

Study linking gene mutation with multiple sclerosis faces brutal criticism

Scientists are forcefully challenging a recent study that claimed to identify a rare genetic mutation that sharply boosted the risk of [multiple sclerosis](#). The critics cite calculation errors and say they have been unable to replicate the findings — and question why the original paper was ever published in a top journal.

The withering assault has dashed hopes that the study might quickly lead to [new drugs for MS](#) and also raised questions about how such critiques are handled: like more and more journals, the one that published [the paper](#) does not run letters to the editor, making it harder for scientists to see that the claim has been hotly disputed.

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The study — which reported that the mutation raised the risk of MS by a whopping 70 percent —...led to hopes that correcting the mutation or its downstream consequences might treat or even cure MS, which affects some 2.3 million people worldwide.

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[However, t]he mutation “contributes extremely weakly, if at all, to MS risk,” [stated Eric Minikel and Daniel MacArthur.]

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: [Bold claim of multiple sclerosis gene discovery comes under withering attack](#)