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Identification of New HERV-W *env* Fragment in Schizophrenia

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A Human endogenous retrovirus HERV-W has recently been described that is related to multiple sclerosis-associated retrovirus(MSRV) sequences. We investigated the relation between HERV-W *env* and schizophrenia by using the PCR approach with human genomic DNA derived from schizophrenia. We newly identified and analyzed eleven *env* fragments of HERV-W family. They showed a high degree of nucleotide sequence similarity(88.5-98.7%) with that of the HERV-W. Translation of the *env* fragments showed frameshift and termination codon by deletion/insertion or point mutation in the examined clones. New sequence data may be of great use for further study in relation to schizophrenic disease.