

Association of Genetic Polymorphism of VAX1 (rs7078160 and rs4752028) with Non-Syndromic Oral Clefts: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis



Zahra Molaei¹, Paria Motahari² and Fatemeh Sobhanifar^{2,*}

¹Department of Pediatric Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, Zanjan University of Medical Sciences, Zanjan, Iran

²Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Medicine, Faculty of Dentistry, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran

© 2025 The Author(s). Published by Bentham Open.

This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Public License (CC-BY 4.0), a copy of which is available at: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode>. This license permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.



CrossMark

*Address correspondence to this author at the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Medicine, Faculty of Dentistry, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran; E-mail: FatemeSobhanifar6680@gmail.com

Published: November 22, 2025

Cite as: Molaei Z, Motahari P, Sobhanifar F. Association of Genetic Polymorphism of VAX1 (rs7078160 and rs4752028) with Non-Syndromic Oral Clefts: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. Open Dent J, 2025; 19: e18742106419313. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2174/0118742106419313251104071927>



Send Orders for Reprints to reprints@benthamscience.net

PRISMA 2020 Checklist

Section and Topic	Item #	Checklist Item	Location where Item is Reported
TITLE			
Title	1	Identify the report as a systematic review.	Title page
ABSTRACT			
Abstract	2	See the PRISMA 2020 for Abstracts checklist.	Structured abstract
INTRODUCTION			
Rationale	3	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of existing knowledge.	Introduction, para 1-2
Objectives	4	Provide an explicit statement of the objective(s) or question(s) the review addresses.	Introduction, last paragraph
METHODS			
Eligibility criteria	5	Specify the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the review and how studies were grouped for the syntheses.	Methods → Eligibility criteria
Information sources	6	Specify all databases, registers, websites, organisations, reference lists and other sources searched or consulted to identify studies. Specify the date when each source was last searched or consulted.	Methods → Search strategy
Search strategy	7	Present the full search strategies for all databases, registers and websites, including any filters and limits used.	Supplementary Table (Search strategy)
Selection process	8	Specify the methods used to decide whether a study met the inclusion criteria of the review, including how many reviewers screened each record and each report retrieved, whether they worked independently, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Methods → Study selection
Data collection process	9	Specify the methods used to collect data from reports, including how many reviewers collected data from each report, whether they worked independently, any processes for obtaining or confirming data from study investigators, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Methods → Data extraction

Section and Topic	Item #	Checklist Item	Location where Item is Reported
Data items	10a	List and define all outcomes for which data were sought. Specify whether all results that were compatible with each outcome domain in each study were sought (<i>e.g.</i> for all measures, time points, analyses), and if not, the methods used to decide which results to collect.	Methods → Data extraction
	10b	List and define all other variables for which data were sought (<i>e.g.</i> participant and intervention characteristics, funding sources). Describe any assumptions made about any missing or unclear information.	Methods → Data extraction
Study risk of bias assessment	11	Specify the methods used to assess risk of bias in the included studies, including details of the tool(s) used, how many reviewers assessed each study and whether they worked independently, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Methods → Quality assessment (NOS scale)
Effect measures	12	Specify for each outcome the effect measure(s) (<i>e.g.</i> risk ratio, mean difference) used in the synthesis or presentation of results.	Methods → Statistical analysis
Synthesis methods	13a	Describe the processes used to decide which studies were eligible for each synthesis (<i>e.g.</i> tabulating the study intervention characteristics and comparing against the planned groups for each synthesis (item #5)).	Methods → Data synthesis
	13b	Describe any methods required to prepare the data for presentation or synthesis, such as handling of missing summary statistics, or data conversions.	Methods → Data synthesis
	13c	Describe any methods used to tabulate or visually display results of individual studies and syntheses.	Statistical analysis / Results Tables & Figures
	13d	Describe any methods used to synthesize results and provide a rationale for the choice(s). If meta-analysis was performed, describe the model(s), method(s) to identify the presence and extent of statistical heterogeneity, and software package(s) used.	Methods → Statistical analysis
	13e	Describe any methods used to explore possible causes of heterogeneity among study results (<i>e.g.</i> subgroup analysis, meta-regression).	Methods → Statistical analysis
	13f	Describe any sensitivity analyses conducted to assess robustness of the synthesized results.	Methods → Statistical analysis
Reporting bias assessment	14	Describe any methods used to assess risk of bias due to missing results in a synthesis (arising from reporting biases).	Methods → Publication bias
Certainty assessment	15	Describe any methods used to assess certainty (or confidence) in the body of evidence for an outcome.	Methods → Publication bias
RESULTS			-
Study selection	16a	Describe the results of the search and selection process, from the number of records identified in the search to the number of studies included in the review, ideally using a flow diagram.	Results → PRISMA Flow diagram
	16b	Cite studies that might appear to meet the inclusion criteria, but which were excluded, and explain why they were excluded.	Results → PRISMA Flow diagram
Study characteristics	17	Cite each included study and present its characteristics.	Results → Table 1 (study characteristics)
Risk of bias in studies	18	Present assessments of risk of bias for each included study.	Results → Table 2 (NOS assessment)
Results of individual studies	19	For all outcomes, present, for each study: (a) summary statistics for each group (where appropriate) and (b) an effect estimate and its precision (<i>e.g.</i> confidence/credible interval), ideally using structured tables or plots.	Results → Forest plots & tables
Results of syntheses	20a	For each synthesis, briefly summarise the characteristics and risk of bias among contributing studies.	Results → Study description
	20b	Present results of all statistical syntheses conducted. If meta-analysis was done, present for each the summary estimate and its precision (<i>e.g.</i> confidence/credible interval) and measures of statistical heterogeneity. If comparing groups, describe the direction of the effect.	Results → Forest plots
	20c	Present results of all investigations of possible causes of heterogeneity among study results.	Results → Subgroup/sensitivity analysis
	20d	Present results of all sensitivity analyses conducted to assess the robustness of the synthesized results.	Results → Sensitivity analysis
Reporting biases	21	Present assessments of risk of bias due to missing results (arising from reporting biases) for each synthesis assessed.	Results → table2

Section and Topic	Item #	Checklist Item	Location where Item is Reported
Certainty of evidence	22	Present assessments of certainty (or confidence) in the body of evidence for each outcome assessed.	Results → Funnel plot / Egger test
DISCUSSION			-
Discussion	23a	Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence.	Discussion, para 1-2
	23b	Discuss any limitations of the evidence included in the review.	Discussion, limitations sub-section
	23c	Discuss any limitations of the review processes used.	Discussion, limitations sub-section
	23d	Discuss implications of the results for practice, policy, and future research.	Discussion, last section
OTHER INFORMATION			-
Registration and protocol	24a	Provide registration information for the review, including register name and registration number, or state that the review was not registered.	Methods / Registration section
	24b	Indicate where the review protocol can be accessed, or state that a protocol was not prepared.	Methods / Registration section
	24c	Describe and explain any amendments to information provided at registration or in the protocol.	Methods / Registration section
Support	25	Describe sources of financial or non-financial support for the review, and the role of the funders or sponsors in the review.	Funding section
Competing interests	26	Declare any competing interests of review authors.	Conflict of interest statement
Availability of data, code and other materials	27	Report which of the following are publicly available and where they can be found: template data collection forms; data extracted from included studies; data used for all analyses; analytic code; any other materials used in the review.	Data availability statement

From: Page MJ, McKenzie JE, Bossuyt PM, Boutron I, Hoffmann TC, Mulrow CD, *et al.* The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews. *BMJ* 2021;372:n71. doi: 10.1136/bmj.n71

For more information, visit: <http://www.prisma-statement.org/>

DISCLAIMER: The above article has been published, as is, ahead-of-print, to provide early visibility but is not the final version. Major publication processes like copyediting, proofing, typesetting and further review are still to be done and may lead to changes in the final published version, if it is eventually published. All legal disclaimers that apply to the final published article also apply to this ahead-of-print version.