anxiety

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### DISCLOSURE

All authors reported no biomedical financial interests or potential conflicts of interest.

## INTRODUCTION

Caffeine is the most widely used psychoactive substance in the world. In the United States, approximately 61% of the population consume caffeine daily (Dews *et al.*, 1999). The mild psychomotor stimulant effects of caffeine, such as increases in alertness and arousal, are presumed to be the basis for its widespread use. However, at high doses, or in some individuals at moderate doses, caffeine produces anxiety and dysphoria. In particular, some people are sensitive to the anxiogenic effects of caffeine, perhaps because of polymorphisms in the genes that encode receptors where the drug acts. Thus, functional polymorphisms in genes relating to the central actions of caffeine may be related to anxiogenic responses to caffeine.

The primary mechanism by which caffeine produces its central effects is by blocking adenosine receptors. At physiologically relevant concentrations, caffeine binds with high affinity to adenosine A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2A</sub> receptors, antagonizing the effects of endogenous adenosine (Daly and Fredholm, 1998). Therefore, functional changes in these receptors caused by genetic variation could alter responses to caffeine. In fact, previously, our group (Alsene *et al.*, 2003) reported an association between self-reported anxiety after caffeine and a single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) in the gene encoding the adenosine A<sub>2A</sub> receptor (*ADORA2A*). In this study, individuals with the T/T genotype of the *ADORA2A* SNP rs5751876 (1976C/T) reported greater anxiety after 150 mg caffeine compared to other genotypic groups. The same polymorphism has been linked to panic disorder (PD) (Deckert *et al.*, 1998; Hamilton *et al.*, 2004), suggesting that this variant confers a risk for anxiety states in general. Recently, we have also reported that individuals with the 1976T/T genotype also experience more anxiety after acute doses of the prototypic stimulant drug, D-amphetamine (Hohoff *et al.*, 2005). As the *ADORA2A* 1976C/T polymorphism is coding but synonymous (Deckert *et al.*, 1996), it has been suggested that the nearly completely linked rs35320474 (2592T/–) polymorphism, 616 bp downstream of the 1976C/T polymorphism, may alter expression of the A<sub>2A</sub> receptor (Alsene *et al.*, 2003). Whether this polymorphism is functional, or whether it is in linkage disequilibrium (LD) with other functional polymorphisms is yet to be determined.

The effects of caffeine may also be influenced by other neurotransmitter systems, including dopamine. Adenosine A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2A</sub> receptors form functional heteromeric complexes with dopamine D<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>2</sub> receptors (DRD<sub>1/2</sub>, Fuxe *et al.*, 2005) and there is evidence that these receptors interact at multiple levels to control cell function. First, the receptors physically interact and binding of adenosine to A<sub>2A</sub> reduces affinity of DRD<sub>2</sub> for dopamine (Torvinen *et al.*, 2004). Second, there is reciprocal antagonism at the second messenger level reducing G-protein coupling and signaling. Activation of the A<sub>2A</sub> receptor stimulates adenylyl cyclase activity whereas activation of DRD<sub>2</sub> inhibits adenylyl cyclase activity (Fuxe *et al.*, 2003). Thus activation of A<sub>2A</sub> uncouples DRD<sub>2</sub> from its G protein and reduces DRD<sub>2</sub> signaling. Conversely, activation of DRD<sub>2</sub> counteracts signaling via A<sub>2A</sub>. Therefore, by antagonizing the actions of adenosine, caffeine acts indirectly to potentiate dopaminergic signaling. Indeed, dopaminergic manipulations affect the behavioral properties of caffeine. The motor stimulant effects of caffeine are reduced in DRD<sub>2</sub> knockout mice (Chen *et al.*, 2001; Zahniser *et al.*, 2000) and DRD<sub>1</sub> and DRD<sub>2</sub> antagonists attenuate the discriminative stimulus effects of low caffeine doses (Powell *et al.*, 1999). It is conceivable then that functional polymorphisms in the gene for the DRD<sub>2</sub> receptor (*DRD2*) may also affect responses to caffeine.

In this study, we aimed to replicate and extend our previous finding that certain *ADORA2A* SNPs are associated with self-reported anxiety after 150 mg caffeine. We tested the association in a separate group of subjects and also investigated these effects at other doses

of caffeine (0, 50, and 450 mg). Furthermore, we examined associations between self-reported anxiety after caffeine and additional genetic variations in *ADORA2A* and *DRD2*. As in the previous study, we assessed association in volunteers who consumed less than 300 mg caffeine (approximately three cups) per week to minimize the influences of tolerance or dependence. We hypothesized that variation in *ADORA2A* rs5751876 (1976C/T) would predict self-reported anxiety after 150 mg caffeine. We also predicted that genetic variation in *DRD2* would affect anxiety after caffeine.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Subjects

Male ( $N=51$ ) and female ( $N=51$ ) light, or non-caffeine consumers, aged 18–35 years, were recruited, without regard to race or ethnicity, from the University and surrounding community. Eligible participants attended a brief in-person psychiatric interview and physical examination including an electrocardiogram. Exclusion criteria included a current or prior diagnosis of Major Axis I DSM-IV disorder, any history of psychosis, daily smoking (Hart *et al.*, 1976), less than a high-school education, lack of fluency in English, a body mass index outside of 19–26 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, night shift work, high blood pressure, abnormal electrocardiogram, daily use of any medications, and in women, use of birth control pills, pregnancy, or breast feeding. Participants were queried about all dietary sources of caffeine upon which estimates of caffeine intake were based (50 mg per 12 oz serving of caffeinated soft drinks, 60 mg per 8 oz serving of tea, 100 mg per 8 oz serving of coffee, and 10 mg per bar of chocolate). Subjects kept a detailed diary of food and beverage consumption for 2 weeks prior to testing to confirm their initial self-reports. Participants' ethnicity was determined by self-report.

Before the study began, participants attended a short orientation session in which they read and signed the consent form, were familiarized with the experimental procedures, and completed personality and drug use questionnaires. The consent form stated that the study would investigate the effects of drugs upon mood and performance. For blinding purposes, volunteers were advised that they might receive one of several classes of drugs, including stimulants, tranquilizers, or inactive placebos.

### Design

The study utilized a four-session, double-blind, placebo-controlled, within-subject design. Each subject received placebo, 50, 150, or 450 mg caffeine in random order during four test sessions conducted at least 72 h apart. Sessions were conducted from 0900 to 1300 h.

### Procedure

The University of Chicago Hospital's Institutional Review Committee for the use of human subjects approved the experimental protocol. Participants were tested individually in comfortably furnished rooms with a television/VCR, magazines, and a computer for administering questionnaires and tasks. They were allowed to watch television, movies, or read when no measures were being obtained, but they were not allowed to work or study.

Subjects refrained from eating from midnight on the night previous to sessions and were given a light snack on arrival in the laboratory at 0900 h. Before ingesting the capsule, urine tests were conducted to detect recent drug use and breath samples collected to verify that they were alcohol free. No subjects tested positive. Subjects then completed pre-capsule subjective measures (Profile of Mood States (POMS), Visual Analog Scales (VAS); see below). At 0930 h, subjects ingested a capsule containing placebo or caffeine (50, 150, or 450 mg). Subjective measures were obtained again 30, 60, and 90 min after capsule

administration. Subjects also completed behavioral tasks and physiological data were obtained (heart rate, blood pressure) that are not included in this analysis.

### Subjective Anxiety

The focus of this report is subjective anxiety, which was assessed using POMS (McNair *et al.*, 1971) and VAS (Folstein and Luria, 1973).

The POMS is a 72-item adjective checklist on which subjects report their current mood on a 5-point scale from 'not at all' (0) to 'extremely' (4). The adjectives comprising the anxiety scale included tense, shaky, on edge, panicky, relaxed, restless, uneasy, nervous, and anxious. The VAS consisted of a 100mm horizontal line labeled with 'not at all anxious' at one end (score of 0) and 'extremely anxious' at the other (score of 100). Subjects were instructed to place a mark indicating how anxious they felt at that moment.

### Genotyping

Table 1 shows the name, location, corresponding National Center for Biotechnology Information SNP identification numbers, and Celera Discovery System identification for the different *ADORA2A* and *DRD2* SNPs. Primer-probe sequences and details of the PCR amplification and genotype-detection procedures are available from the corresponding author on request.

**ADORA2A**—Eight SNPs were chosen for genotyping the long form of *ADORA2A* (25 kb, UCSC Genome Browser, Human Mar.2006 Assembly) based on previous association studies (Alsene *et al.*, 2003; Deckert *et al.*, 1998) and the Hapmap database (rel no. 16, on NCBI B34 assembly, dbSNP b124, <http://www.hapmap.org>). Of these, six SNPs were within the gene (from 5' to 3': rs5760405, rs2298383, rs3761422, rs2236624, rs5751876, and rs35320474) and two in the  $\pm 10$  kb flanking regions (rs5751862 and rs4822492; Table 1).

**DRD2 and ANKK1**—Genotyping was performed by 5'-exonuclease fluorescence assay (Shi *et al.*, 1999). Seven SNP assays were used for *DRD2* genotyping. From 5' end to 3' end, the SNPs were as follows: (1) rs1799978, (2) rs1799732, (3) rs1079597, (4) rs1800498, (5) rs1110976, (6) rs6275, and (7) rs6279. The SNP formerly named *DRD2* Taq1A, rs1800497, now identified as being in a novel kinase gene named ankyrin repeat and kinase domain containing 1 (*ANKK1*), was also genotyped. The probes and primers were designed by using Primer Express 2.0 (ABI Biosystem, CA).

### Drugs

Caffeine was administered as caffeine citrate as it is more bioavailable than anhydrous caffeine. Caffeine citrate (Mallinckrodt Baker Inc., Paris, KY) was obtained from the University Hospital Pharmacy. Caffeine citrate doses are equivalent to approximately half the caffeine freebase dose. All data are expressed in mg of freebase caffeine. Doses of caffeine were administered in opaque gelatin capsules with dextrose as filler. Placebo capsules contained only dextrose.

### Data Analysis

Subjects were assigned to one of the three genotypes at each locus. Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium was examined among the genotypes for each polymorphism ([http://www.kursus.kvl.dk/shares/vetgen/\\_Popgen/genetik/applets/kitest.htm](http://www.kursus.kvl.dk/shares/vetgen/_Popgen/genetik/applets/kitest.htm)) and then LD analysis between alleles within the same gene (Genetix, V4.02). Genotype frequencies less than  $n=10$  were dropped in subsequent analyses. Combining rare genotypes with other

groups can diminish power in association studies due to molecular heterosis (Comings and MacMurray, 2000).

Differences in demographic characteristics between the genotypes at each locus were assessed by  $\chi^2$  analysis (for categorical data) or independent samples *t*-test (for continuous data).

Subjective effects of caffeine for each subject were calculated as a peak change score for each separate session that is, 0, 50, 150, and 450 mg caffeine. The pre-capsule baseline was subtracted from the maximum response exhibited during 90 min after capsules were administered. The effect of order of dose presentation upon subjective responses was examined by two-factor (dose  $\times$  order) analysis of variance (ANOVA) for repeated measures upon peak change scores. Originally, our group (Alsene *et al*, 2003) showed an association between self-reported anxiety and rs5751876 (1976C/T) genotype after 150 mg caffeine in a sample of light infrequent caffeine consumers of all races. To compare the original findings with those of the current study, we first examined the association of *ADORA2A* rs5751876 (1976C/T) genotype with anxiety (VAS, POMS) after 150 mg caffeine in the complete sample regardless of race. We performed a one-factor (genotype) ANOVA upon peak change scores. The issue of population stratification, that is, differences in allele frequency or phenotype between ethnic groups, is now widely acknowledged in genetic association studies and so all subsequent analyses were performed upon data obtained from European-American participants to avoid possible effects of population stratification. We examined associations between genotypes of individual *ADORA2A* SNPs with self-reported anxiety after 150 mg caffeine using separate one-factor (genotype) ANOVA. Alpha was adjusted by Bonferroni correction for multiple testing at seven loci ( $\alpha = 0.007$ ). Next, we performed individual two-factor (dose  $\times$  genotype) ANOVA with repeated measures to assess interactions between individual *ADORA2A* SNPs and changes in anxiety after different doses of caffeine. Again,  $\alpha$  was adjusted by Bonferroni correction for testing at seven loci within the same gene ( $\alpha=0.007$ ).

The same hierarchical procedure was used to explore relationships between genotypes of individual *DRD2* polymorphisms and self-reported anxiety after caffeine in European-American participants. Throughout,  $\alpha$  was adjusted by Bonferroni correction for multiple testing at eight loci ( $\alpha=0.006$ ).

The QTPHASE program of the UNPHASED suite (Dudbridge, 2003) was used to evaluate additive haplotypic effects of unphased genotype data upon reported anxiety after each caffeine dose. Peak change scores after placebo were subtracted from scores at each dose. Haplotype blocks were defined using Haploview (Barrett *et al*, 2005) and the solid spine of LD method. For *ADORA2A*, one block of high LD was detected including all markers (Figure 1), of which seven markers (rs5751862, rs5760405, rs2298383, rs3761422, rs2236624, rs5751876, rs4822492) were simultaneously tested using a single seven-locus window (the rs35320474 (2592T/–) polymorphism was dropped due to complete LD with rs5751876 (1976C/T); 2592T being completely linked to 1976C and 2592– to 1976T and not 2592C to 1976C and 2592T to 1976C as originally reported (Alsene *et al*, 2003)). For *DRD2*, LD identified three haplotype blocks (Figure 2); block 1=rs1799978 and rs1799732, block 2=rs1079597 and rs1800498, block 3=rs1110976, rs6275, and rs6279, which were tested using two- and three-locus windows respectively. Uncertain haplotypes were estimated with an expectation–maximization algorithm. Individual haplotypes were compared to all others grouped together. A permutation test was performed to correct significant haplotypes for multiple testing of haplotypes, loci, and phenotypes.

Restricted Partition Method (RPM, Culverhouse *et al*, 2004) was used to detect interactions between *ADORA2A* and *DRD2*, looking at combinations of either SNPs or haplotypes. We applied the False Discovery Rate (FDR) method, as implemented in QVALUE (Storey, 2002), to correct for multiple testing. FDR is the expected proportion of false positives among the tests found to be significant. For a given set of analyses, QVALUE will utilize information from all the *P*-values and output a *Q*-value for each *P*-value. The *Q*-value of a test measures the minimum FDR that is incurred in calling that test significant. For example, for *Q*-value  $\leq 0.1$ , about 10% of the tests meeting this threshold will be false positives. Storey (2002) has shown that the *Q*-value is conservative and will exceed the true FDR. Associations with combinations of 1 and 2 variants (SNPs or haplotypes) were analyzed, using one variant from each gene in the two-locus interaction. We followed the conventions of Millstein *et al* (2006) and applied the FDR separately to the one- and two-locus analyses.

## RESULTS

### Demographic Data and Effects of Caffeine

Demographic characteristics of participants are shown in Table 2. Most volunteers were European-American in their early twenties. The average consumption of caffeine in milligrams per week was  $116 \pm 10.5$ , which is equivalent to just over one cup of coffee per week.

Caffeine had its expected effects on subjective state and vital signs, when all subjects were considered together. These effects have been reported in detail elsewhere (Childs and de Wit, 2006). Only the highest dose (450 mg) significantly increased ratings of anxiety (VAS; Figure 3).

### Hardy–Weinberg Equilibrium and Genotype Distributions

There were no significant deviations from Hardy–Weinberg expectations for *ADORA2A*, *DRD2*, or *ANKK1* polymorphisms.

The genotype distribution for each of the polymorphisms is shown in Table 3. Genetic data could not be analyzed for some subjects due to problems in extracting DNA. Rare genotypes ( $n < 10$ ) were dropped from analyses to avoid loss of power due to effects of molecular heterosis (Comings and MacMurray, 2000) and therefore sample sizes were smaller for some analyses. Rare genotypes not included in the analyses were *ADORA2A* rs5760405 263C/T T/T, rs2236624 Intron 4 T/T, *DRD2* rs1799978 A77G G/G, rs1799732 141InsDel –/–, rs1079597 Taq1B A/A, rs1110976 Intron 6 –/–, rs6275 His313His T/T, rs6279 Exon 8 C/C, rs1800497 Glu713Lys T/T.

Most of the association analyses were performed upon data from European-American participants only; however, here we report differences in genotype frequency between races for completeness. There was a significant effect of race upon genotype for the *DRD2* SNPs rs1799732 141InsDel ( $\chi^2 = 17.4$ ,  $df = 2$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ), rs1800498 Taq1D ( $\chi^2 = 43.8$ ,  $df = 4$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ), and rs1110976 Intron 6 ( $\chi^2 = 11.8$ ,  $df = 2$ ,  $P = 0.003$ ). For rs1799732 (141InsDel), most European-American and Asian-American participants were C/C, while African-American participants were C/–. For rs1800498 Taq1D, most European-American participants were G/A, while most African-American and Asian-American participants were G/G. For rs1110976 Intron 6, most European-American and African-American participants were G/G, while most Asian-American participants were G/–. There was no significant effect of race or the other demographic variables upon genotype distribution of any *ADORA2A* SNPs.

### Association between *ADORA2A* Polymorphisms and Anxiety

There was a significant effect of rs5751876 1976C/T genotype upon VAS anxiety after 150 mg caffeine ( $F(2, 98)=3.5, P<0.05$ ) in the entire data set. Individuals with the T/T genotype reported the highest anxiety ( $4.6\pm 1.9$ ) and C/C individuals reported the least anxiety after 150 mg caffeine ( $-7.5\pm 3.7$ ). When data for European-American participants were considered, this effect was no longer significant ( $F(2, 59)=2.1, P=0.1$ ; Figure 4).

There were significant effects of genotype for other SNPs upon VAS anxiety after 150mg caffeine (Figure 4). For rs2298383 Intron 1a, that is nearly in complete LD with rs4822492 3'-flank, individuals with the C/C genotype at each locus reported significantly higher anxiety than those with the T/T genotype at the rs2298383 Intron 1a locus and G/G at the rs4822492 3'-flank locus ( $F(2, 59)=5.5, P=0.007$ ).

Association analyses between changes in anxiety after different doses of caffeine and single *ADORA2A* SNPs revealed several trends. For rs2298383 Intron 1a/rs4822492 3'-flank, individuals with the C/C genotype at each locus tended to report more anxiety than other genotypes at moderate (150 mg) and high (450 mg) doses of caffeine (POMS anxiety,  $F(6, 174)=2.7, P=0.016$ ). There was also a trend for a main effect of genotype for rs5751862 5'-flank (POMS anxiety,  $F(2, 58)=4.4, P=0.017$ ) and an interaction between dose and genotype for rs3761422 Intron 1b (VAS anxiety,  $F(6, 177)=2.5, P=0.023$ ).

Haplotypic association analyses identified three haplotypes of *ADORA2A* polymorphisms that significantly affected ratings of VAS anxiety after 50 mg caffeine (individual  $P_s<0.05$ , global  $P<0.01$ ). However, the significant association did not remain after a permutation test that corrected for multiple testing (permutation  $P=0.09$ ). There was no significant association between the haplotypes and ratings of anxiety after other doses of caffeine.

### Association between *DRD2* and *ANKK1* Polymorphisms and Anxiety

There was a significant effect of rs1110976 Intron 6 genotype upon ratings of VAS anxiety after 150 mg caffeine ( $P=0.005$ ; Figure 5). Individuals with the G/- genotype reported higher anxiety than G/G individuals. There were no other significant associations between individual genotypes or haplotypes and anxiety after 150 mg caffeine or interaction with effects at other doses.

### Interactive Effects of *ADORA2A*, *DRD2*, and *ANKK1* Polymorphisms upon Anxiety

The analysis of two-loci interactions showed significant main effects for selected *ADORA2A* and *DRD2* SNP polymorphisms upon ratings of VAS anxiety that remained significant after correction for multiple testing. These interactions produced higher ratings of anxiety after 150 mg caffeine. There was a significant interaction between *ADORA2A* rs5751862 5'-flank and *DRD2* rs1079597 Taq1B. The *ADORA2A* rs2298383 Intron 1a/rs4822492 3'-flank polymorphism interacted significantly with several of the *DRD2* polymorphisms: rs1799978 A77G; rs1079597 Taq1B; rs1110976 Intron 6; and rs1800497 Glu713Lys. The specific genotypes of separate polymorphisms for these interactions and the corresponding  $R^2$  and  $Q$ -values are given in Table 4.

There were no significant interactions between haplotypes of *ADORA2A* and *DRD2* SNPs upon ratings of anxiety.

## DISCUSSION

This study aimed to examine associations between the anxiety-inducing effect of caffeine and genotypes of *ADORA2A* and *DRD2* polymorphisms. In the group as a whole, caffeine

(0, 50, 150, or 450 mg) produced its expected effects (Childs and de Wit, 2006), and only the highest dose increased self-reported anxiety. We replicated and extended our previous finding of an association between the *ADORA2A* 1976C/T SNP and anxiety after 150 mg of caffeine. We observed several significant associations between this phenotype and other *ADORA2A* and *DRD2* polymorphisms, and also combinations of *ADORA2A* and *DRD2* SNPs.

Ratings of anxiety after 150 mg caffeine differed significantly between genotypes at the *ADORA2A* rs5751876 1976C/T receptor gene polymorphism locus. When data from all population groups were considered, individuals with the C/C genotype reported the smallest increase in anxiety and those with the T/T genotype reported the greatest increase in anxiety. This confirms our previous finding (Alsene *et al*, 2003) and provides further evidence that this locus is linked to enhanced sensitivity to anxiogenic effects after caffeine at doses equivalent to 1–2 cups of coffee. More recently, the effects of population stratification have been widely recognized and statistical methods have been designed to account for these effects in analyses of data from heterogeneous populations (Enoch *et al*, 2006). However, in the absence of information on participants' ancestry, data obtained from a homogeneous population must be considered to avoid the possible confounds of population stratification. Thus, we performed all additional analyses upon data obtained from European-American participants. In this smaller data set, the association between rs5751876 1976C/T genotype and anxiety response was no longer significant, most likely due to the loss of power with the reduced sample size. However, the same genotypic effect was present and individuals with the T/T genotype reported more anxiety after caffeine than those with the C/C genotype. Interestingly, the T allele of rs5751876 1976C/T has previously been associated with PD, a condition characterized by attacks of fear and anxiety. Deckert *et al* (1998) found that PD patients had a higher prevalence of the 1976 T allele compared to controls. Hamilton *et al* (2004) also report an association between this locus and susceptibility to PD. Therefore, our data suggest that responses to 150 mg caffeine might be examined further to investigate A<sub>2A</sub> receptor-mediated mechanisms of anxiety.

There are two likely explanations that may account for the similar finding that *ADORA2A* rs5751876 1976C/T genotype is associated with anxiety response to 150 mg caffeine between our two studies; either population stratification is similar between the two study samples or we have identified an association that is valid across population groups. The only way to distinguish between the two accounts is to examine association within each population group, which unfortunately is not possible here, given the small sample size. Therefore, in future, we aim to investigate the association of this SNP with caffeine-induced anxiety in other population groups.

We found that ratings of anxiety after 150 mg caffeine differed between genotypes of the *ADORA2A* rs2298383 Intron 1a/rs4822492 3'-flank polymorphisms and *DRD2* rs1110976 Intron 6 polymorphisms. These *ADORA2A* polymorphisms have not been investigated previously and their functional consequence is unknown. However, Yu *et al* (2004) suppose the rs2298383 Intron 1a polymorphism to be located in one of the potential promoter regions upstream of several newly identified *ADORA2A* exon 1 variants (at position 21521648 of chromosome 22, UCSC, Nov. 2002 freeze). *In silico* analysis using the online tool PupaSuite (Conde *et al*, 2006) has revealed the location of the rs2298383 Intron 1a polymorphism within a triplex-forming oligonucleotide target. This position is potentially functionally relevant since these sequences are described to regulate gene expression (Goni *et al*, 2004). Further, the minor allele of the *DRD2* rs1110976 Intron 6 polymorphism, which was associated with low anxiety in this study, has previously been linked to reduced striatal density of DRD<sub>2</sub> receptors (Ritchie and Noble, 2003). Adenosine A<sub>2A</sub> and dopamine DRD<sub>2</sub> receptors interact together in a reciprocally antagonistic manner (Fuxe *et al*, 2003; Torvinen



*et al*, 2004). Caffeine, by antagonizing the action of adenosine at A<sub>2A</sub> receptors, acts indirectly to potentiate dopaminergic transmission. Therefore, it is plausible that the behavioral effects of caffeine may be attenuated in individuals with lower dopamine DRD<sub>2</sub> receptor density.

Interaction analyses discovered *ADORA2A* and *DRD2* polymorphisms that together significantly increased anxiety after 150 mg caffeine. Several of these single SNPs had already been significantly associated with caffeine-induced anxiety (ie *ADORA2A* rs2298383 Intron 1a/rs4822492 3'-flank, *DRD2* rs1110976 Intron 6), although the analyses revealed other *ADORA2A* and *DRD2* SNPs and also the *ANKK1* SNP, which previously were not significantly associated with anxiety response. The explanation for this is that genotypic effects of SNP combinations accounted for more of the variability in anxiogenic responses to caffeine than each individual SNP. The *DRD2* polymorphisms (rs1079597 Taq1B, rs1110976 Intron 6) and also the *ANKK1* SNP rs1800497 Glu713Lys are known to functionally alter dopamine receptor density in the striatum (Arinami *et al*, 1997; Jonsson *et al*, 1999; Ritchie and Noble, 2003). For *DRD2* rs1079597 Taq1B and rs1110976 Intron 6, the genotypes associated with significantly greater response to caffeine included alleles of the SNP that were previously associated with higher receptor density in the striatum.

The gene–gene interactions between *ADORA2A* and *DRD2* did not persist when SNP haplotypes were considered. There are differences between the analyses that were used for testing association of haplotypes within a gene (QTPHASE) and between genes (RPM), which might account for the different results. QTPHASE is able to incorporate information from ambiguous haplotypes and analyze all the possible haplotypes for a set of genotypes, weighting by the probability of each haplotype. For RPM, only the most likely haplotype for each set of genotypes could be used. Therefore, lower frequency haplotypes would provide less information for the RPM analysis than for the QTPHASE analysis, potentially leading to different results.

In general, ratings of anxiety did not differ between *ADORA2A* genotypes after the 50 or 450 mg doses of caffeine, which may account for the lack of significant interaction between genotype and caffeine dose. However, there were some trends to significant interactions between genotype and dose for rs2298383 Intron 1a/rs4822492 3'-flank and rs3761422 Intron 1b that may reach significance in a larger sample. Overall, these data suggest that the 150 mg dose (equivalent to approximately 12 oz of non-gourmet coffee) may be close to the threshold for producing anxiogenic effects and as such might be the optimal dose to detect genotypic effects. Usually, low doses of caffeine do not produce anxiety in healthy volunteers and high doses of caffeine might produce a strong effect in most subjects, which likely overcomes subtle genotypic effects.

One limitation of this study is the relatively small sample size, particularly for analyses performed in the European-American subsample ( $N=62$ ). Our sample sizes of 101 (all population groups) and 62 (European-American participants) are small when compared to those traditionally used in case–control association studies for categorical phenotypes, but are in line with those of other pharmaco-genetic studies with dimensional phenotypes (Mattay *et al*, 2003). Although all of the individual gene findings in this study were significant after correction for multiple testing, we must still apply caution to their interpretation until they are replicated in a larger sample size.

A unique feature of this study was that it was conducted in a sample of light caffeine consumers, who were not dependent on the drug. By selecting these subjects, we minimized variability related to caffeine tolerance, or, if the subjects had been required to abstain from caffeine, caffeine withdrawal. However, some have argued that a sample of light infrequent

caffeine consumers is not representative of the general population and that these individuals may be self-selecting due to heightened sensitivity to adverse effects of caffeine including anxiety (James and Rogers, 2005). In fact, both the positive and negative subjective, and also physiological effects of caffeine in the present study were similar to those previously reported in other populations (Evans and Griffiths, 1991; Griffiths *et al*, 1990; Hughes, 1996) and there was little evidence that these samples were more sensitive to the aversive effects of caffeine (Childs and de Wit, 2006). A recent study also suggests that as high as 39% of the general population consumes amounts of caffeine comparable to those reported by our subjects (Dews *et al*, 1999). In addition, the frequencies of the *ADORA2A* and *DRD2* variants in the present study are similar to those reported by the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) public SNP database (dbSNP, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/projects/SNP/>). Therefore, we have no reason to suspect that our sample is enriched with individuals who experience caffeine-induced anxiety or express the associated *ADORA2A* and *DRD2* variants. We also excluded daily smokers from our sample due to the variability this might introduce into caffeine responses (Hart *et al*, 1976). We do not feel that this criterion renders the sample non-representative since epidemiological studies show strong relationships between caffeine consumption and smoking (Swanson *et al*, 1994); thus one might expect that light caffeine consumers involved in this experiment are more likely non-smokers. However, recently Cornelis *et al* (2007) reported that individuals with the rs5751876 1976T/T genotype were more likely to be lighter caffeine consumers than those individuals carrying a C allele. In addition, the relationship was stronger in smokers than in non-smokers. Therefore, future studies should also investigate associations in high-caffeine users and smokers to probe the relevance of our findings to these groups.

In conclusion, the present study replicated and extended the findings of our previous study (Alsene *et al*, 2003). The T/T genotype of the rs5751876 1976C/T polymorphism in *ADORA2A* was significantly associated with anxiogenic responses to 150 mg caffeine. We also found significant associations between other *ADORA2A* and *DRD2* receptor gene polymorphisms and anxiety after caffeine. Finally, we report combinations of *ADORA2A* and *DRD2* polymorphisms that account for more variance in caffeine-induced anxiety than the individual SNPs alone. Throughout, alleles of functional *DRD2* polymorphisms that have previously been associated with reduced receptor density were associated with diminished responses to caffeine. However, at this stage, these additional findings must be considered exploratory and should be replicated and confirmed in future studies.

## Acknowledgments

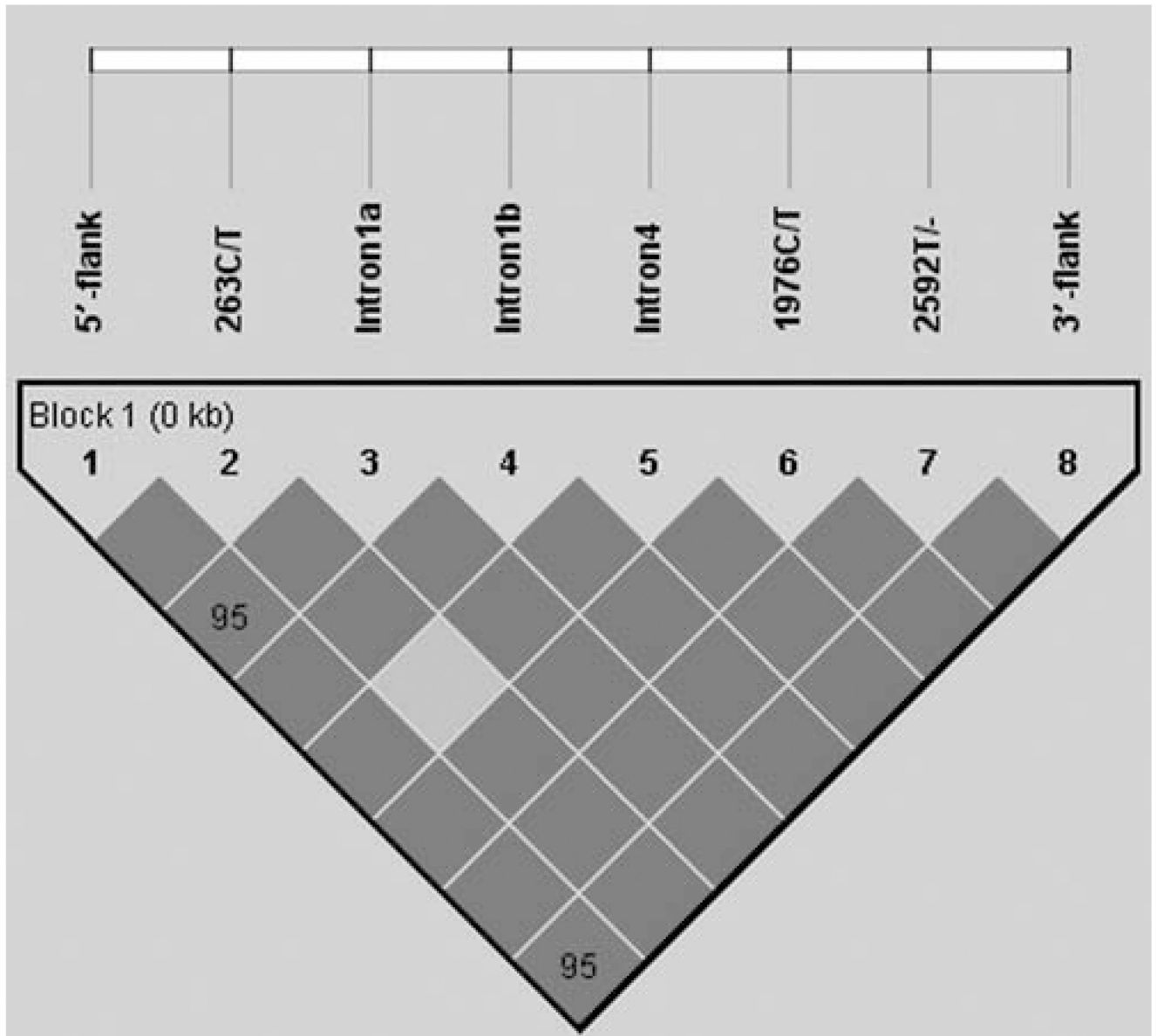
This research was supported by NIDA (DA02812) and the General Clinical Research Center (USPHS MO1RR000555). We thank Michelle Dassinger, Liz Young, Lisa Vicini, Maliha Darugar, and Kathrin Schwarte for their technical assistance.

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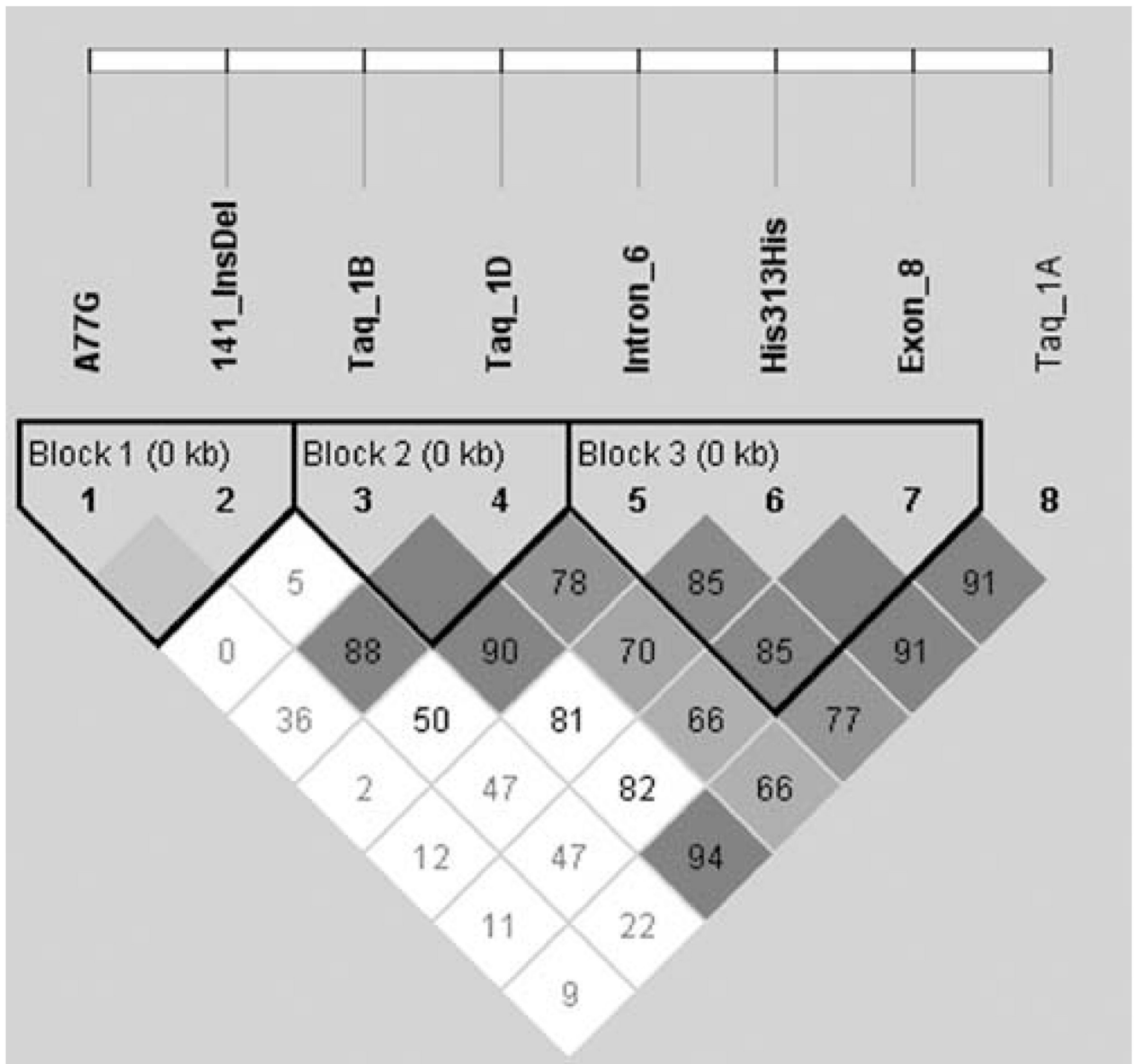
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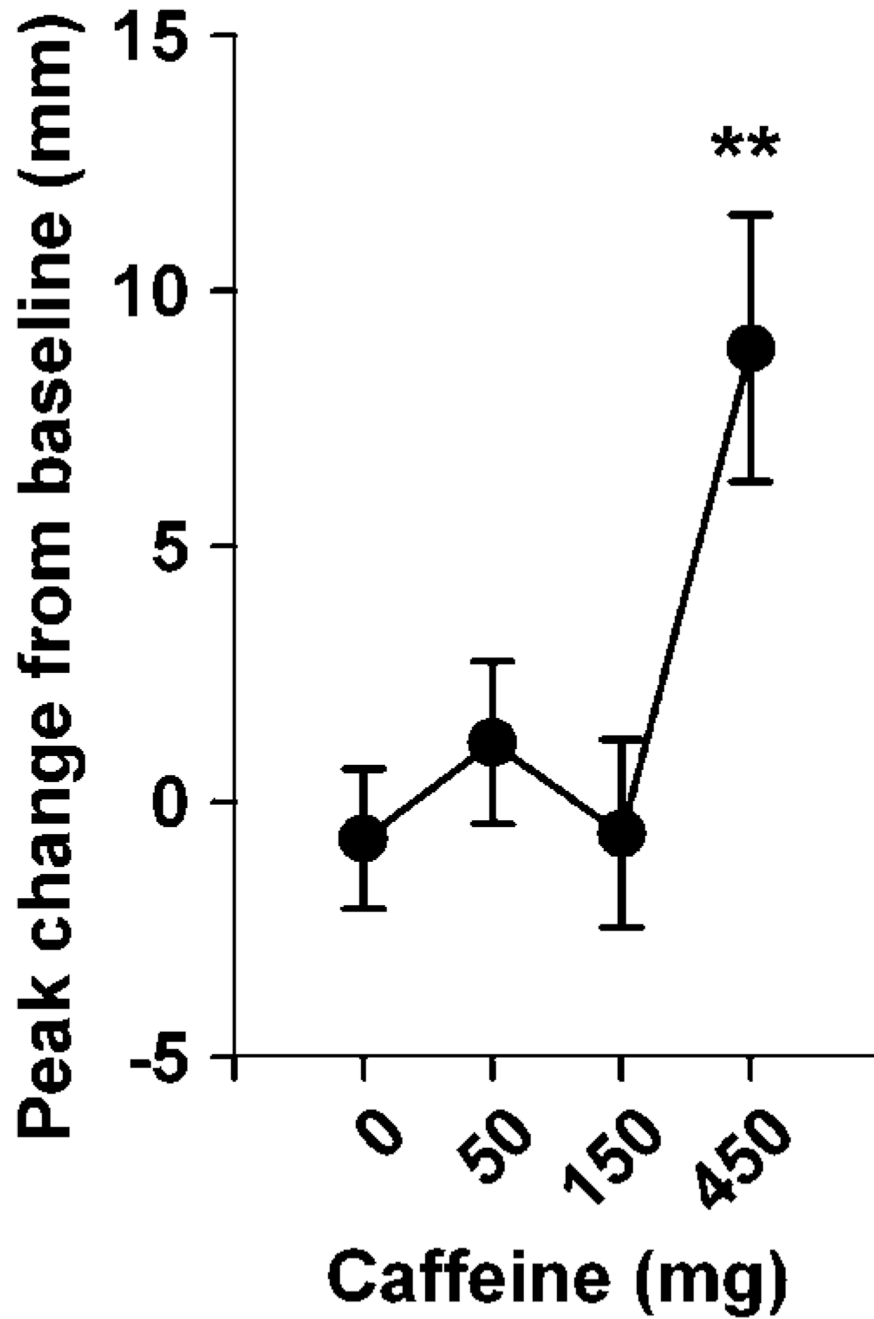
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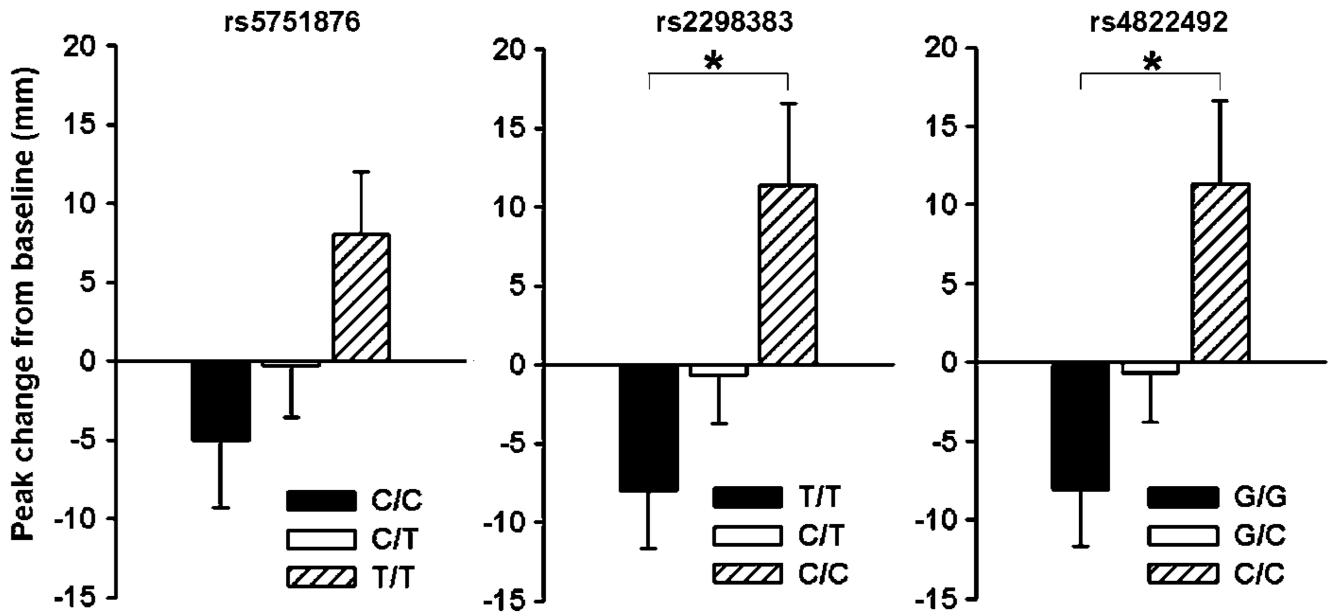
**Figure 1.** Linkage disequilibrium ( $D'$ ) plot of *ADORA2A* in European-American participants. SNPs are shown by location as in Table 1. Squares without numbers represent  $D'$  values of 1.0; all numbers represent the  $D'$  value expressed as a percentile. Shaded squares represent pairs with LOD score for linkage disequilibrium of  $\geq 2$  and white squares represent LOD  $< 2$  and  $D' > 1.0$ . Plots were generated using Genetix, V4.02.



**Figure 2.** Linkage disequilibrium ( $D'$ ) plot of *DRD2* in European-American participants. SNPs are shown by location as in Table 1. Other details are as in Figure 1.

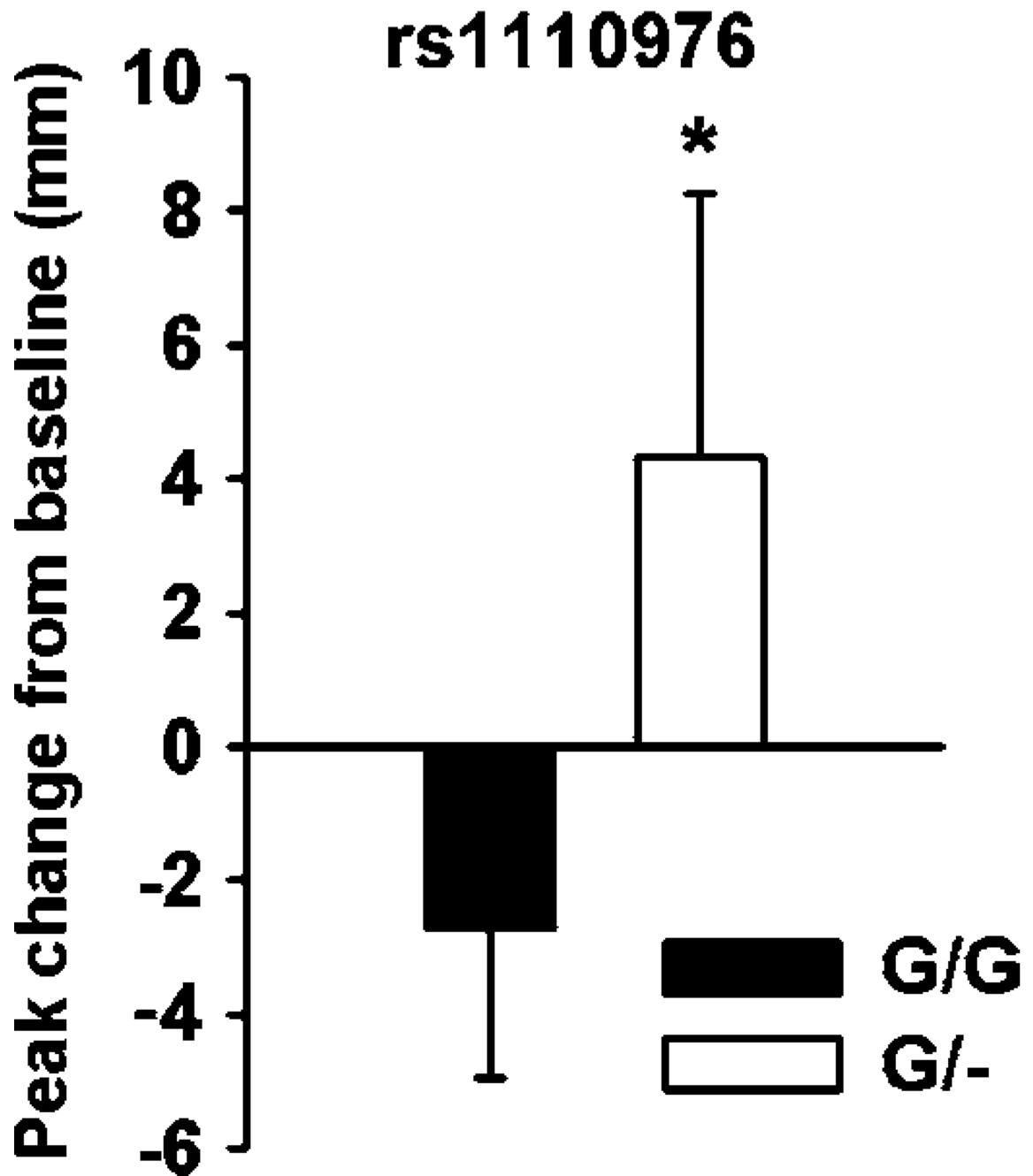


**Figure 3.** Change in self-reported anxiety (VAS) after different doses of caffeine. Data represent mean  $\pm$  SEM peak change from pre-capsule baseline in participants from all population groups. Asterisks denote significant difference from placebo (*post hoc* pairwise comparisons; \*\* $P < 0.01$ ).



**Figure 4.** Changes in anxiety (VAS) for genotypic groups of *ADORA2A* rs5751876 1976C/T, rs2298383 Intron 1a, and rs4822492 3'-flank after 150 mg caffeine in European-American participants. Bars represent mean  $\pm$  SEM peak change from pre-capsule baseline. Asterisks denote significant difference between groups (*post hoc* multiple comparisons; \* $P < 0.007$ ).





**Figure 5.** Changes in anxiety (VAS) after 150 mg caffeine in European-American participants for genotypic groups at *DRD2* rs1110976 Intron 6. Bars represent mean  $\pm$  SEM peak change from pre-capsule baseline. The asterisk denotes a significant difference between the genotypes ( $P < 0.006$ ).

**Table 1**  
*ADORA2A*, *DRD2*, and *ANKK1* SNPs and Corresponding ID in NCBI and Celera Database

Gene and SNP	Location and nucleotide change	NCBI	Celera	Minor allele frequency	Reference
<i>ADORA2A</i>					
5'-flank	9.5 kb 5'-flank; A/G	rs5751862	hCV2446647	0.50	http://www.hapmap.org/
263C/T	Exon 1; 263C/T	rs5760405	hCV29634682	0.144	Alsene <i>et al</i> (2003)
Intron 1a	Intron 1; C/T	rs2298383	hCV16189248	0.424	http://www.hapmap.org/
Intron 1b	Intron 1; C/T	rs3761422	hCV2446666	0.367	http://www.hapmap.org/
Intron 4	Intron 4; C/T	rs2236624	hCV15954834	0.208	http://www.hapmap.org/
1976 C/T	Exon 5; 1976 C/T	rs5751876		0.489	Alsene <i>et al</i> (2003)
2592 T/-	Exon 5; 2592 Ins/DelT	rs35320474		0.484	Alsene <i>et al</i> (2003)
3'-flank	5.5 kb 3'-flank; C/G	rs4822492	hCV26834592	0.40	http://www.hapmap.org/
<i>DRD2</i>					
A77G	Promoter; -241A/G	rs1799978	hCV7486599	0.03	Parsian <i>et al</i> (2000)
141InsDel	Promoter; -141 Ins/DelC	rs1799732		0.11	Gelernter <i>et al</i> (1998)
Taq1B	Intron 1; Taq1B A/G	rs1079597	hCV 2278884	0.202	Kidd <i>et al</i> (1998)
Taq1D	Intron 2; Taq1D G/A	rs1800498	hCV 2601166	0.38	Gelernter <i>et al</i> (1998)
Intron 6	Intron 6; Ins/DelG	rs1110976	hCV7486676	0.156	Finckh <i>et al</i> (1996)
His313His	Exon 7; 939 C/T	rs6275	hCV 2601173	0.3	Peroutka <i>et al</i> (1998)
Exon 8	Exon 8; C/G	rs6279	hCV 326647	0.302	Finckh <i>et al</i> (1996)
<i>ANKK1</i>					
Glu713Lys	713 C/T	rs1800497	hCV7486641	0.225	Neville <i>et al</i> (2004)

**Table 2**

## Participant Characteristics, Current and Lifetime Drug Use

<b>Demographic characteristic</b>	<b>All population groups</b>	<b>European-American</b>
<i>N</i>	102	62
Age	21.6±0.3	20.7±0.3
Sex (male/female)	51/51	32/30
Weight (lbs)	149.6±2.3	149.0±2.7
<i>Race</i>		
% European-American	60.8	100
% African-American	18.6	
% Asian-American	17.7	
% Other	2.9	
<i>Current drug use</i>		
Alcoholic drinks per week	3.6±0.4	4.4±0.6
Caffeine cups per week	1.2±0.1	1.2±0.1
Cigarettes per month	3.5±2.8	5.3±4.5
Marijuana per month	0.9±0.3	0.6±0.06
<i>Lifetime drugs use (% ever used)</i>		
Stimulants	6.0	6.5
Sedatives	5.0	8.2
Hallucinogens	10.8	12.9
Opiates	27.5	30.6
Marijuana	55	56.5
Inhalants	5.0	4.8

Data represent mean ± SEM.

**Table 3**  
Allele and Genotype Distribution of *ADORA2A* and *DRD2* Polymorphisms for European-American (EA) Participants

Polymorphism	Allele		Genotype		
	1	2	1/1	1/2	2/2
<i>A<sub>2A</sub> receptor gene</i>					
rs5751862	56 (A)	68 (G)	13 (AA)	30 (AG)	19 (GG)
rs5760405	97 (C)	27 (T)	38 (CC)	21 (CT)	3 (TT)
rs2298383	55 (C)	69 (T)	14 (CC)	27 (CT)	21 (TT)
rs3761422	75 (C)	49 (T)	24 (CC)	27 (CT)	11 (TT)
rs2236624	96 (C)	28 (T)	38 (CC)	20 (CT)	4 (TT)
rs5751876 <sup>a</sup>	73 (C)	51 (T)	23 (CC)	27 (CT)	12 (TT)
rs35320474	73 (T)	51 (-)	23 (TT)	27 (T-)	12(- -)
rs4822492	69 (G)	55 (C)	21 (GG)	27 (GC)	14 (CC)
<i>DRD<sub>2</sub> receptor gene</i>					
rs1799978	98 (A)	10 (G)	45 (AA)	8 (AG)	1 (GG)
rs1799732	98 (C)	12 (-)	43 (CC)	12 (C-)	- (- -)
rs1079597	9 (A)	95 (G)	- (AA)	9 (AG)	43 (GG)
rs1800498	44 (G)	64 (A)	6 (GG)	32 (GA)	16 (AA)
rs1110976	95 (G)	15 (-)	42 (GG)	11 (G-)	2 (- -)
rs6275	71 (C)	39 (T)	21 (CC)	29 (CT)	5 (TT)
rs6279	40 (C)	70 (G)	6 (CC)	28 (CG)	21 (GG)
rs1800497	90 (C)	18 (T)	38 (CC)	14 (CT)	2 (TT)

<sup>a</sup>Values for individuals from all population groups are alleles 101(C), 103(T); genotypes 29(CC), 43(CT), 30 (TT).

Interactive Effects of Single *ADORA2A*, *DRD2*, and *ANKK1* Polymorphisms Upon Anxiety after 150 mg Caffeine in European-American Participants

**Table 4**

<i>ADORA2A</i>			<i>DRD2</i>			<i>ANKK1</i>			Significance		
Locus	Genotype	Locus	Genotype	Locus	Genotype	Locus	Genotype	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>P</i>	<i>Q</i>	
rs5751862	GG, AG, AA	rs1079597	AG					0.20	0.007	0.05	
	GG		GG								
rs2298383/rs4822492	CC	rs1799978	TT					0.23	0.0005	0.01	
	CT/CG		TC								
	CC	rs1079597	GG, AG					0.24	0.0007	0.01	
	CT/CG		AG								
	CC	rs1110976	GG, G-					0.21	0.003	0.02	
	CT/CG		G-								
	CC	rs1800497	CC, CT					0.23	0.0008	0.01	

Genotype combinations significantly increase anxiety.