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Cigarette smoking and personality:

Investigating causality using Mendelian randomization

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Abstract

Background: Despite the well-documented association between smoking and personality traits such as neuroticism and extraversion, little is known about the potential causal nature of these findings. If it were possible to unpick the association between personality and smoking, it may be possible to develop more targeted smoking cessation programmes that could lead to both improved uptake and efficacy.

Methods: Recent genome-wide association studies (GWAS) have identified variants robustly associated with both smoking phenotypes and personality traits. Here we use publicly available GWAS summary statistics in addition to data from UK Biobank to investigate the link between smoking and personality. We first estimated genetic overlap between traits using LD score regression and then applied both one- and two-sample Mendelian randomization methods to unpick the nature of this relationship.

Results: We found clear evidence of a modest genetic correlation between smoking behaviours and both neuroticism and extraversion, suggesting shared genetic aetiology. We found some evidence to suggest an association between neuroticism and increased smoking initiation. We also found some evidence that personality traits appear to be causally linked to certain smoking phenotypes: higher neuroticism and heavier cigarette consumption, and higher extraversion and increased odds of smoking initiation. The latter finding could lead to more targeted smoking prevention programmes.

Conclusion: The association between neuroticism and cigarette consumption lends support to the self-medication hypothesis, while the association between extraversion and smoking initiation could lead to more targeted smoking prevention programmes.

47 **Cigarette smoking and personality:**
48 **Investigating causality using Mendelian randomization**

49
50 **Introduction**

51 There is a well-documented association between smoking and personality traits such
52 as neuroticism and extraversion (Terracciano & Costa Jr. 2004; Malouff *et al.* 2006; Munafò
53 *et al.* 2007; Hakulinen *et al.* 2015), and with associated mental health outcomes such as
54 major depressive disorder (MDD) (Munafò & Araya 2010; Fluharty *et al.* 2017). However,
55 given that much of these data come from observational studies, it is difficult to make any
56 causal inference regarding these relationships. It is possible that the observed associations
57 could be due to confounding, and if a true causal relationship does exist the direction of
58 effect is unknown.

59 Although we now know that smoking has a causal effect on mortality, there has
60 previously been some discussion surrounding this. It had been suggested by Eysenck and
61 others that personality influences both mortality and smoking independently, and that this
62 leads to a non-causal association between smoking and mortality (Eysenck 1965). Much
63 work went into investigating the Type A personality type, which was argued to be a risk
64 factor for coronary heart disease and other health outcomes, although many of these
65 findings failed to replicate (Petticrew *et al.* 2012).

66 Understanding these relationships is therefore important for public health and policy.
67 The World Health Organisation (WHO) now recognises smoking as one of the leading
68 modifiable risk factors for disability, disease and death (World Health Organisation 2002). As
69 a result, if it were possible to unpick the association between personality and smoking, it
70 may be possible to develop more targeted smoking cessation programmes, which could lead
71 to both improved uptake and efficacy. It has also been suggested that personality traits are
72 potential modifiable targets for intervention. Understanding the nature of these associations
73 could therefore lead to novel interventions addressing the specific traits associated with
74 smoking behaviours (Roberts & Hill 2017).

75 Neuroticism and extraversion are two of the main components of personality. The
76 former reflects emotional instability, stress-vulnerability and proneness to anxiety (Kendler *et al.*
77 *et al.* 1993). Higher neuroticism has been linked to anxiety and MDD, with some evidence of
78 shared genetics and a causal link between neuroticism and MDD onset (Neale *et al.* 2005;
79 Gale *et al.* 2016). Although levels of neuroticism are increased among smokers, the
80 evidence that neuroticism is linked with smoking initiation is inconsistent, with one meta-
81 analysis suggesting that neuroticism is linked with relapse to smoking among former
82 smokers (Hakulinen *et al.* 2015) rather than smoking initiation. In contrast, extraversion is
83 characterised by tendencies such as liveliness and assertiveness of an individual and the
84 level of ease and enjoyment of social interactions (Kendler *et al.* 1993; van den Berg *et al.*
85 2016). There is some suggestion in the literature that high levels of extraversion are
86 associated with greater rates of smoking initiation, and lower rates of smoking cessation
87 (Hakulinen *et al.* 2015).

88 Mendelian randomization (MR) is a method of assessing causality from observational
89 data through the use of genetic instrumental variables (Sallis *et al.* 2014). Genetic variants
90 (or scores constructed from several variants) are used as a proxy for some modifiable risk
91 factor, for example smoking (Figure 1). The MR principle relies on an approximation of
92 Mendel's first and second laws: that genotypes transmit across conception to a viable
93 conceptus, independent of both environment and other genetic variants (Davey Smith 2011).
94 Assuming the genetic variants are not associated with the outcome other than through the
95 risk factor they act as a proxy for, we can make inferences about the causal direction of any
96 association between the risk factor and the outcome (Davey Smith & Ebrahim 2003). If the
97 underlying assumptions of MR are satisfied, the resulting effects given by the MR analysis
98 should be free from the problems of confounding and reverse causality to which
99 observational epidemiology is prone (Sallis *et al.* 2014).

100 Previous work using MR found no evidence of a causal relationship in the direction of
101 smoking to depression (Taylor *et al.* 2014). We therefore hypothesised that if a causal
102 association with neuroticism exists, it is more likely to act from neuroticism to smoking.

103 Methods have also been developed to investigate genetic correlation between traits.
104 Although these do not provide information on causality of any potential relationship, they
105 shed light on the amount of shared genetic architecture across traits. Any overlap here could
106 be due to pleiotropy (genetic effects on multiple traits), shared biological mechanisms
107 between traits, or a causal relationship from one trait to another but the direction of this
108 cannot be ascertained from these approaches. Pleiotropy can be either biological, with
109 variants associated with multiple independent traits, or mediated, where variants are
110 associated with multiple phenotypes on the same causal pathway (Solovieff *et al.* 2013).
111 Recent genome-wide association studies (GWAS) have identified variants robustly
112 associated with a number of smoking phenotypes (The Tobacco and Genetics Consortium
113 2010) and with personality traits (Okbay *et al.* 2016; van den Berg *et al.* 2016). The
114 availability of these summary statistics enables us to look at the extent of genetic correlation
115 between smoking phenotypes and personality. This can be followed up by a range of MR
116 methods to try and to unpick the nature of this relationship. Here we use publicly available
117 GWAS summary statistics in addition to data from UK Biobank (UKB) (Sudlow *et al.* 2015) in
118 a bidirectional analysis to investigate whether there appears to be a causal link between
119 smoking and personality.

120

121 **Methods and measures**

122 MR techniques using both genome-wide summary statistics and individual level data
123 were used to investigate whether observed associations between smoking and personality
124 traits are causal.

125

126 **Genetic instruments**

127 *Smoking behaviours.* For each of the smoking phenotypes, a single variant was used
128 as a genetic instrument for this behaviour. These were the rs6265 variant in the *BDNF* gene
129 identified for smoking initiation, the rs16969968 variant in the *CHRNA5* gene for smoking
130 heaviness among past and current smokers, and the rs3025343 variant in the *DBH* gene for

131 smoking cessation. For each phenotype, the effect allele was that which corresponded to an
132 increase in the relevant smoking behaviour.

133 *Personality.* Eleven independent variants associated with neuroticism were reported
134 by Okbay et al. (2016) Of the original variants, 5 of these were unavailable in the TAG
135 smoking data. Proxies were identified for 4 of these SNPs using SNIPA (Arnold *et al.* 2015)
136 ($r^2 > 0.85$). A complete list of variants used in the neuroticism instrument can be found in
137 Table S1. Five independent variants associated with extraversion were identified by the GPC
138 (van den Berg *et al.* 2016). Of these variants, 3 variants were unavailable in the TAG
139 summary statistics. Using SNIPA, we identified a proxy for one of these variants (Table S1).

140

141 **Data sources**

142 *GWAS summary statistics.* Publicly available summary statistics are available for
143 recent genome-wide analyses of both smoking phenotypes and personality traits. The
144 Tobacco and Genetics (TAG) consortium performed GWAS on several measures related to
145 cigarette smoking, including smoking initiation, cessation and heaviness (The Tobacco and
146 Genetics Consortium 2010). The consortium identified several hits, including rs6265 in the
147 *BDNF* gene for smoking initiation, rs16969968 in the *CHRNA5* gene for smoking heaviness
148 and rs3025343 in the *DBH* gene for smoking cessation. A recent GWAS investigating
149 subjective well-being, depression and neuroticism identified 11 independent variants
150 associated with neuroticism (Okbay *et al.* 2016), while 5 variants associated with
151 extraversion were reported by the Genetic of Personality Consortium (GPC) (van den Berg
152 *et al.* 2016).

153 *UK Biobank (UKB).* UKB has collected phenotypic information on around 500,000
154 participants, with genotyping available on approximately 337,106 unrelated Europeans,
155 exclusion criteria and quality control measures are described in detail elsewhere (Bycroft *et al.*
156 2017; Mitchell *et al.* 2017) . An interim release of genetic data was made available in
157 2015 for a subset of the cohort. This subset was included in the neuroticism GWAS and
158 contained approximately 114,780 European individuals (Sudlow *et al.* 2015).

159 Smoking status was defined as ever (consisting of current and former smokers) or
160 never smoker according to responses given at the initial assessment visit in UKB. Smoking
161 heaviness was derived for former and current smokers based on responses to 'number of
162 cigarettes currently smoked daily' at the initial assessment. For former smokers, this
163 question related to number of cigarettes previously smoked daily.

164 Neuroticism scores were derived from a number of neurotic behaviour domains
165 measured at the initial assessment visit. These scores were externally derived by Smith et
166 al. (2013) and are available for use by researchers accessing the UKB resource. Scores
167 range from 0 to 12 with a higher score corresponding to a greater number of neurotic
168 behaviours. There was no direct measure of extraversion in UKB, so analyses of this trait
169 were restricted to those based on the genetic instrument for extraversion.

170 Polygenic risk scores for neuroticism and extraversion were calculated for each
171 individual in UKB. The neuroticism risk score ranged from 1 to 19 and corresponded to the
172 number of neuroticism increasing alleles per individual. A risk score was calculated for
173 extraversion and ranged from 0 to 6. Although weighted scores can give a more precise
174 effect estimate, the neuroticism GWAS included the interim release of UKB within the
175 discovery sample (Okbay *et al.* 2016; Major Depressive Disorder Working Group of the PGC
176 *et al.* 2017). Risk scores should use weightings derived from independent samples to avoid
177 introducing bias into the effect estimates (Hartwig & Davies 2016). As a sensitivity analysis,
178 we restricted analyses using the neuroticism risk score to participants who were not included
179 in the interim release of the genetic data, and who were therefore not included in the
180 discovery sample.

181

182 **Statistical analysis**

183 *Genetic correlation.* In a first step, GWAS summary statistics were used to estimate
184 the genetic correlation of smoking initiation with both neuroticism and extraversion. LD score
185 regression was performed (without constraining the intercept) using the GWAS summary
186 statistics to assess the amount of genetic overlap between the two traits. In order to estimate

187 genetic correlation between personality measures and additional smoking phenotypes of
188 smoking heaviness and cessation, summary statistics for the personality GWAS would need
189 to be stratified by smoking status. Although the original GWAS summary statistics were not
190 available stratified by smoking status, it was possible to estimate these genetic correlations
191 using the individual level data available in UKB. Genome-wide complex trait analysis (GCTA)
192 software (Yang *et al.* 2011) was used to estimate genetic correlation for the additional
193 smoking phenotypes within UKB.

194 *Two-sample MR using summary statistics.* Bidirectional two-sample MR analyses
195 were performed using the genetic instruments described above. Effect estimates and
196 standard errors (SEs) were extracted for each variant from the relevant GWAS results and
197 used to estimate inverse variance weighted (IVW) effect estimates. For the neuroticism
198 instrument which incorporated multiple SNPs, we performed sensitivity analyses. Effect
199 estimates and SEs were extracted from the original GWAS results as described above and
200 MR-Egger (Bowden *et al.* 2015) and weighted median regression (Bowden *et al.* 2016)
201 approaches were used to calculate effect estimates adjusted for pleiotropy and invalid
202 instruments. Neuroticism and extraversion GWAS results were not stratified by smoking
203 status. As a result, when using summary statistics, analyses in the direction of smoking to
204 personality were restricted to smoking initiation only.

205 *One-sample MR using individual level data.* Further analyses were performed using
206 data from the UKB. In these analyses, the association between the genetic instrument (G)
207 and the outcome (Y) was estimated ($Y \sim G$). Within UKB it was possible to stratify participants
208 according to smoking status. Therefore, in addition to smoking initiation, we also investigated
209 the association between both smoking heaviness and cessation with personality. These
210 analyses were adjusted for the top 10 principal components as well as genotype array.

211

212

Results

213

Genetic correlation

214 LD score regression using summary statistics from the TAG consortium GWAS of
215 smoking initiation and the Okbay et al. neuroticism GWAS suggested evidence of a modest
216 genetic correlation between the two traits ($r_G=0.124$, $SE=0.05$). There was also evidence of a
217 larger genetic correlation between extraversion and smoking initiation ($r_G=0.288$, $SE=0.01$;
218 Table 1). We used GCTA software to calculate genetic correlation using individual level data
219 from UKB. There was evidence of genetic correlation between neuroticism and smoking
220 heaviness among both current ($r_G=0.248$, $SE=0.12$) and former smokers ($r_G=0.220$,
221 $SE=0.06$). We found evidence of a negative genetic correlation between smoking cessation
222 and neuroticism ($r_G=-0.314$, $SE=0.15$; Table 1).

223

224 **Observational association between neuroticism and smoking behaviours**

225 Data on smoking status and neuroticism were available from UKB. A total of 389,770
226 participants had data available on both smoking and neuroticism, with genotyping available
227 on 273,516 of these after applying QC measures. There was strong evidence of an
228 observational association between neuroticism and smoking status in both the entire UKB
229 sample and when restricting to those with genotyping data. Mean neuroticism scores were
230 higher among former (4.22, $SD=3.3$) and current smokers (4.66, $SD=3.5$) than non-smokers
231 (3.89, $SD=3.2$, $p<0.001$). We found evidence of an association between neuroticism and
232 cigarettes smoked per day with heavier smokers reporting greater levels of neuroticism
233 ($\beta=0.02$, $p<0.001$).

234

235 **Effects of smoking on personality traits**

236 We first used two-sample MR to investigate the effect of smoking initiation on
237 personality using publicly available GWAS summary statistics. This found no clear evidence
238 of a relationship from smoking initiation to neuroticism when using rs6265 as an instrument
239 for smoking initiation ($\beta=-0.032$, 95% CI: -0.16, 0.09, $p=0.617$; Table 2). A one-sample
240 approach was also used to investigate the association between each smoking behaviour and
241 neuroticism in UKB. This found weak evidence of association, with each copy of the smoking

242 initiation risk allele associated with a decrease in neuroticism score ($\beta=-0.023$, 95% CI: -
243 0.045, -0.001, $p=0.037$; Table 2).

244 The genetic variant rs16969968 was used as a proxy for smoking heaviness in UKB.
245 Despite strong evidence of an observational association between smoking heaviness and
246 neuroticism, we found no robust evidence of a causal association from the rs16969968
247 variant for smoking heaviness to neuroticism among either former or current smokers (Table
248 2). Using the rs3025343 variant as a proxy for smoking cessation found no strong evidence
249 of an association from smoking cessation to neuroticism ($\beta=0.029$, 95% CI: -0.01, 0.07,
250 $p=0.161$; Table 2) in UKB.

251 When looking at the association between extraversion and smoking, we found weak
252 evidence of an association between smoking initiation and increased extraversion ($\beta=0.198$,
253 95% CI: -0.03, 0.42; Table 2) using two-sample MR. There was no relevant measure of
254 extraversion in UKB, so we were unable to look at the association from smoking initiation to
255 extraversion using individual level data in UKB.

256

257 **Effects of personality traits on smoking**

258 Two-sample MR using summary statistics found no clear evidence of an association
259 from neuroticism to smoking initiation (OR=1.165, 95% CI: 0.71, 1.91, $p=0.499$; Table 3).

260 Several MR approaches were used to investigate the association from neuroticism to
261 smoking initiation. MR-Egger and weighted median approaches found no robust evidence of
262 an association after adjusting for pleiotropy and allowing for invalid instruments (Table S2).

263 Among the UKB participants, there was no clear evidence of an association from neuroticism
264 to smoking initiation when using an unweighted risk score (OR=1.000, 95% CI: 0.997, 1.003,
265 $p=0.980$; Table 3). When looking at the association from extraversion to smoking initiation,
266 we found no strong evidence of an effect when using a two-sample approach (OR=1.733,
267 95% CI: 0.37, 8.23, $p=0.268$). However, this may be due to a lack of power. The direction of
268 effect was consistent within the UKB sample, where there was strong evidence of an

269 association. Each additional extraversion allele was associated with an increase in the odds
270 of being an ever smoker (OR=1.015, 95% CI: 1.01, 1.02, $p=9.6 \times 10^{-7}$; Table 3).

271 Using an IVW approach, we found no clear evidence of an association from
272 neuroticism to smoking heaviness ($\beta=0.050$, 95% CI: -4.11, 4.21, $p=0.979$; Table 3).
273 However, MR-Egger suggested some evidence of biological pleiotropy ($\beta=-0.500$, $p=0.026$;
274 Table S2) and a bias adjusted estimate suggested some evidence of an association
275 between neuroticism and increased smoking heaviness ($\beta=22.55$, $p=0.027$). We also looked
276 at this association in UKB when stratifying according to smoking status and found some
277 evidence of an association. Among current smokers, the neuroticism risk score was
278 associated with increased smoking heaviness ($\beta=0.068$, 95% CI: 0.02, 0.12, $p=0.009$; Table
279 3). In this analysis, each additional neuroticism risk allele was associated with smoking an
280 extra 0.07 cigarettes per day. We found no robust evidence of an association from
281 extraversion to smoking heaviness when using a two-sample MR approach ($\beta =0.017$, 95%
282 CI: -16.33, 16.37, $p=0.997$; Table 3) or when stratifying on smoking status and investigating
283 this association in UKB. This remained the case among both former ($\beta=-0.021$, 95% CI: -
284 0.08, 0.04, $p=0.519$) and current smokers ($\beta=-0.038$, 95% CI: -0.13, 0.05, $p=0.419$; Table 3).

285 When using two-sample MR with summary statistics, we found no robust evidence of
286 association between neuroticism and smoking cessation when using the IVW approach, or
287 when adjusting for bias (Tables 3, S2). This remained the case when looking within UKB
288 (OR=0.997, 95% CI: 0.99, 1.00, $p=0.272$; Table 3). There was no strong evidence of an
289 effect from extraversion to smoking cessation when using two-sample MR with summary
290 statistics (OR=0.586, 95% CI: 0.07, 4.76, $p=0.387$; Table 3). When restricting our analyses
291 to current and former smokers within UKB, we found weak evidence of an association. Each
292 additional increase in extraversion risk allele was associated with 1.1% lower odds of
293 smoking cessation ($p=0.057$; Table 3).

294

295 **Sensitivity analyses**

296 Analyses involving neuroticism were also performed restricting to participants whose
297 genetic data was not included in the interim release of UKB data. Full results are reported in
298 Table S3. Results remained largely consistent. In this subset, the strength of evidence for
299 the effect of neuroticism on smoking heaviness was weakened (current smokers: $\beta=0.053$,
300 $p=0.120$). However, the effect size remained consistent, so this may be due to a lack of
301 power in this smaller sample.

302

303

Discussion

304 We attempted to disentangle the relationship between smoking and the personality
305 traits of neuroticism and extraversion. Although much of the observed association between
306 smoking and personality appears to be non-causal, we found evidence of a modest genetic
307 correlation with both neuroticism and extraversion, suggesting some shared genetic
308 aetiology. Given that available GWAS summary statistics for neuroticism and extraversion
309 are not stratified by smoking status, we initially used two-sample MR approaches to look at
310 the bidirectional association with smoking initiation. This was followed by one-sample MR
311 using individual level data from UKB. When looking at the association from smoking to
312 personality, we found some evidence that the rs6265 variant for smoking initiation was
313 associated with both decreased neuroticism and increased extraversion. When looking in the
314 other direction, we found evidence that the neuroticism risk score was associated with
315 increased smoking heaviness, and that the extraversion risk score was associated with
316 increased smoking initiation and decreased smoking cessation.

317 Both two-sample MR and one-sample analyses in UKB found consistent effects of
318 the smoking initiation instrument (rs6265) on lowering neuroticism scores, although the
319 evidence for this was weak. Although this is a strong instrument for smoking initiation, there
320 could be potential pleiotropic effects. The inclusion of several strongly associated, but
321 independent variants could reduce the potential impact of these effects, as all pleiotropic
322 effects would need to operate in the same direction (Gage *et al.* 2017). Analyses from
323 personality to smoking behaviours found some evidence of an association between

324 increased genetic liability for neuroticism and greater smoking heaviness using one-sample
325 MR and two-sample MR after adjusting for biological pleiotropy. Both the observational and
326 MR analyses found a stronger effect among current smokers, where at least part of this
327 association appears to be a causal effect. The observed association between smoking
328 initiation and a decrease in neuroticism scores, plus the association between increased
329 levels of neuroticism and heavier smoking would appear to lend support to the self-
330 medication hypothesis.

331 We also observed evidence of an association between extraversion and smoking.
332 Unlike neuroticism, extraversion did not show evidence of a causal relationship with smoking
333 heaviness, but we did find an association with smoking initiation. Although there was no
334 strong evidence of an association when using a two-sample approach, this could be due to a
335 lack of power given that the direction of effect was consistent with that observed in UKB.
336 Using UKB data, there was evidence that individuals with a higher genetic liability for
337 extraversion had greater odds of taking up smoking. One potential mechanism for this is that
338 extraversion could lead to more social contacts and greater susceptibility to peer influences,
339 which are known to be important in smoking initiation. These findings could be taken forward
340 to develop novel interventions. If self-medication does contribute to the smoking behaviours
341 of individuals, as suggested by these results, it seems likely that targeting relevant
342 personality traits, in addition to addressing the ensuing smoking behaviours could result in
343 increased efficacy of any intervention.

344 There are a number of limitations to our analysis that should be considered. First,
345 UKB formed a large part of the discovery cohort for the GWAS of neuroticism. We were
346 therefore unable to use weighted risk scores to assess the association between smoking
347 phenotypes and neuroticism in our one sample analyses – weights should be identified in
348 independent samples to avoid overfitting the data and introducing bias into effect estimates
349 (Hartwig & Davies 2016). However, we performed sensitivity analyses restricting to
350 individuals who were not included in the discovery samples, and results remained
351 consistent. Second, we were unable to use two-sample methods to assess the association

352 from smoking heaviness and cessation to neuroticism and extraversion because the
353 personality summary statistics were not stratified by smoking status. However, we did
354 investigate the association in both directions for neuroticism when using the UKB data. Both
355 the two-sample and UKB analyses gave consistent results when looking at the neuroticism
356 to smoking initiation relationship. Third, due to the lack of an extraversion phenotype
357 currently available in UKB we were unable to investigate whether there was evidence of an
358 effect from smoking to extraversion. Fourth, MR analyses can often suffer from a lack of
359 power, with large sample sizes and strong instruments required to detect effects. We have
360 identified genetic variants robustly associated with each trait of interest based on results of
361 large recently published GWAS in order to maximise the strength of our instruments. In this
362 analysis, we use a combination of one- and two-sample MR approaches based on GWAS
363 summary statistics in addition to data from UKB in order to maximise our power to detect any
364 effect. Fifth, we stratified on smoking status to investigate the association of smoking
365 heaviness and cessation phenotypes. Although this allows us to investigate pleiotropy, there
366 is the potential to introduce collider bias (Munafò *et al.* 2017). However, our instruments are
367 principally associated with smoking heaviness and cessation rather than smoking initiation,
368 so that the risk of collider bias is minimised (Gage *et al.* 2016).

369 In conclusion, we found evidence of modest genetic correlation with both neuroticism
370 and extraversion, suggesting some shared genetic aetiology and implying that much of the
371 observed association between smoking and personality is non-causal. However, we also
372 found some evidence for specific causal pathways between personality and smoking
373 phenotypes - higher neuroticism and heavier cigarette consumption, and higher extraversion
374 and increased odds of smoking initiation. The association between neuroticism and cigarette
375 consumption lends support to the self-medication hypothesis, while the association between
376 extraversion and smoking initiation could lead to more targeted smoking prevention
377 programmes.

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379

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Conflict of interest

381 None.

382

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521

Table 1. Genetic correlation between smoking phenotypes and personality traits using GWAS summary statistics and individual level data from UK Biobank.

	r_G (SE)	p-value
Neuroticism and smoking initiation¹	0.124 (0.05)	0.008
Extraversion and smoking initiation¹	0.288 (0.01)	0.001
Neuroticism and smoking heaviness (current smokers)²	0.248 (0.12)	0.013
Neuroticism and smoking heaviness (former smokers)²	0.220 (0.06)	1.8x10 ⁻⁵
Neuroticism and smoking cessation²	-0.314 (0.15)	0.002

¹ Genetic correlation estimates for smoking initiation were generated using GWAS summary statistics

² Estimates for smoking heaviness and cessation were generated using individual level data from UK Biobank

Table 2. Effect of smoking on personality traits using one- and two-sample MR.

Exposure	Outcome	Sample	Instrument	Smoking status	β	95% CI	P-value	N
Smoking initiation	Neuroticism	GWAS summary statistics	rs6265	All	-0.032	-0.16, 0.09	0.617	170,911
		UK Biobank		All	-0.023	-0.045, -0.001	0.037	274,230
	Extraversion	GWAS summary statistics	rs6265	All	0.198	-0.03, 0.42	0.084	63,030
		UK Biobank			-	-	-	-
Smoking heaviness	Neuroticism	UK Biobank		Non-smokers	0.004	-0.02, 0.03	0.745	149,960
				Former smokers	0.011	-0.02, 0.04	0.472	96,674
				Current smokers	0.038	-0.02, 0.10	0.234	26,882
Smoking cessation	Neuroticism	UK Biobank		Non-smokers	0.004	-0.03, 0.04	0.822	149,960
				Ever smokers	0.029	-0.01, 0.07	0.161	123,556

Table 3. Effect of personality traits on smoking using one- and two-sample MR.

Exposure	Outcome	Sample	Instrument	Smoking status	OR	95% CI	P-value	N
Neuroticism	Smoking initiation	GWAS summary statistics	IVW	All	1.165	0.71, 1.91	0.499	74,035
		UK Biobank	Unweighted score	All	1.000	0.997, 1.003	0.980	318,985
Extraversion	Smoking initiation	GWAS summary statistics	IVW	All	1.733	0.37, 8.23	0.268	74,035
		UK Biobank	Unweighted score	All	1.015	1.01, 1.02	9.6x10 ⁻⁷	332,596
					β	95% CI	P-value	N
Neuroticism	Smoking heaviness	GWAS summary statistics	IVW	Ever smokers	0.050	-4.11, 4.21	0.979	38,181
		UK Biobank	Unweighted score	Former smokers	-0.018	-0.05, 0.02	0.315	70,909
				Current smokers	0.068	0.02, 0.12	0.009	21,449
Extraversion	Smoking heaviness	GWAS summary statistics	IVW	Ever smokers	0.017	-16.33, 16.37	0.997	38,181
		UK Biobank	Unweighted score	Former smokers	-0.021	-0.08, 0.04	0.519	73,967
				Current smokers	-0.038	-0.13, 0.05	0.419	22,340
					OR	95% CI	P-value	N
Neuroticism	Smoking cessation	GWAS summary statistics	IVW	Ever smokers	0.797	0.43, 1.47	0.423	41,278
		UK Biobank	Unweighted score	Ever smokers	0.997	0.99, 1.00	0.272	144,119
Extraversion	Smoking cessation	GWAS summary statistics	IVW	Ever smokers	0.586	0.07, 4.76	0.387	41,278
		UK Biobank	Unweighted score	Ever smokers	0.989	0.98, 1.00	0.057	150,294

Figure 1. Directed acyclic graph illustrating Mendelian randomization. In this model, allelic risk scores associated with smoking initiation are calculated and used to assess the association of smoking initiation with neuroticism levels.

