

1 **Ultra-rare genetic variation in the epilepsies: a whole-exome sequencing study of**
2 **17,606 individuals**

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13 **Abstract**

14 Sequencing-based studies have identified novel risk genes for severe epilepsies and revealed an
15 excess of rare deleterious variation in less severe forms of epilepsy. To identify the shared and
16 distinct ultra-rare genetic risk factors for different types of epilepsies, we performed a whole-
17 exome sequencing (WES) analysis of 9,170 epilepsy-affected individuals and 8,364 controls of
18 European ancestry. We focused on three phenotypic groups; severe developmental and epileptic
19 encephalopathies (DEE), genetic generalized epilepsy (GGE), and non-acquired focal epilepsy
20 (NAFE). We observed that compared to controls, individuals with any type of epilepsy carried an
21 excess of ultra-rare, deleterious variants in constrained genes and in genes previously associated
22 with epilepsy, with the strongest enrichment seen in DEE and the least in NAFE. Moreover, we
23 found that inhibitory GABA_A receptor genes were enriched for missense variants across all three
24 classes of epilepsy, while no enrichment was seen in excitatory receptor genes. The larger gene
25 groups for the GABAergic pathway or cation channels also showed a significant mutational
26 burden in DEE and GGE. Although no single gene surpassed exome-wide significance among
27 individuals with GGE or NAFE, highly constrained genes and genes encoding ion channels were
28 among the top associations, including *CACNA1G*, *EEF1A2*, and *GABRG2* for GGE and *LGI1*,
29 *TRIM3*, and *GABRG2* for NAFE. Our study confirms a convergence in the genetics of severe and
30 less severe epilepsies associated with ultra-rare coding variation and highlights a ubiquitous role
31 for GABAergic inhibition in epilepsy etiology in the largest epilepsy WES study to date.

32 **Introduction**

33 Epilepsy is a group of disorders characterized by repeated seizures due to excessive electrical
34 activity in the brain and is one of the most common neurological conditions affecting every 5-7 of
35 1000 individuals worldwide^{1, 2}. Human genetics research has established that a genetic basis
36 underlies the susceptibility to epilepsy for a majority of the cases³⁻⁶. However, the multifactorial
37 condition of epilepsy that subsumes a variety of epilepsy types, seizures, levels of severity, and
38 comorbidity has made it a core challenge to disentangle the genetic architecture for different types
39 of epilepsy and to determine the specific genetic risks for individual patients.

40 In recent years, our understanding of the genetic risk factors of epilepsy has substantially
41 expanded thanks to the rapid advancement in sequencing technology. Currently, gene
42 identification from sequencing-based studies has been primarily limited to rare, monogenic forms
43 of epilepsy, particularly for a group of severe epilepsy syndromes, known as the developmental
44 and epileptic encephalopathies (DEE)⁷⁻¹¹. DEE typically begin early in life and are characterized
45 by intractable seizures and profound to mild developmental impairment. It was found that 1 in
46 2,000 infants develop severe epilepsies with onset under 18 months¹². For these severe
47 epilepsies, dozens of genes with *de novo* pathogenic variants have been identified and the
48 number continues to grow. The other major epilepsy types broadly encompass genetic
49 generalized epilepsy (GGE) and non-acquired focal epilepsy (NAFE), the former characterized
50 by seizures involving both hemispheres of the brain, the latter a localized cortical region. The
51 incidence of these groups is not well-established, but they are recognized as the more common,
52 less severe forms of epilepsy, and epidemiological studies have estimated generalized and focal
53 epilepsies each account for 20-40% of incident epilepsies¹³⁻¹⁶. Similar to DEE, there are several
54 specific electroclinical syndromes within the class of GGE and NAFE, but the genetic etiology is
55 more complex. Genetic investigations into GGE or NAFE thus far support both a role for a
56 oligogenic or polygenic component¹⁷⁻²⁰ as well as some evidence for monogenic causes for a
57 minority of patients⁵. Despite a significant heritability consistently demonstrated from twin, family,

58 and genome-wide association studies (GWAS)^{4; 19-22}, single gene discovery has remained scarce
59 for GGE and NAFE. Most genes identified to date come from monogenic families of focal
60 epilepsies, while attempts to identify risk genes for GGE have been largely unsuccessful²³⁻²⁵. For
61 most of the GGE and NAFE patients with a non-familial onset, the specific pathogenic variants
62 are not yet known, and gene findings from small-scale studies have often not been reproducible²⁶⁻
63 ²⁸.

64 Two recent whole-exome sequencing (WES) case-control studies leveraged hundreds of
65 familial cases and provided clear evidence of specific gene groups linked to the risk of GGE and
66 NAFE^{24; 25}. Specifically, the authors showed that ultra-rare genetic variation in genes associated
67 with DEE was enriched in GGE and NAFE, and that enrichment of missense variants in all genes
68 encoding GABA_A receptors was observed for the first time in GGE. These findings highlight that
69 genes commonly implicated in epilepsy can span a wider range of epilepsy phenotypes than
70 previously postulated. Studying rare genetic variation involving severe to milder electroclinical
71 syndromes of epilepsy can help to better understand the extent of phenotypic pleiotropy and
72 variable expressivity that may inform treatment strategies. On the other hand, the extensive
73 phenotypic and genetic heterogeneity of epilepsy, especially for GGE and NAFE, underscores
74 the need to enlarge the scale of such studies and beyond familial cases.

75 Here, we evaluate a WES case-control study of epilepsy from the Epi25 collaborative—
76 an ongoing global effort to collect an unprecedented number of patient cohorts for primarily the
77 three major classes of non-lesional epilepsies: DEE, GGE, and NAFE²⁹. We aimed to pinpoint the
78 distinct and overlapping genetic risk of ultra-rare coding variants across these different phenotypic
79 groups by evaluating the burden at the individual gene level and in candidate gene sets to
80 understand the role of rare genetic variation in epilepsy and identify specific epilepsy risk genes.

81 **Subjects and Methods**

82 ***Study design and participants***

83 We collected DNA and detailed phenotyping data on individuals with epilepsy from 37 sites in
84 Europe, North America, Australasia and Asia (**Supplemental Subjects and Methods; Table S1**).
85 Here we analyzed subjects with genetic generalized epilepsy (GGE, also known as idiopathic
86 generalized epilepsy; N=4,453), non-acquired focal epilepsy (NAFE; N=5,331) and
87 developmental and epileptic encephalopathies (DEE; N=1,476); and a small number of other
88 epilepsies were also included in the initiative (**Table S1**).

89 Control samples were aggregated from local collections at the Broad Institute (Cambridge,
90 MA, USA) or obtained from dbGaP, consisting of 17,669 individuals of primarily European
91 ancestry who were not ascertained for neurological or neuropsychiatric conditions (**Table S2**;
92 **Supplemental Subjects and Methods**).

93 **Phenotyping procedures**

94 Epilepsies were diagnosed on clinical grounds based on criteria given in the next paragraph (see
95 below for GGE, NAFE and DEE, respectively) by experienced epileptologists and consistent with
96 International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) classification at the time of diagnosis and
97 recruitment. De-identified (non-PHI [protected health information]) phenotyping data were entered
98 into the Epi25 Data repository hosted at the Luxembourg Centre for Systems Biomedicine via
99 detailed on-line case record forms based on the RedCAP platform. Where subjects were part of
100 previous coordinated efforts with phenotyping on databases (e.g., the Epilepsy
101 Phenome/Genome Project³⁰ and the EpiPGX project (www.epipgx.eu)), deidentified data were
102 accessed and transferred to the new platform. Phenotyping data underwent review for uniformity
103 among sites and quality control by automated data checking, followed by manual review if
104 required. Where doubt remained about eligibility, cases were reviewed by the phenotyping

105 committee and sometimes further data was requested from the source site before a decision was
106 made.

107 **Case Definitions**

108 GGE required a convincing history of generalized seizure types (generalized tonic-clonic seizures,
109 absence, or myoclonus) and generalized epileptiform discharges on EEG. We excluded cases
110 with evidence of focal seizures, or with moderate to severe intellectual disability and those with
111 an epileptogenic lesion on neuroimaging (although neuroimaging was not obligatory). If a
112 diagnostic source EEG was not available, then only cases with an archetypal clinical history as
113 judged by the phenotyping committee (e.g., morning myoclonus and generalized tonic-clonic
114 seizures for a diagnosis of Juvenile Myoclonic Epilepsy) were accepted.

115 Diagnosis of NAFE required a convincing history of focal seizures, an EEG with focal
116 epileptiform or normal findings (since routine EEGs are often normal in focal epilepsy), and
117 neuroimaging showing no epileptogenic lesion except hippocampal sclerosis (MRI was preferred
118 but CT was accepted). Exclusion criteria were a history of generalized onset seizures or moderate
119 to severe intellectual disability.

120 The DEE group comprised subjects with severe refractory epilepsy of unknown etiology
121 with developmental plateau or regression, no epileptogenic lesion on MRI, and with epileptiform
122 features on EEG. As this is the group with the largest number of gene discoveries to date, we
123 encouraged inclusion of those with non-explanatory epilepsy gene panel results, but we did not
124 exclude those without prior testing (**Table S7**).

125 **Informed Consent**

126 Adult subjects, or in the case of children, their legal guardians, provided signed informed consent
127 at the participating centers according to local national ethical requirements. Samples had been
128 collected over a 20-year period in some centers, so the consent forms reflected standards at the
129 time of collection. Samples were only accepted if the consent did not exclude data sharing. For

130 samples collected after January 25, 2015, consent forms required specific language according to
131 the NIH Genomic Data Sharing policy (<http://gds.nih.gov/03policy2.html>).

132

133 ***Whole exome sequencing data generation***

134 All samples were sequenced at the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT on the Illumina HiSeq X
135 platform, with the use of 151 bp paired-end reads. Exome capture was performed with Illumina
136 Nextera® Rapid Capture Exomes or TruSeq Rapid Exome enrichment kit (target size 38 Mb),
137 except for three control cohorts (MIGen ATVB, MIGen Ottawa, and Swedish SCZ controls) for
138 which the Agilent SureSelect Human All Exon Kit was used (target size 28.6 Mb – 33 Mb).
139 Sequence data in the form of BAM files were generated using the Picard data-processing pipeline
140 and contained well-calibrated reads aligned to the GRCh37 human genome reference. Samples
141 across projects were then jointly called via the Genome Analysis Toolkit (GATK) best practice
142 pipeline³¹ for data harmonization and variant discovery. This pipeline detected single nucleotide
143 (SNV) and small insertion/deletion (indel) variants from exome sequence data.

144

145 ***Quality control***

146 Variants were pre-filtered to keep only those passing the GATK VQSR (Variant Quality Score
147 Recalibration) metric and those lying outside of low complexity regions³². Genotypes with GQ <
148 20 and heterozygous genotype calls with allele balance > 0.8 or < 0.2 were set to missing. To
149 control for capture platform difference, we retained variants that resided in GENCODE coding
150 regions where 80% of Agilent and Illumina-sequenced samples show at least 10x coverage. This
151 resulted in the removal of ~50% of the called sites (23% of the total coding variants and 97% of
152 the total non-coding variants) but effectively reduced the call rate difference between cases and
153 controls (**Figure S1**). To further identify potential false positive sites due to technical variation, we
154 performed single variant association tests (for variants with a minor allele frequency MAF > 0.001)
155 among the controls, treating one platform as the pseudo-case group with adjustment for sex and

156 the first ten principal components (PCs), and removed variants significantly associated with
157 capture labels (p -value < 0.05). We also excluded variants with a call rate < 0.98 , case-control
158 call rate difference > 0.005 , or Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium (HWE) test p -value $< 1 \times 10^{-6}$ based
159 on the combined case and control cohort.

160 Samples were excluded if they had a low average call rate (< 0.98), low mean sequence
161 depth (< 30 ; **Figure S2**), low mean genotype quality (< 85), high freemix contamination estimate
162 (> 0.04), or high percent chimeric reads ($> 1.4\%$). We performed a series of principal component
163 analyses (PCAs) to identify ancestral backgrounds and control for population stratification,
164 keeping only individuals of European (EUR) ancestry classified by Random Forest with 1000
165 Genomes data (**Figure S3**). Within the EUR population, we removed controls not well-matched
166 with cases based on the top two PCs, and individuals with an excessive or a low count of
167 synonymous singletons—a number that increases with the North-to-South axis (**Figure S4**). We
168 also removed one sample from each pair of related individuals (proportion identity-by-descent $>$
169 0.2) and those whose genetically imputed sex was ambiguous or did not match with self-reported
170 sex. Outliers ($>4SD$ from the mean) of transition/transversion ratio, heterozygous/homozygous
171 ratio, or insertion/deletion ratio within each cohort were further discarded (**Figures S5-7**). At the
172 phenotype level, we removed individuals with epilepsy phenotype to-be-determined or marked as
173 “excluded” from further review.

174 The number of variant and sample dropouts at each step are detailed in **Tables S3** and
175 **S4**.

176

177 ***Variant annotation***

178 Annotation of variants was performed with Ensembl's Variant Effect Predictor (VEP)³³ for human
179 genome assemble GRCh37. Based on the most severe consequence, we defined four mutually
180 exclusive functional classes of variants using relevant terms and SnpEff³⁴ impact (**Table S5**):
181 protein-truncating variant (PTV), damaging missense (predicted by PolyPhen-2 and SIFT),

182 other/benign missense (predicted by PolyPhen-2 and SIFT), and synonymous. To further
183 discriminate likely deleterious missense variants from benign missense variants, we applied an *in*
184 *silico* missense deleteriousness predictor (“Missense badness, PolyPhen-2, and regional
185 Constraint”, or MPC score)³⁵ that leverages regional constraint information to annotate a subset
186 of missense variants that are highly deleterious ($MPC \geq 2$). The $MPC \geq 2$ group accounts for a
187 small proportion of the total damaging and benign missense variants annotated by PolyPhen-2
188 and SIFT. Because many of our control samples were obtained from external datasets used in
189 the Exome Aggregation Consortium (ExAC)³⁶ (**Table S2**), we used the DiscovEHR cohort—an
190 external population allele frequency reference cohort that contains 50,726 whole-exome
191 sequences from a largely European and non-diseased adult population³⁷—to annotate if a variant
192 is absent in the general population (**Figure S8**).

193

194 ***Gene-set burden analysis***

195 To estimate the excess of rare, deleterious protein-coding variants in individuals with epilepsy,
196 we conducted burden tests across the entire exome, for biologically relevant gene sets and at the
197 individual gene level. We focused on two definitions of “ultra-rare” genetic variation (URV) for the
198 primary analyses—variants not seen in the DiscovEHR database and observed only once among
199 the combined case and control test cohort (allele count $AC=1$) or absent in DiscovEHR and
200 observed no more than three times in the test cohort (allele count $AC \leq 3$)—where the strongest
201 burden of deleterious pathogenic variants have been observed previously^{24; 38} and in our study
202 compared to less stringent allele frequency thresholds (**Figure S9 & S10**). We performed these
203 case-control comparisons separately for each of the three primary epilepsy disorders (DEE, GGE,
204 NAFE) and again for all epilepsy-affected individuals combined.

205 Gene-set burden tests were implemented using logistic regression to examine the
206 enrichment of URVs in individuals with epilepsy versus controls. We performed the test by
207 regressing case-control status on certain classes of URVs aggregated across a target gene set

208 in an individual, adjusting for sex, the top ten PCs, and exome-wide variant count. This analysis
209 tested the burden of URVs separately for five functional coding annotations: synonymous, benign
210 missense predicted by PolyPhen-2 and SIFT, damaging missense predicted by PolyPhen-2 and
211 SIFT, protein-truncating variants, and missense with MPC \geq 2 (**Table S5**). To help determine
212 whether our burden model was well calibrated, we used synonymous substitutions as a negative
213 control, where significant burden effects would more likely indicate insufficient control of
214 population stratification or exome capture differences. The inclusion of overall variant count as a
215 covariate—which tracks with ancestry—made our test conservative but allows for better control
216 of residual population stratification not captured by PCs, and effectively reduces inflation of
217 signals in synonymous variants (**Figure S11**). We collected and tested eleven different gene sets,
218 including constrained genes that are intolerant to loss-of-function mutations (pLI > 0.9 and pLI >
219 0.995³⁹) or missense variation (mis-Z > 3.09³⁹), brain-enriched genes that express more than 2-
220 fold in brain tissues compared to other tissues based on Genotype-Tissue Expression Consortia
221 (GTEx) data⁴⁰, and genes reported to be associated with epilepsy in a dominant fashion^{10; 24} or
222 epilepsy-related mechanisms²⁵ (**Table S6**). Unlike the gene-based burden tests, because most
223 of the gene-set tests were not independent, we used a false discovery rate (FDR) correction for
224 multiple testing that accounted for the number of functional categories (5), gene sets (11) and
225 epilepsy phenotypes (4), totaling 220 tests, and defined a significant enrichment at FDR < 0.05.

226

227 ***Gene-based collapsing analysis***

228 For gene-based tests, we restricted to deleterious URVs annotated as either PTV,
229 missense with MPC \geq 2, or in-frame insertion/deletion. For each gene, individuals who had at least
230 one copy of these deleterious variants were counted as a carrier, and we used a two-tailed
231 Fisher's Exact test (FET) to assess if the proportion of carriers among epilepsy subgroup cases
232 was significantly higher than controls. Instead of assuming a uniform distribution for p-values
233 under the null, we generated empirical p-values by permuting case-control labels 500 times,

234 ordering the FET p-values of all genes for each permutation, and taking the average across all
235 permutations to form a rank-ordered estimate of the expected p-value distribution. This was done
236 by modifying functions in the “QQperm” R package⁴¹. To avoid potential false discoveries, we
237 defined a stringent exome-wide significance as p-value < 6.8e-07, using Bonferroni correction to
238 account for 18,509 consensus coding sequence genes tested and the four individual case-control
239 comparisons.

240 Considering that recessive pathogenic variants were implicated in a number of epilepsy-
241 associated genes, mostly identified from individuals with a DEE phenotype⁸, we conducted a
242 secondary gene-based Fisher’s exact test using a recessive model, comparing the proportion of
243 carriers that are homozygous for the minor allele between cases and controls. The recessive
244 model was assessed for PTVs, missense (MPC≥2) variants, and in-frame indels separately. For
245 this analysis, we did not restrict to non-DiscovEHR variants and relaxed the allele frequency up
246 to MAF < 0.01 to account for the sparse occurrences.

247 Additionally, to evaluate the contribution of low frequency deleterious variants to epilepsy
248 risk, we explored the gene burden of all protein-truncating and damaging missense variants for
249 those with a MAF < 0.01 using SKAT⁴², including sex and the top ten PCs as covariates in the
250 analysis. We performed the tests with the default weighting scheme (dbeta(1,25)).

251

252 ***Single variant association***

253 Associations of common and low-frequency variants (MAF > 0.001) with epilepsy were estimated
254 using logistic regression by Firth’s method, correcting for sex and the first ten PCs.

255

256 Quality control, annotation, and analysis were largely performed using Hail⁴³, an open-source
257 software for scalable genomic data analysis, in conjunction with R (version 3.4.2).

258 **Results**

259 ***Whole exome sequencing, quality control, and sample overview***

260 We performed WES on an initial dataset of over 30,000 epilepsy affected and control individuals.
261 After stringent quality control (QC), we identified a total of 9,170 individuals with epilepsy and
262 8,436 controls without reported neurological or neuropsychiatric-related conditions, all of whom
263 were unrelated individuals of European descent. Among the individuals with epilepsy, 1,021 were
264 diagnosed with DEE, 3,108 with GGE, 3,597 with NAFE, and 1,444 with other epilepsy syndromes
265 (lesional focal epilepsy, febrile seizures, and others). Cases and controls were carefully matched
266 on genetic ancestry to eliminate the possibility of false positive findings induced by population
267 stratification or effects of variable minor allele frequency resolution that occur when studying
268 individuals from differing ancestries. Due to the lack of cosmopolitan controls from non-European
269 populations, cases identified from PCA with a non-European ancestry were removed.
270 Furthermore, to ensure the distribution of rare variants was balanced between cases and
271 controls⁴⁴, we removed a subset of case and control-only cohorts (from Sweden, Finland, Cyprus,
272 and Turkey) where the mean synonymous singleton count that significantly deviated from the
273 overall average being the consequence of incomplete ancestry matching (**Figure S4**). We called
274 a total of 1,844,644 sites in 18,509 genes in the final dataset, comprising 1,811,325 SNVs and
275 33,319 indels, 48.5% of which were absent in the DiscovEHR database³⁷. Among the non-
276 DiscovEHR sites, 85% were singletons (defined as only one instance of that variant), and 99%
277 had a minor allele count (AC) not more than three (equivalent to $MAF \leq 0.01\%$; **Figure S8**); the
278 missense with $MPC \geq 2$ annotation accounted for 2.0% of the total missense variants (5.5% of the
279 damaging and 1.0% of the benign missense variants predicted by PolyPhen-2 and SIFT). In our
280 primary burden analyses, we focused on the “ultra-rare” non-DiscovEHR variants (URVs) that are
281 unique to the 17,606 individuals under study and are seen either only once ($AC=1$) or no more
282 than three times ($AC \leq 3$) in our dataset. These URVs were shown to confer the largest risk of
283 epilepsy compared to singletons observed in DiscovEHR, doubletons, or beyond (**Figure S9 &**

284 **S10**). As previously described, epilepsy enrichment signals diminished with an increase in allele
285 frequency²⁴.

286

287 ***Enrichment of ultra-rare deleterious variants in constrained genes in DEE and GGE***

288 We first tested the burden of singleton URVs for each epilepsy subgroup, as well as for all
289 epilepsy-affected individuals combined, versus controls among gene sets collected based on
290 current understanding and hypothesis of epilepsy causation. These included genes under
291 evolutionary constraint, genes highly expressed in the brain, genes previously associated with
292 epilepsy, GABA_A receptor subunit-encoding genes, genes delineating GABAergic pathways,
293 genes encoding excitatory neuronal receptors, and cation channel-encoding genes. (**Table S6**).
294 To evaluate the burden in constrained genes, we defined “loss-of-function (LoF) intolerant” genes
295 with either a pLI score³⁶ > 0.9 (3,488 genes) or separately a pLI score > 0.995 (1,583 genes) and
296 those as “missense-constrained” for genes with a missense Z-score > 3.09 (1,730 genes)³⁹.
297 Genes marked by these specific cut-offs have been shown to be extremely intolerant to loss-of-
298 function or missense variation and thus help to identify specific classes of variants with a higher
299 burden in diseased individuals^{36; 45; 46}. We used a version of the scores derived from the non-
300 neuropsychiatric subset of the Exome Aggregation Consortium (ExAC) samples. Because some
301 of our control cohorts are also in ExAC (**Table S2**), we restricted our constrained gene burden
302 tests to controls outside of the ExAC cohort (N=4,042).

303 Consistent with a recent study that evaluated *de novo* burden in autism⁴⁶, burden signals
304 of PTVs were mostly contained in genes with a pLI > 0.995 compared to pLI > 0.9 (**Figures S12**
305 **& S13**). Focusing on pLI > 0.995 in the all-epilepsy case-control analysis, both protein-truncating
306 and damaging missense (MPC³⁵≥2) URVs in LoF-intolerant genes showed a mutational burden
307 with an odds ratio of 1.3 (*adjP* = 1.6×10^{-4}) and 1.1 (*adjP* = 0.039), respectively. Breaking this
308 down by epilepsy types, there was a significant excess of these deleterious URVs among
309 individuals with DEE ($OR_{PTV} = 1.4$, *adjP*_{PTV} = 0.013; $OR_{MPC} = 1.2$, *adjP*_{MPC} = 0.019), as expected.

310 This enrichment was also seen in individuals with GGE with a magnitude comparable to that in
311 DEE ($OR_{PTV} = 1.4$, $adjP_{PTV} = 9.1 \times 10^{-5}$; $OR_{MPC} = 1.2$, $adjP_{MPC} = 5.5 \times 10^{-3}$), but was not significant
312 in individuals with NAFE ($OR_{PTV} = 1.2$, $adjP_{PTV} = 0.062$; $OR_{MPC} = 1.0$, $adjP_{MPC} = 0.37$; **Figure 1**).
313 There was no evidence of excess burden in synonymous URVs, suggesting that enrichment of
314 deleterious pathogenic variants was unlikely to be the result of un-modeled population
315 stratification or technical artifact. Among *in-silico* missense predictors, MPC \geq 2 annotations
316 consistently showed a higher burden than those predicted by PolyPhen-2 and SIFT. The burden
317 among missense-constrained genes exhibited a similar pattern, with PTVs showing a higher
318 burden in DEE than in GGE and NAFE (**Figure S14**). In addition, both large gene sets were more
319 enriched for PTVs than for damaging missense variants.

320

321 ***Burden in candidate genetic etiologies associated with epilepsy***

322 Among URVs in previously reported epilepsy genes, we found an expected and pronounced
323 difference in the number of singleton protein-truncating URVs in individuals with DEE relative to
324 controls. PTVs were associated with an increased DEE risk in 43 known dominant epilepsy
325 genes²⁴ ($OR = 6.3$, $adjP = 2.1 \times 10^{-08}$), 50 known dominant DEE genes¹⁰ ($OR = 9.1$, $adjP = 7.8 \times 10^{-$
326 ¹¹), and 33 genes with *de novo* burden in neurodevelopmental disorders with epilepsy¹⁰ ($OR =$
327 14.8 , $adjP = 1.7 \times 10^{-12}$). Evidence for an excess of ultra-rare PTVs was also observed in individuals
328 with GGE, with an odds ratio ranging from 2 to 4. No enrichment of PTVs was observed among
329 people with NAFE (**Figure 2A; Table S9**). In contrast, the burden of singleton missense (MPC \geq 2)
330 URVs was more pervasive across epilepsy types. Compared to controls, there was a 3.6-fold
331 higher rate of these missense URVs in established epilepsy genes in individuals with DEE ($adjP$
332 $= 1.6 \times 10^{-10}$), a 2.3-fold elevation in individuals with GGE ($adjP = 6.4 \times 10^{-07}$), and a 1.9-fold
333 elevation in individuals with NAFE ($adjP = 2.8 \times 10^{-4}$).

334

335 ***Burden in genes encoding for cation channels and neurotransmitter receptors***

336 Among brain-enriched genes—those defined as genes with at least a 2-fold increase in
337 expression in brain tissues relative to their average expression across tissues based on GTEx
338 data⁴⁰—both protein-truncating and damaging missense (MPC \geq 2) URVs were significantly
339 enriched in epilepsy cases versus controls, and the missense burden was much higher than the
340 PTV burden (**Figure S15**). We then investigated the burden in four smaller gene sets previously
341 implicated as mechanisms driving the etiology of epilepsy; these included 19 genes encoding
342 GABA_A receptor subunits, 113 genes involved in GABAergic pathways, 34 genes encoding
343 excitatory receptors (ionotropic glutamate receptor subunits and nicotinic acetylcholine receptor
344 subunits), and 86 voltage-gated cation channel genes (e.g., sodium, potassium, calcium—full list
345 in **Table S6**)²⁵. We discovered that, relative to damaging missense variants, the distribution of
346 PTVs in most of these gene sets did not differ significantly between epilepsy cases and controls
347 (**Figure 2A; Table 1**). The PTV signals that remained significant after FDR correction included,
348 for individuals with DEE, an increased burden in GABAergic pathway genes and voltage-gated
349 cation channels, and noticeably, for individuals with GGE, an increased burden in the inhibitory
350 GABA_A receptors ($OR = 4.8$, $adjP = 0.021$). No PTV burden was detected for individuals with
351 NAFE. In contrast, the enrichment of missense (MPC \geq 2) URVs was more extensive in these gene
352 sets across all epilepsy-control comparisons (**Figure 2A; Table 1**). The burden of these damaging
353 missense pathogenic variants was seen in GABA_A receptor genes ($OR_{DEE} = 3.7$, $adjP_{DEE} = 0.028$;
354 $OR_{GGE} = 3.8$, $adjP_{GGE} = 1.4 \times 10^{-3}$; $OR_{NAFE} = 2.7$, $adjP_{NAFE} = 0.039$), GABAergic pathway genes
355 ($OR_{DEE} = 2.6$, $adjP_{DEE} = 4.7 \times 10^{-5}$; $OR_{GGE} = 1.9$, $adjP_{GGE} = 9.9 \times 10^{-04}$; $OR_{NAFE} = 1.4$, $adjP_{NAFE} =$
356 0.11), and voltage-gated cation channel genes ($OR_{DEE} = 2.1$, $adjP_{DEE} = 1.7 \times 10^{-03}$; $OR_{GGE} = 1.5$,
357 $adjP_{GGE} = 0.023$; $OR_{NAFE} = 1.4$, $adjP_{NAFE} = 0.081$). However, no enrichment was detected in genes
358 encoding excitatory receptors. For individuals with NAFE, the burden signals were consistently
359 the weakest across gene sets compared to the other epilepsy phenotypes. None of the gene sets
360 was enriched for putatively neutral variation, except for a slightly elevated synonymous burden in
361 GABA_A receptor genes (**Table S9**). These results support a recent finding where rare missense

362 variation in GABA_A receptor genes conferred a significant risk to GGE²⁵, and together implicate
363 the relative importance and involvement of damaging missense variants in abnormal inhibitory
364 neurotransmission in both severe and less severe forms of epilepsy.

365 For gene sets other than the three lists of previously associated genes (**Table S6**; 74 non-
366 overlapping genes in total), we evaluated the residual burden of URVs after correcting for events
367 in the 74 known genes. For the gene sets of cation channel and neurotransmitter receptor genes,
368 the adjusted burden signals of singleton deleterious URVs was largely reduced, with some weak
369 associations remaining in GABA_A receptor-encoding or GABAergic genes among individuals with
370 DEE or GGE. For the larger gene groups of constrained genes and brain-enriched genes, burden
371 signals were attenuated but many remained significant, especially the strong enrichment of
372 missense MPC \geq 2 variants in brain-enriched genes across all three classes of epilepsy (**Figure**
373 **S16**). These findings suggest that although most gene burden is driven by previously identified
374 genes, more associations could be uncovered with larger sample sizes.

375

376 ***Gene-based collapsing analysis recapture known genes for DEE***

377 For gene discovery, because both protein-truncating and damaging missense (MPC \geq 2) URVs
378 showed an elevated burden in epilepsy cases, we aggregated both together as deleterious
379 pathogenic variants along with in-frame insertions and deletions in our gene collapsing analysis.
380 This amassed to a total of 46,917 singleton URVs and 52,416 URVs with AC \leq 3. Surprisingly,
381 for individuals diagnosed with DEE, we re-identified several of the established candidate DEE
382 genes as top associations (**Figure 3A**). Although screening was not performed systematically,
383 many DEE patients were screened-negative using clinical gene panels prior to enrollment (**Table**
384 **S7**). Based on the results of singleton URVs, *SCN1A* was the only gene that reached exome-
385 wide significance ($OR = 18.4$, $P = 5.8 \times 10^{-8}$); other top-ranking known genes included *NEXMIF*
386 (previously known as *KIAA2022*; $OR > 99$, $P = 1.6 \times 10^{-6}$), *KCNB1* ($OR = 20.8$, $P = 2.5 \times 10^{-4}$),
387 *SCN8A* ($OR = 13.8$, $P = 6.1 \times 10^{-4}$), and *SLC6A1* ($OR = 11.1$, $P = 3.6 \times 10^{-3}$) (**Table S11**). Some

388 carriers of deleterious URVs in lead genes were affected individuals with a normal result for gene
389 panel testing, such as 2 out of the 3 carriers of qualifying URVs for *PURA* and 2 out of 5 for
390 *KCNB1* (**Table S7**). This is primarily because gene panels ordered for a particular diagnosis
391 usually do not screen all of the commonly implicated DEE genes (e.g., one of the carriers of
392 qualifying URVs in *KCNB1* was diagnosed with West syndrome and screened with a customized
393 panel that did not include *KCNB1*). Overall, more than 50 different gene panels were used across
394 sample-contributing sites, which adds to the heterogeneity in screening procedures and
395 interpretation. The gene burden results held up when considering URVs with $AC \leq 3$, often showing
396 even stronger associations; two other well-studied genes, *STXBP1* ($OR = 13.3$, $P = 1.4 \times 10^{-5}$) and
397 *WDR45* ($OR > 49$, $P = 1.2 \times 10^{-3}$), emerged on top, both of which have been implicated in DEE
398 and developmental disorders (**Table S12**).

399

400 ***Channel and transporter genes implicated in GGE and NAFE***

401 When evaluating gene burden in the GGE and NAFE epilepsy subgroups, we did not identify any
402 exome-wide significant genes. However, several candidate epilepsy genes made up the lead
403 associations, including ion channel and transporter genes, mutations of which are known to cause
404 rare forms of epilepsy. For the GGE case-control analysis in singleton deleterious URVs, the lead
405 associations included four previously-associated genes (*EEF1A2*, $OR = 32$, $P = 3.8 \times 10^{-4}$;
406 *GABRG2*, $OR = 19.0$, $P = 6.2 \times 10^{-4}$; *SLC6A1*, $OR = 7.3$, $P = 2.0 \times 10^{-3}$; and *GABRA1*, $OR = 9.5$, P
407 $= 2.2 \times 10^{-3}$), and two genes (*CACNA1G*, $OR = 9.1$, $P = 2.5 \times 10^{-4}$; *UNC79*, $OR = 19.0$, $P = 6.2 \times 10^{-$
408 4) that were not previously linked to epilepsy but are both highly expressed in the brain and under
409 evolutionary constraint (**Figures 3B; Table S13**). Although evidence has been mixed, *CACNA1G*
410 was previously implicated as a potential susceptibility gene for GGE in mutational analysis⁴⁷ and
411 reported to modify mutated sodium channel (*SCN2A*) activity in epilepsy⁴⁸. *UNC79* is an essential
412 part of the *UNC79-UNC80-NALCN* channel complex that influences neuronal excitability by
413 interacting with extracellular calcium ions⁴⁹, and this channel complex has been previously

414 associated with infantile encephalopathy⁵⁰. Notably, all these lead genes were more enriched for
415 damaging missense (MPC \geq 2) than for protein-truncating URVs despite the lower rate of MPC \geq 2
416 variants relative to PTVs (**Table S13**).

417 For individuals with NAFE, the analysis of singleton deleterious URVs identified *LG11* and
418 *TRIM3* as the top two genes carrying a disproportionate number of deleterious URVs, however
419 neither reached exome-wide significance ($OR > 32$, $P = 2.1 \times 10^{-4}$). *GABRG2*, a lead association
420 in individuals with GGE, was among the top ten most enriched genes, along with two brain-
421 enriched, constrained genes (*PPFIA3*, $OR = 8.2$, $P = 4.2 \times 10^{-3}$; and *KCNJ3*, $OR = 16.4$, $P =$
422 1.2×10^{-3}). *GABRG2* has previously been reported to show an enrichment of variants compared
423 to controls in a cohort of individuals with Rolandic epilepsy (childhood epilepsy with
424 centrotemporal spikes) or related phenotypes, the most common group of focal epilepsies of
425 childhood⁵¹. Two other genes previously associated with epilepsy, *DEPDC5* and *SCN8A* (both
426 $OR = 5.5$, $P = 0.01$), were among the top twenty associations (**Figures 3C; Table S14**). *LG11* and
427 *DEPDC5* are established genes for focal epilepsy, and *DEPDC5* was the only exome-wide
428 significant hit in the Epi4K WES study for familial NAFE cases²⁴. *TRIM3* has not been previously
429 implicated in epilepsy, but evidence from a mouse model study implicates it in regulation of
430 GABA_A receptor signaling and thus modulation of seizure susceptibility⁵². Single gene burden for
431 both GGE and NAFE remained similar when considering URVs with an allele count up to $AC \leq 3$
432 (**Tables S14 & S16**). Gene burden tests collapsing all epilepsy phenotypes recapitulated the lead
433 genes in each of the subgroup-specific analyses, but none of the genes achieved exome-wide
434 significance (**Tables S17 & S18**). It is worth noting that some of the genes were enriched for
435 deleterious URVs among the “controls”, which is clearly driven by non-neuropsychiatric disease
436 ascertainment for many of the available controls (e.g., *LDLR* in **Table S17**; most control carriers
437 were individuals with cardiovascular diseases from the MIGen cohorts in **Table S2**). Thus, these
438 should not be interpreted as potential protective signals for epilepsy.

439

440 ***Recessive model, SKAT gene test, and single variant association***

441 The secondary gene-based test of a recessive model did not identify genes that differed
442 significantly in the carrier rate of homozygous deleterious variants between epilepsy-affected
443 individuals and controls (**Table S19**). Even if we considered variants up to $MAF < 0.01$, for most
444 of the lead genes, only one case carrier was identified. For the DEE cohort, these genes included
445 recessive genes previously implicated, such as *ARV1*, *BRAT1*, *CHRD1*⁵³ with a homozygous PTV
446 and *OPHN1*⁵³ with a recessive missense ($MPC \geq 2$) variant (**Table S19A**). For the GGE and NAFE
447 cohorts, a few studied recessive epilepsy genes were also observed in the lead gene associations,
448 such as *SLC6A8*⁵³ (a homozygous PTV) for GGE (**Table S19B**), and *SLC6A8* (a homozygous
449 missense-MPC) and *SYN1*⁵³ (a homozygous PTV) for NAFE (**Table S19C**). One GGE-affected
450 individual was found homozygous for an in-frame deletion on *CHD2*, a dominant DEE gene⁵³
451 (**Table S19B**). These findings suggest an even larger cohort will be needed to identify with clarity
452 recessive risk variants for different groups of epilepsy.

453 Beyond URVs, we studied the contribution of low frequency deleterious variants to
454 epilepsy risk using SKAT ($MAF < 0.01$). Top associations for individuals with DEE included known
455 genes, such as missense-enriched *STXBP1* ($P = 9.3 \times 10^{-9}$), *KCNA2* ($P = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$; **Figure S18**),
456 and PTV-enriched *NEXMIF* ($P = 7.1 \times 10^{-8}$), and *SCN1A* ($P = 3.9 \times 10^{-4}$; **Figure S19**). However, no
457 significant gene enrichment was observed for GGE and NAFE or when combining all epilepsy
458 cases. The tests for PTVs and missense variants with $MPC \geq 2$ were mostly underpowered due to
459 sparse observations (**Figure S18 & S19**). No individual low-frequency variant ($MAF > 0.001$) was
460 significantly associated with overall epilepsy or with any of the studied epilepsy phenotypes
461 (**Figure S20**). The primary gene-based test results and single variant associations are available
462 on our Epi25 WES browser (**Web Resources**).

463 **Discussion**

464 In the largest exome study of epilepsies to date, we show that ultra-rare deleterious coding
465 variation—variation absent in a large population-based exome database—is enriched across the
466 severity spectrum for epilepsy syndromes when compared to ancestrally matched controls. When
467 all genes were considered in the tested gene sets, PTVs showed a more significant signal than
468 missense variants with an MPC \geq 2, and enrichment in deleterious URVs was more pronounced in
469 individuals diagnosed with DEE and GGE relative to NAFE. While no single gene surpassed
470 exome-wide statistical significance for GGE or NAFE, specific gene sets that had previously been
471 associated with epilepsy or encoding biologically interesting entities showed a clear enrichment
472 of deleterious URVs. Specifically, we observed a significant excess of deleterious URVs in
473 constrained genes, established epilepsy genes, and GABA_A receptor subunit genes, a larger
474 group of genes delineating the GABAergic pathway, and also all cation channel-encoding genes.
475 Our results thus support the concept that defects in GABAergic inhibition underlie various forms
476 of epilepsy. The epilepsy-associated excess of deleterious URVs in our study likely comprises
477 signals from both inherited and *de novo* variants, the latter enriched by restricting variant inclusion
478 to a combination of study-specific singletons and absence in a population reference cohort
479 (DiscovEHR)^{38; 45}. These findings, based on a more than 5-fold increase in sample size over
480 previous exome-sequencing studies^{24-26; 54}, clearly support observations that have been
481 hypothesized for GGE and NAFE from studies of rare, large monogenic families, and confirm that
482 the same genes are relevant in both settings. Thus, a further increase in sample size will continue
483 to unravel the complex genetic architecture of GGE and NAFE. The evidence that URVs
484 contribute, in part, to GGE and NAFE is clear, but what remains unclear is the extent to which the
485 excess rate of URVs observed in cases is a consequence of a small subset of patients carrying
486 highly penetrant mutations versus URVs that are conferring risk, but do not rise to the level of
487 Mendelian acting mutations but rather simply contribute to an overall polygenic risk for these
488 syndromes. Interestingly, no enrichment was seen in genes encoding the excitatory glutamate

489 and acetylcholine receptors. For GGE, this difference between variants in inhibitory versus
490 excitatory receptor genes may be real, as excitatory receptor variants have not been shown so
491 far in single subjects or families. In NAFE, however, we suspect it is probably due to a lack of
492 power and/or genetic heterogeneity, since genetic variants in specific subunits of nicotinic
493 acetylcholine and NMDA receptors have been described extensively in different types of non-
494 acquired familial focal epilepsies⁵⁵.

495 Notably, our overall finding of a mild to moderate burden of deleterious coding URVs in
496 NAFE (**Figure 1 & 2**) contrasts with results reported in the Epi4K WES study, where the familial
497 NAFE cohort showed a strong enrichment signal of ultra-rare functional variation in known
498 epilepsy genes and ion channel genes²⁴. In addition, our findings for GGE showed a genetic risk
499 comparable or even stronger than the Epi4K familial GGE cohort. The strong signal in our GGE
500 cohort likely reflects the larger sample size, whereas the weaker signal in our NAFE cohort is
501 most likely due to differences in patient ascertainment. In Epi4K the cohort was deliberately
502 enriched with familial cases, most of whom had an affected first-degree relative and were
503 ascertained in sibling or parent-child pairs or multiplex families, and familial NAFE is relatively
504 uncommon. In the Epi25 collaboration a positive family history of epilepsy was not a requirement
505 and only 9% of DEE, 12% of GGE, and 5% of NAFE patients had a known affected first-degree
506 relative. Removing these familial cases led to no change in gene set burden (**Figure S17**) and a
507 slightly attenuated association for some of the lead genes in the GGE and NAFE cohorts (**Table**
508 **S20**). Indeed, our results were consistent with the Epi4K sporadic NAFE cohort, where no signals
509 of enrichment were observed^{24; 56}. This difference may reflect the substantial etiological and
510 genetic heterogeneity of epilepsy even within subgroups especially in NAFE. In particular, the
511 dramatically weaker genetic signals, per sample, observed in individuals with NAFE studied here
512 compared with those in the previous Epi4K study illustrate a pronounced difference in the genetic
513 signals associated with familial and non-familial NAFE. The reasons for this striking difference
514 remain to be elucidated. Comparing GGE and NAFE, our findings showed a larger genetic burden

515 from URVs for GGE relative to NAFE, which could be due to heterogeneity in electroclinical
516 syndromes within each class and should not be viewed as conclusive. On the other hand, in the
517 latest GWAS of common epilepsies of 15,212 cases and 29,677 controls from the ILAE
518 Consortium²⁰, fewer GWAS hits were discovered and less heritability was explained by common
519 genetic variation for the focal epilepsy cohort (9.2%) compared to the GGE cohort (32.1%),
520 suggesting that current evidence from both common and rare variant studies are converging on
521 a larger genetic component underlying the etiology of non-familial cases of GGE relative to NAFE,
522 as originally postulated.

523 We found that ultra-rare missense variants with an MPC score³⁵ ≥ 2 (2.0% of missense
524 variants) were enriched in individuals with epilepsy at an effect size approaching PTVs in the
525 investigated gene groups. For GGE and NAFE, the burden of these missense variants (MPC ≥ 2)
526 was even more prominent than PTVs in known epilepsy genes and GABAergic genes (**Figure 2**).
527 At the gene level, some of the most commonly implicated channel genes (e.g. *GABRG2*,
528 *CACNA1G*) carried a higher number of missense variants (MPC ≥ 2) than PTVs in people with
529 epilepsy. For instance, in the gene-based collapsing analysis considering all epilepsies, 15
530 *GABRG2* pathogenic variants were found in epilepsy-affected individuals (including 7 GGE and
531 7 NAFE; **Tables S13, 15 & 17**) versus only 1 pathogenic variant in controls; among the case-
532 specific pathogenic variants, one was a splice site mutation, while the other 14 were all missense
533 variants (MPC ≥ 2) (**Figure S21**), linking to an impaired channel function. This is in line with findings
534 from a recent exome-wide study of 6,753 individuals with neurodevelopmental disorder with and
535 without epilepsy¹⁰ that detected an association of missense *de novo* variants with the presence
536 of epilepsy, particularly when considering only ion channel genes. A disease-association of
537 missense variants rather than PTVs points to a pathophysiological mechanism of protein-
538 alteration (e.g., gain-of-function or dominant-negative effects) rather than haploinsufficiency, but
539 ultimately only functional tests can elucidate these mechanisms. A recent study on the molecular
540 basis of 6 *de novo* missense variants in *GABRG2* identified in DEE reported an overall reduced

541 inhibitory function of *GABRG2* due to decreased cell surface expression or GABA-evoked current
542 amplitudes, suggesting GABAergic disinhibition as the underlying mechanism⁵⁷. Surprisingly, 2
543 of those recurrent *de novo* missense variants were seen in two GGE-affected individuals in our
544 study (A106T and R323Q), and another recently reported variant in *GABRB2* (V316I) also
545 occurred both *de novo* in DEE⁵⁸ and as an inherited variant in a GGE family showing a loss of
546 receptor function²⁵. This suggests that changes in protein function from the same missense
547 pathogenic variant may contribute to not only severe epilepsy syndromes but also epilepsy
548 phenotypes with milder presentations, similar to what is known about variable expressivity in large
549 families carrying *GABRG2* variants^{55; 59-61}. Reduced receptor function due to *GABRG2* variants
550 has been also shown for childhood epilepsy with centrotemporal spikes previously^{51; 61}, which
551 belong to the NAFE group in this study. Moving forward, discovering how variant-specific
552 perturbations of the neurotransmission and signaling system in a gene can link to a spectrum of
553 epilepsy syndromes will require in-depth functional investigation.

554 Although we have increased the sample size from the Epi4K and EuroEPINOMICS WES
555 studies for both GGE and NAFE subgroups by more than 5-fold, the phenotypic and genetic
556 heterogeneity of these less severe forms of epilepsy—on par with other complex neurological and
557 neuropsychiatric conditions—will require many more samples to achieve statistical power for
558 identifying exome-wide significant genes. We estimated that at least 8,000 cases and 20,000
559 controls would be required to convert some of the lead genes from the GGE and NAFE cohorts
560 to exome-wide significance (**Table S8**). Furthermore, while we implemented stringent QC to
561 effectively control for the exome capture differences between cases and controls, this
562 concomitantly resulted in a loss of a substantial amount of the called sites and reduced our
563 detection power to identify associated variants. As sample sizes grow, the technical variation
564 across projects and sample collections will remain a challenge in large-scale sequencing studies
565 relying on a global collaborative effort.

566 With this largest epilepsy WES study to date, we demonstrated a strong replicability of
567 existing gene findings in an independent cohort. GABA_A receptor genes affected by predicted-
568 pathogenic missense pathogenic variants were enriched across the three subgroups of epilepsy.
569 An ongoing debate in epilepsy genetics is the degree to which generalized and focal epilepsies
570 segregate separately, and whether their genetic determinants are largely distinct or sometimes
571 shared^{4; 22}. Whilst clinical evidence for general separation of pathophysiological mechanisms in
572 these two forms is strong, and most monogenic epilepsy families segregate either generalized or
573 focal syndromes, the distinction is not absolute. Here, the finding of rare variants in GABA_A
574 receptor genes in both forms adds weight to the case for shared genetic determinants.

575 Our results suggest that clinical presentations of GGE and NAFE with complex inheritance
576 patterns have a combination of both common and rare genetic risk variants. The latest ILAE
577 epilepsy GWAS of over 15,000 patients and 25,000 controls identified 16 genome-wide significant
578 loci for common epilepsies²⁰, mapped these loci to ion channel genes, transcriptional factors, and
579 pyridoxine metabolism, and implicated a role in epigenetic regulation of gene expression in the
580 brain. A combination of rare and common genetic association studies with large sample sizes,
581 along with the growing evidence from studies of copy number variation and tandem repeat
582 expansions in epilepsy^{23; 62; 63}, will further decipher the genetic landscape of GGE and NAFE. The
583 ongoing effort of the Epi25 collaborative is expected to double the patient cohorts in upcoming
584 years with the goal of elucidating shared and distinct gene discoveries for severe and less severe
585 forms of epilepsy, ultimately facilitating precision medicine strategies in the treatment of epilepsy.

586 **Supplemental Data**

587 Supplemental data includes affiliations of the contributing authors, descriptions of patient
588 recruitment and phenotyping from individual participating cohorts, supplemental acknowledgment,
589 21 figures and 20 tables.

590

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674

675 **Web Resources**

676 The URLs for the consortium, data, and results presented herein are as follows:

677 Epi25 Collaborative, <http://epi-25.org/>

678 Exome Aggregation Consortium (ExAC), <http://exac.broadinstitute.org>

679 The DiscovEHR cohort, <http://www.discovershare.com>

680 Epi25 Year1 whole-exome sequence data on dbGaP, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gap> through
681 accession number phs001489 (the current study includes Year1-2 samples, and the Year2 data
682 will later be made available)

683 Epi25 WES results browser, <http://epi25.broadinstitute.org/>

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- 868

869 **Figure titles and legends**

870 **Figure 1. Burden of ultra-rare singletons in LoF-intolerant genes (pLI > 0.995)**

871 This analysis was restricted to 4,042 non-ExAC controls for comparison with epilepsy cases. We
872 focused on “ultra-rare” variants not observed in the DiscovEHR database. Significance of
873 association was displayed in FDR-adjusted p-values; odds ratios and 95% CIs were not
874 multiplicity adjusted. The five functional coding annotations were defined as described in **Table**
875 **S5**. PTV denotes protein-truncating variants; the “damaging missense” and “benign missense”
876 categories were predicted by PolyPhen-2 and SIFT, while “damaging missense-MPC” was a
877 group of missense variants with a missense badness score (MPC) ≥ 2 . From top to bottom are
878 the results based on all-epilepsy, DEE, GGE, and NAFE. Epilepsy cases, except for individuals
879 with NAFE, carried a significant excess of ultra-rare PTV and damaging missense (MPC ≥ 2)
880 variants compared to controls (FDR < 0.05). PTV burden was higher than missense (MPC ≥ 2)
881 burden across epilepsy types.

882

883 **Figure 2. Burden of ultra-rare singletons annotated as (A) protein-truncating variants or (B)**
884 **damaging missense (MPC ≥ 2) variants**

885 “Ultra-rare” variants (URVs) were defined as not observed in the DiscovEHR database. Gene sets
886 were defined in **Table S6**, with the number of genes specified in the parenthesis. DEE stands for
887 individuals with developmental and epileptic encephalopathies, GGE for genetic generalized
888 epilepsy, NAFE for non-acquired focal epilepsy, and EPI for all epilepsy; NDD-EPI genes are
889 genes with *de novo* burden in neurodevelopmental disorders with epilepsy. Star signs indicate
890 significance after FDR control (“*”: FDR-adjusted p-value < 0.05; “***”: adjusted p-value < 1×10^{-3} ;
891 “****”: adjusted p-value < 1×10^{-5}). PTVs were enriched in candidate epilepsy genes for individuals
892 with DEE relative to other epilepsy subgroups, but did not show a strong signal in inhibitory,
893 excitatory receptors or voltage-gated cation channel genes. The burden of damaging missense
894 (MPC ≥ 2) variants, on the other hand, was stronger across these gene sets compared to PTVs,

895 especially for GABA_A receptor genes and genes involved in GABAergic pathways. Relative to
896 other epilepsy types, individuals with NAFE consistently showed the least burden of deleterious
897 URVs. No enrichment was observed from excitatory receptors.

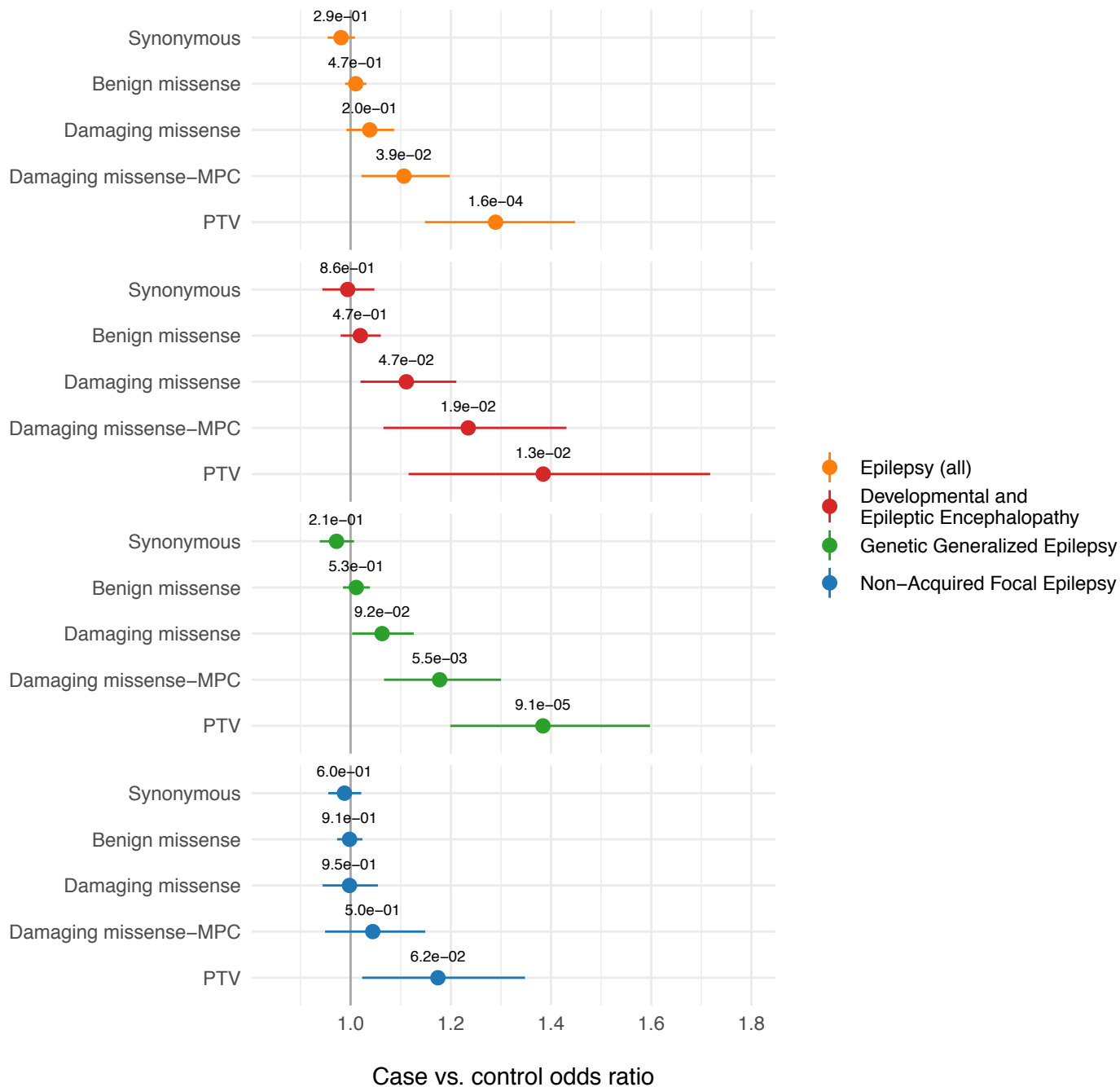
898

899 **Figure 3. Gene burden for individuals diagnosed with (A) developmental and epileptic**
900 **encephalopathies, (B) genetic generalized epilepsy, or (C) non-acquired focal epilepsy**

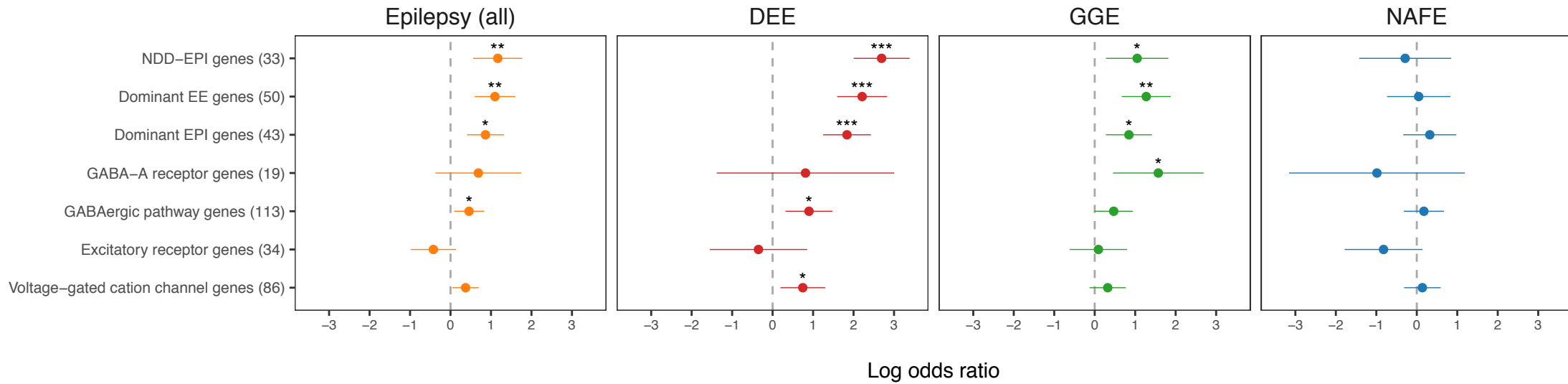
901 This analysis focused on ultra-rare (non-DiscovEHR) singleton variants annotated as PTV,
902 damaging missense (MPC \geq 2), or in-frame insertion/deletion and used Fisher's exact test to
903 identify genes with a differential carrier rate of these ultra-rare deleterious variants in individuals
904 with epilepsy compared to controls. Exome-wide significance was defined as p-value < 6.8e-07
905 after Bonferroni correction (Methods). Only *SCN1A* achieved exome-wide significance for
906 individuals with DEE.

Table 1. Enrichment of ultra-rare protein-truncating or damaging missense (MPC \geq 2) singletons in epilepsy
This analysis compared the burden of deleterious pathogenic variants between cases and controls using logistic regression, adjusting for sex, the first ten principal components, and overall variant count. FDR correction was based on a full list of burden tests in **Table S9**. Tested epilepsy types included all epilepsies (**EPI**; N=9,170), developmental and epileptic encephalopathies (**DEE**; N=1,021), genetic generalized epilepsy (**GGE**; N=3,108), and non-acquired focal epilepsy (**NAFE**; N=3,597). All were compared against 8,436 control samples. **Figure 2** shows the enrichment pattern of PTVs and MPC \geq 2 variants across the seven gene sets listed here.

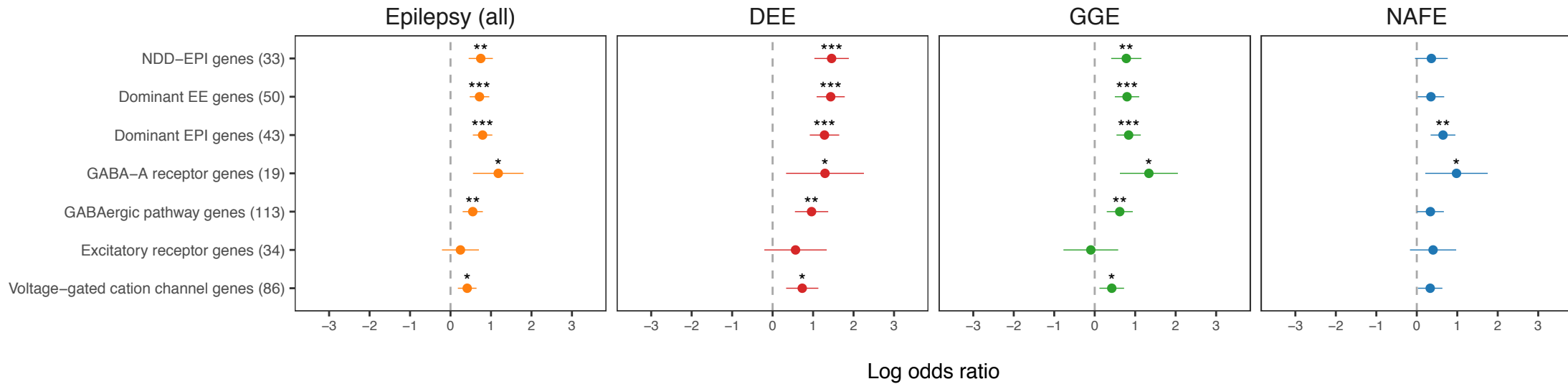
Gene set (# genes)	Mutation (# variants)	Epilepsy type	Carriers (N)		OR	95%CI	P-value	FDR adj. P
			cases	controls				
Known epilepsy genes (43)	PTV (95)	EPI	67	27	2.37	(1.50-3.74)	2.0e-04	1.2e-03
		DEE	24	27	6.28	(3.48-11.3)	1.0e-09	2.1e-08
		GGE	22	27	2.33	(1.32-4.11)	3.6e-03	1.4e-02
	MPC \geq 2 (335)	NAFE	15	27	1.38	(0.72-2.66)	3.4e-01	4.7e-01
		EPI	235	98	2.21	(1.74-2.81)	1.1e-10	2.8e-09
		DEE	47	98	3.60	(2.50-5.19)	5.0e-12	1.6e-10
		GGE	85	98	2.31	(1.71-3.12)	4.4e-08	6.4e-07
Known DEE genes (50)	PTV (89)	NAFE	80	98	1.91	(1.41-2.60)	3.3e-05	2.8e-04
		EPI	68	21	3.00	(1.82-4.95)	1.8e-05	1.6e-04
		DEE	27	21	9.13	(4.93-16.9)	2.1e-12	7.8e-11
	MPC \geq 2 (327)	GGE	25	21	3.57	(1.95-6.54)	3.7e-05	3.0e-04
		NAFE	10	21	1.05	(0.48-2.29)	9.1e-01	9.3e-01
		EPI	224	101	2.05	(1.61-2.60)	6.5e-09	1.2e-07
		DEE	54	101	4.20	(2.97-5.95)	6.0e-16	1.3e-13
Neuro- developmental disorders with epilepsy (33)	PTV (63)	GGE	85	101	2.22	(1.64-3.00)	2.0e-07	2.6e-06
		NAFE	63	101	1.42	(1.02-1.97)	3.7e-02	8.8e-02
		EPI	49	14	3.22	(1.75-5.90)	1.6e-04	9.9e-04
	MPC \geq 2 (215)	DEE	29	14	14.77	(7.4-29.49)	2.3e-14	1.7e-12
		GGE	14	14	2.86	(1.32-6.17)	7.7e-03	2.7e-02
		NAFE	4	14	0.75	(0.24-2.34)	6.2e-01	7.2e-01
		EPI	149	65	2.11	(1.57-2.84)	9.4e-07	1.1e-05
GABA-A receptors (19)	PTV (17)	DEE	36	65	4.30	(2.81-6.57)	1.8e-11	5.1e-10
		GGE	54	65	2.18	(1.50-3.17)	4.2e-05	3.2e-04
		NAFE	41	65	1.43	(0.96-2.15)	8.0e-02	1.6e-01
	MPC \geq 2 (62)	EPI	12	5	1.99	(0.69-5.74)	2.0e-01	3.2e-01
		DEE	1	5	2.25	(0.25-20.2)	4.7e-01	6.0e-01
		GGE	9	5	4.81	(1.57-14.7)	5.9e-03	2.1e-02
		NAFE	1	5	0.37	(0.04-3.27)	3.7e-01	5.0e-01
GABAergic pathway (113)	PTV (127)	EPI	49	13	3.25	(1.74-6.07)	2.1e-04	1.2e-03
		DEE	7	13	3.65	(1.39-9.54)	8.3e-03	2.8e-02
		GGE	21	13	3.81	(1.86-7.81)	2.5e-04	1.4e-03
	MPC \geq 2 (287)	NAFE	15	13	2.67	(1.23-5.77)	1.3e-02	3.9e-02
		EPI	81	44	1.58	(1.10-2.28)	1.4e-02	4.4e-02
		DEE	16	44	2.46	(1.37-4.39)	2.4e-03	1.0e-02
		GGE	28	44	1.60	(0.99-2.57)	5.3e-02	1.1e-01
Excitatory receptors (34)	PTV (54)	NAFE	24	44	1.19	(0.73-1.95)	4.9e-01	6.1e-01
		EPI	185	101	1.73	(1.35-2.22)	1.6e-05	1.6e-04
		DEE	34	101	2.62	(1.74-3.95)	4.5e-06	4.7e-05
	MPC \geq 2 (80)	GGE	68	101	1.86	(1.35-2.56)	1.6e-04	9.9e-04
		NAFE	58	101	1.40	(1.00-1.95)	4.7e-02	1.1e-01
		EPI	22	32	0.66	(0.37-1.15)	1.4e-01	2.5e-01
		DEE	3	32	0.71	(0.21-2.35)	5.7e-01	6.7e-01
Voltage-gated cation channels (86)	PTV (163)	GGE	11	32	1.10	(0.54-2.23)	8.0e-01	8.4e-01
		NAFE	5	32	0.44	(0.17-1.15)	9.5e-02	1.8e-01
		EPI	47	33	1.28	(0.81-2.02)	2.9e-01	4.3e-01
	MPC \geq 2 (329)	DEE	9	33	1.76	(0.81-3.81)	1.5e-01	2.6e-01
		GGE	12	33	0.91	(0.46-1.79)	7.8e-01	8.3e-01
		NAFE	20	33	1.50	(0.84-2.65)	1.7e-01	2.8e-01
		EPI	100	63	1.45	(1.05-2.01)	2.5e-02	7.0e-02
Voltage-gated cation channels (86)	PTV (163)	DEE	18	63	2.11	(1.21-3.66)	8.2e-03	2.8e-02
		GGE	31	63	1.38	(0.88-2.16)	1.6e-01	2.7e-01
		NAFE	30	63	1.15	(0.73-1.81)	5.5e-01	6.7e-01
	MPC \geq 2 (329)	EPI	206	121	1.51	(1.20-1.90)	4.7e-04	2.4e-03
		DEE	34	121	2.08	(1.40-3.10)	3.1e-04	1.7e-03
		GGE	73	121	1.52	(1.12-2.07)	6.6e-03	2.3e-02
		NAFE	74	121	1.39	(1.03-1.88)	3.1e-02	8.1e-02



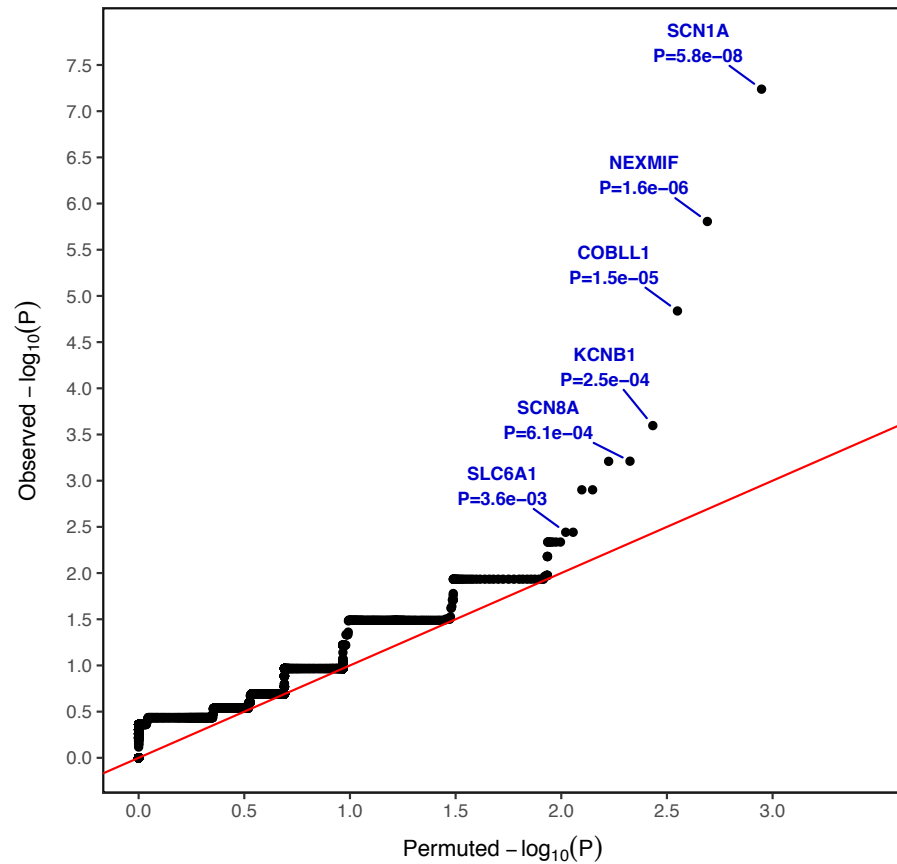
(A) Burden of ultra-rare PTVs



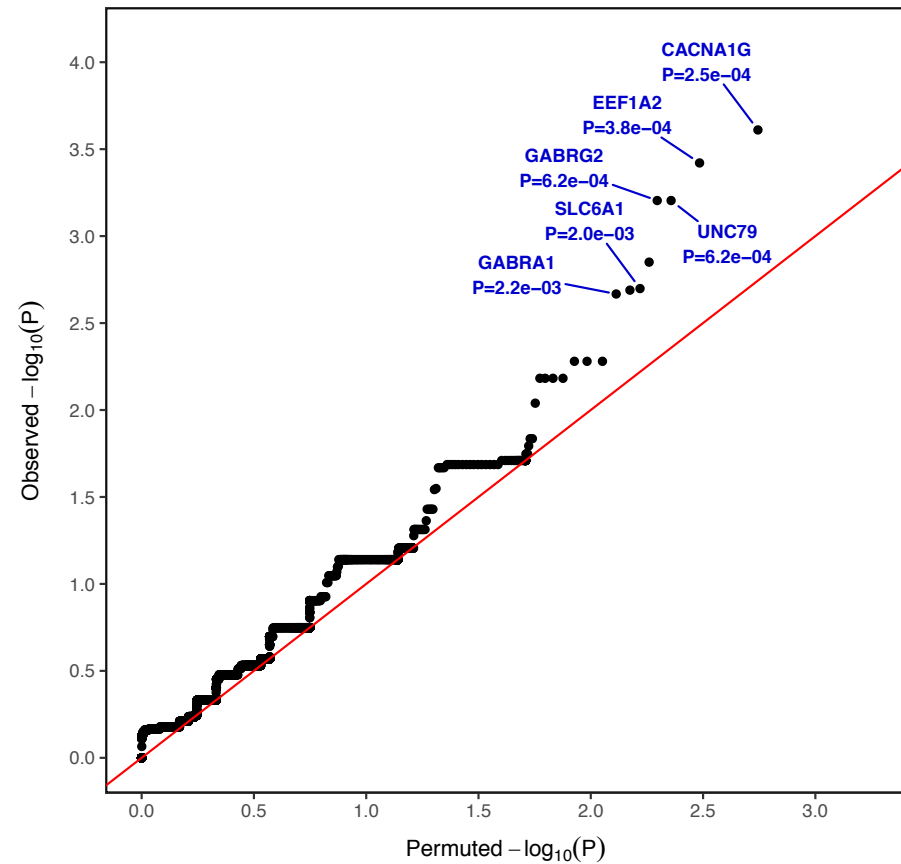
(B) Burden of ultra-rare damaging missense (MPC \geq 2) variants



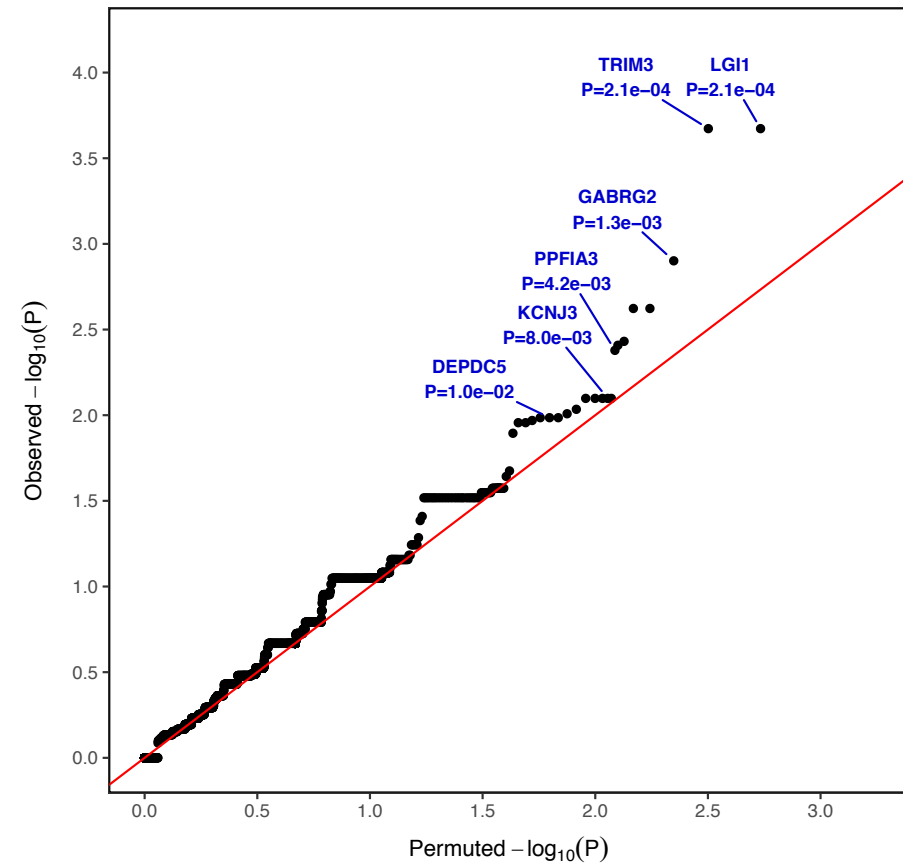
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Details of individual participating Epi25 cohorts

Australia: Austin Hospital, Melbourne (AUSAUS)

The Epilepsy Research Centre at the Austin Hospital in Melbourne, Australia, has been investigating the genetic basis of the epilepsies for over 20 years. The cohort in the Epi25 Collaborative were recruited to the epilepsy genetics research program over this period from the Austin Hospital, epilepsy clinics around Melbourne, and referrals from neurologists Australia-wide. Informed consent was obtained from patients or their parent/guardian as appropriate. DNA was extracted from blood or saliva samples. A skilled team of researchers and clinicians conducted detailed clinical phenotyping which involved a systematic review of medical records, including EEG and MRI reports, and a validated epilepsy questionnaire. Information on family history of seizures and other neurological disorders has also been collected via interviews with the patients and their families. Patients with GGE, non-acquired focal epilepsy, or a DEE were included in Epi25. A very heterogenous collection of epilepsy syndromes are represented in the cohort, including patients with EOAE, CAE, JME and late-onset GGE in the GGE cohort and patients with TLE, FLE, and benign childhood focal epilepsies in the non-acquired focal cohort. The DEE cohort is particularly heterogenous and includes patients with a range of DEE syndromes such as Ohtahara syndrome, Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, epilepsy with myoclonic-atonic seizures, and non-syndromic DEE. An additional subset of patients with lesional focal epilepsy, such as malformations of cortical development or acquired epilepsy, were also included, as well as a selection of patients with familial febrile seizures or FS+.

Most patients in the cohort are of European descent ('Anglo-Australian') although there is a diverse range of ethnic backgrounds including Asian, Middle Eastern, Indigenous Australian and mixed ethnicities. There is a known family history of seizures in 46% of the cohort (58% in the subset with GGE). The majority of the patients have had some previous genetic testing, including CNV testing and single gene testing. The DEE cohort have been extensively investigated with multiple iterations of a research panel of known, novel and putative genes for epilepsy. In addition, many patients with focal epilepsy have had a panel of known genes.

Australia: Royal Melbourne Hospital, Melbourne (AUSRMB)

The cohort includes patients that have been referred to a seizure clinic. These clinics include the First Seizure Clinic, Video EEG Monitoring Unit and the Epilepsy Clinic based at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Patients were also referred from the private rooms of neurologists around Victoria.

Belgium: Antwerp (BELATW)

Patients were recruited by the Neurogenetics Group of the University of Antwerp through epilepsy clinics at the different university hospitals in Belgium. All patients were diagnosed with a (so far) unexplained presumed genetic epilepsy, and should have had at least 1 MRI of the brain excluding acquired causal lesions. The study was approved by the ethics committee of the University of Antwerp, and parents or the legal guardian of each proband signed an informed consent form for participation in the study. Genomic DNA of individuals was extracted from peripheral blood according to standard procedures. Clinical information was extracted from clinical files, as reported by their treating (paediatric) neurologists, and a subset was reviewed independently by two research team clinicians to ensure data quality and consistency.

Belgium: Brussels (BELULB)

Adult patients with epilepsy were recruited consecutively through outpatient clinics and hospitalizations at Hôpital Erasme, Brussels, Belgium (between October 2004 and June 2017)

and UZ Gasthuisberg, Leuven, Belgium (between October 2004 and June 2009). The study was approved by the Institutions' Review Boards. All patients provided written informed consent for data collection; patients with learning disability were included after consent from a parent or guardian. DNA was extracted from peripheral blood lymphocytes¹.

Canada: Andrade (CANUTN)

There are 96 patients (49 DEE, 3 NAFE, 44IGE) in the Andrade cohort, typically from the Greater Toronto region of Ontario, Canada. There are 44 males and 52 females, mostly of Caucasian ancestry, but also African, South Asian, East Asian, Latino, Middle Eastern, Jewish and Indigenous. Patients were recruited to each group through an REB protocol allowing for the collection of blood or saliva and data collaboration. Patients that were previously consented were re-consented to allow for whole exome sequencing and data sharing with the EPI25 group. After collection, the sample was de-identified, and then extracted and stored at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada.

Switzerland: Bern University Hospital and University of Bern, Bern (CHEUBB)

In the recruitment of our cohort, the Departments of Neurology and BioMedical Research, Bern University Hospital and University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland, and the Institute of Human Genetics, Bern University Hospital, Bern, Switzerland, were involved. The Swiss study population encompasses 28 patients with epilepsy between 2 and 63 years of age. All patients have been codified for the Epi25 Study. The patient ascertainment protocol was according to Epi25 phenotyping requirements. Phenotyping information was taken from medical records, stored in the hospital's database, and entered in codified form into a RedCap database provided by Ep25. DNA source was patients' venous blood. DNA was extracted with standard kits at the Institutes of Human Genetics or Clinical Chemistry of Bern University Hospital and stored there at -80 degrees C. Informed consent declarations are available from all patients and have been approved by the American Institutional Review Board involved in the Epi25 Study. The Cantonal Ethics Committee Bern, Switzerland, granted permission for participation of Bern University Hospital and University of Bern in the Epi25 Study including all steps described above. The patient cohort has not been described yet elsewhere.

Cyprus: The Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics (CYPCYP)

Epilepsy-affected subjects of the Cyprus cohort were largely recruited and enrolled in the Epi25 Consortium by physicians during routine clinical visits in the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics. Phenotypic data were collected at the time of enrollment and submitted into the Epi25 RedCap database in a de-identified manner. There are 123 unrelated individuals of Southern European ancestry in the Cyprus cohort, 59 GGE subjects, 53 NAFE and 11 DEE. All subjects selected for this study had clinical, neuroimaging and EEG or video-EEG characteristics meeting the International League against Epilepsy (ILAE) 2017 Seizure Classification. The controls cohort consisted of a group of 32 individuals of Southern European ancestry and were not diagnosed with epilepsy or other neuropsychiatric phenotypes. Genomic DNA samples were extracted from whole blood with the Genra Puregene Blood Kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) according to the manufacturer's guidelines. This study was carried out in compliance with the Cyprus National Bioethics Committee (EEBK/EP/2015/22). Written informed consent was obtained from all study participants or their legal guardians at the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics.

Czech Republic: University Hospital Motol, Prague (CZEMTH)

Patients in our cohort have been diagnosed with West syndrome, myoclonic-astatic epilepsy or developmental and epileptic encephalopathy of unknown aetiology. Brain magnetic resonance imaging and metabolic screening excluded any underlying pathology. Patients were collected at the Department of Child Neurology of the 2nd Medical Faculty and University Hospital Motol.

Legal guardians of patients signed an informed consent. The study was approved by the local ethics committee.

Germany: Epilepsy Center Frankfurt Rhine-Main, Goethe University, Frankfurt, and Epilepsy Center Hessen, Philipps University, Marburg (DEUPUM)

The principal investigators (Karl Martin Klein, Felix Rosenow, Philipp S. Reif, and Susanne Knake) contributed 259 samples. The patients were recruited from the outpatient clinics and the video EEG monitoring units at the Epilepsy Centers Frankfurt Rhine-Main and Hessen-Marburg and contained 64 samples with genetic generalized epilepsy, 130 samples with non-acquired focal epilepsy, 60 samples with lesional focal epilepsy and 4 samples with DEE. All patients were phenotyped in detail by epilepsy specialists (KMK, FR, SK, PSR) within the EpimiRNA project (European Union's 'Seventh Framework' Programme (FP7) under Grant Agreement no. 602130). EEGs and MRIs were performed as part of the clinical workup. Phenotypic classification and data entry for the biobank for paroxysmal neurological disorders was performed by KMK. Patient selection and data export from the biobank for the study was performed by KMK. DNA was extracted from peripheral blood or saliva. All patients provided written informed consent.

Germany: University of Bonn, Bonn (DEUUKB)

The sample recruitment site is the Department of Epileptology at the University of Bonn. The collection of blood DNA samples from patients with epilepsy was conducted from 2007 till 2015 within the studies Epicure (Functional Genomics in Neurobiology of Epilepsy: A Basis for New Therapeutic Strategies) and NGEN-Plus (Genetic basis of Levetiracetam pharmacoresistance and side effects in human epilepsy) and has been approved by the Ethics committee of University Bonn Medical Center (040/07). Genomic DNA was isolated from 10 ml aliquots of EDTA-anticoagulated blood by a salting-out technique². From selected samples of this cohort GWAS data have been published in several studies³⁻⁶.

Germany: University Hospital Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel (DEUUKL)

Patients were recruited by the Neuropediatrics Group of the University Hospital of Schleswig-Holstein and through the Israeli-Palestinian Family Consortium. The recruitment and analysis of these samples is covered by the Kiel IRB. Patients, their parents or the legal guardian of each proband signed an informed consent form for participation in the study. Clinical data was collected from clinical files and a subset of patients from Israel or Palestine was interviewed by a research team of clinicians to provide their clinical data. Genomic DNA of patients was extracted from peripheral blood according to standard procedures.

Germany: TLE Leipzig (DEUULG)

Patients were recruited by the Swiss Epilepsy Center in Zurich, Switzerland and samples were transferred for research and storage to the Institute of Human Genetics at the University of Leipzig, Germany. All patients were diagnosed with temporal lobe epilepsy due to an indicative EEG. Most patients had at least 1 MRI of the brain with focus on focal abnormalities, especially of the temporal lobe / hippocampal structures. The study was approved by the "Kantonale Ethikkommission Zürich". Parents or the legal guardian of each proband signed an informed consent form for participation in research studies including whole genome analyses. Genomic DNA of individuals was extracted from peripheral blood according to standard procedures. Clinical information was extracted from clinical files, as reported by their treating neurologists.

Germany: University of Tübingen, Tübingen (DEUUTB)

Our study cohort consists of over 1000 samples with mainly Caucasian origin. These samples were recruited at Tübingen and 38 other cooperating departments of neurology of university clinics and outpatient clinics in Germany. The Ethics / informed consent was approved by the

ethics committee of the Medical Faculty of the University and the University Clinic of Tübingen. Patients with the diagnosis of genetic generalized epilepsies, epileptic encephalopathies and non-acquired focal epilepsies were systematically recruited by a letter of invitation. After approving the informed consent by the participants, the data were collected retrospectively from medical reports and in exceptional cases, by personal interviews of patients or their relatives. The DNA source was blood.

Finland: Kuopio University Hospital, Kuopio (FINKPH)

Patients diagnosed with epilepsy and visiting Epilepsy Center, Kuopio University Hospital, Finland have given their written informed consent to record their clinical data to a research registry and collect a blood sample for DNA analysis. The ethics committee of Kuopio University Hospital has approved the study.

Finland: University of Helsinki, Helsinki (FINUVH)

Patients were recruited at the University of Helsinki through pediatric neurology clinics in the Helsinki and Tampere University Hospitals in Finland. All patients were diagnosed with a presumed genetic epilepsy, the etiology remaining unknown. All patients had an MRI done to exclude acquired causal lesions. The study was approved by an ethics committee of The Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa, Finland. The parents or the legal guardian of each proband has signed an informed consent form. Genomic DNA of the patients was extracted from peripheral blood or saliva according to standard procedures. Clinical information was extracted from clinical files, as reported by the treating pediatric neurologists.

Wales: Swansea (GBRSWU)

The samples from Wales: Swansea are recruited from regional NHS HealthBoard Clinics and consented into the IRAS-ethical permissions framework of the Swansea Neurology Biobank (17/WA/0290). Informed consent is given for samples to be used for research purposes and for third-party consortia with appropriate MTA agreements. Patients attend epilepsy or general neurology clinics and are prioritised if they reach the clinical evidence for submission to studies. Blood samples are sent to the UK Porton Down EcACC facility and returned to SNB in batches where they are checked and validated through gender testing. The samples submitted to Epi25 must pass the DNA QC standards for NGS pipelines and have the level of certainty for clinical diagnosis.

UK: University College London, London (GBRUCL)

Participant recruitment took place at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery (United Kingdom). Written informed consent or assent was obtained between 10/01/2000 and 01/25/2015 from all participants according to local and national requirements and blood samples were collected for DNA extraction. 709 epilepsy cases were submitted for analysis. Allocation to the following groups was based on the clinical diagnosis and the specific inclusion and exclusion criteria of the Epi25 consortium: generalized genetic epilepsy (n=393, 145 male), non-acquired focal epilepsy (n=313, 146 male), developmental and epileptic encephalopathy (n=3, 2 male). Additionally, relatives were included, where samples were available (n=3, 2 male). Phenotypic information was obtained from local medical records by clinical or trained non-clinical researchers.

UK: University of Liverpool, Liverpool and Imperial College London, London (GBRUNL)

GBRUNL samples are derived from four separate, UK-wide, ethically approved studies coordinated by the University of Liverpool (UK) and Imperial College London (UK). The SANAD and MESS linked DNA Bank and Relational Database study recruited individuals with newly-diagnosed focal, generalised or unclassified epilepsy from out-patient neurology clinics between 2003-2006^{7,8}. The Pharmacogenetics of GABAergic Mechanisms of Benefit and Harm in Epilepsy

study recruited patients with refractory focal epilepsy, previously or prospectively exposed to adjunctive treatment with clobazam or vigabatrin, from out-patient neurology clinics between 2005-2009. The Refractory Juvenile Myoclonic Epilepsy Cohort (ReJuMEC) study recruited individuals with valproic acid resistant juvenile myoclonic epilepsy from out-patient neurology clinics between 2009 and 2010. The ongoing Standard and New Antiepileptic Drugs (SANAD-II) study, which is recruiting individuals with newly-diagnosed focal, generalised or unclassified epilepsy from out-patient neurology clinics between 2013-2019. In all cases, study participants provided written informed consent to the collection (via blood or saliva sampling) and analysis of their DNA for use in genetic and pharmacogenetic research related to epilepsy and its treatment. All studies were approved by research ethics committees in operation at the relevant time (SANAD DNA bank, North West MREC ref 02/8/45; GABAergic mechanisms, UCLH REC ref 04/Q0505/95; ReJuMEC, Cheshire REC ref 09/H1017/55; SANAD-II, North West REC ref 12/NW/0361). Assembly of the GBRUNL cohort was supported by generous funding from The Wellcome Trust, the Imperial College NIHR Biomedical Research Centre, the Department of Health (UK), the Medical Research Council (UK), and the National Institute of Health Research (UK).

Hong Kong: Chinese University of Hong Kong (HKGHKK)

Epilepsy patients of Han Chinese ethnicity aged between 2 and 91 years were recruited from neurology clinics of five regional hospitals in Hong Kong covering a combined catchment population of approximately 3 million. Syndromic classification was adapted from the revised international organization of phenotypes in epilepsy. DNA was extracted from venous blood. The study was approved by ethics committees of the participating hospitals, and all patients or their legal guardians gave written informed consent. The sample collection methodology has been described previously⁹.

Croatia: University Clinical Centre Zagreb, Zagreb (HRVUZG)

Pediatric patients were recruited from University Medical Centre Zagreb and 2 patients from 2 other epilepsy clinics in Croatia. All patients were diagnosed as possible genetic epilepsy not yet explained. All patients underwent MR brain imaging at least once, the acquired epilepsy causes were excluded. DNA was extracted from peripheral blood according to the accepted protocol. The study was approved by Hospital ethical committee and all parents or legal guardian of probands signed informed consent for participation in the study. Clinical information was extracted from clinical files. The cohort was also reviewed by reviewed by collaborative research team clinicians from University of Antwerp to ensure data quality and consistency.

Ireland: Dublin (IRLRCI)

Patients were recruited from a specialized epilepsy clinic at Beaumont Hospital and St. James' Hospital, Dublin, Ireland. Patients were mostly of Irish ethnicity. DNA was extracted from a combination of lymphocytes and saliva. All participants provided written informed consent.

Italy: Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Neurologico Carlo Besta, Milan (ITAICB)

Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Neurologico Carlo Besta, Milan, Italy (ITAICB): Our cohort included the DNA samples of 207 patients and 62 controls (healthy subjects not related with the patients, and without epilepsy history). The patient population included 106 patients with generalized epilepsy (GGE), 51 patients with developmental and epileptic encephalopathy (DEE), 33 patients with focal epilepsy due to cerebral malformations (nodular heterotopia), and 15 patients with non-acquired focal epilepsy (NAFE). All of the patients were diagnosed and followed at our Institute. Diagnosis of epilepsy was based on clinical, EEG and neurophysiological data, neuroimaging (MRI). Metabolic screening, karyotype, CGH array, analyses of single genes and customized panels were performed in some cases, when appropriate. The patients did not undergo to exome

sequencing analysis (before the Epi25 collection). The DNA of the patients was extracted from peripheral blood, according with standard procedures, after signature of an Informed Consent form. The genetic study was approved by The Ethic Committee of our Institute. No publications have described genetic findings pertaining to the collected patients until now. Clinical information was extracted from clinical files, as reported by their treating (paediatric and adult) neurologists.

Italy: Gaslini Institute, Genova (ITAIGI)

Patients with generalized and focal epilepsy or developmental and epileptic encephalopathy followed- up or referred for genetic analysis at 'Gaslini Institute'. The study was approved by the IRB and written informed consent was signed by the patients/parents. Clinical information, including data on EEG and antiepileptic therapy, were recorded on data collection forms. Genomic DNA isolation and genetic analysis was carried out with the Nimblegen-SeqCapEZ-V244M enrichment kit on the Illumina HiSeq2000 system.

Italy: IRCCS Institute of Neurological Science of Bologna, Bologna (ITAUBG)

Patients were recruited by the Adult and Pediatric Neurologists of the IRCCS Institute of Neurological Sciences, Bellaria Hospital, Bologna. Patients with generalized epilepsy, focal epilepsy (with or without brain lesions) and developmental and epileptic encephalopathy were referred by epilepsy clinics. All patients were diagnosed with a (so far) epilepsy of uncertain aetiology and underwent neuro-radiological imaging (CT or MRI) and EEG. The study was approved by the local ethics committee (cod. CE:16057). Patients themselves or parents or the legal guardian of each proband signed an informed consent form for the study participation. Genomic DNA of individuals was extracted from peripheral blood according to standard procedures. Clinical information was collected from medical records, as reported by their treating neurologists^{10; 11}.

Italy: University Magna Graecia, Catanzaro (ITAUMC)

Patients were recruited by the Epilepsy Group of the University Magna Graecia of Catanzaro (Italy) that includes a Pediatric and Adult Neurologic Unit with a specific focus on genetic epilepsy. In each patient, the diagnosis of epilepsy syndrome is based on comprehensive clinical, neuropsychological, electroencephalographic, and MR evaluations. Clinical data are stored into a database. The study was approved by the ethics committee of the University of Catanzaro Italy, and parents or the legal guardian of each proband signed an informed consent form for participation in the study. Genomic DNA of individuals was extracted from peripheral blood according to standard procedures

Italy: Meyer Hospital, Florence (ITAUMR)

Patients were recruited by the Neurology and Neurogenetics Group of the Meyer Hospital of Florence. All patients were diagnosed with a unexplained presumed genetic epilepsy. The study was approved by the Pediatric Ethics Committee of the Regione Toscana, and parents or the legal guardian of each proband signed an informed consent form for participation in the study. Genomic DNA of individuals was extracted from peripheral blood according to standard procedures. Clinical information was extracted from clinical files, as reported by their treating (paediatric) neurologists.

Japan: RIKEN Institute, Tokyo (JPNRKI)

Japanese patients with epilepsies were recruited by National Epilepsy Center, Shizuoka Institute of Epilepsy and Neurological Disorder. Epileptic seizures and epilepsy syndrome diagnoses were performed according to the International League Against Epilepsy classification of epileptic syndromes. Genomic DNA was extracted from peripheral venous blood samples using QIAamp DNA Blood Midi Kit according to manufacturer's protocol (Qiagen). The experimental protocols

were approved by the Ethical Committee of RIKEN Institution and National Epilepsy Center, Shizuoka Institute of Epilepsy and Neurological Disorder. Written informed consent was obtained from all individuals and/or their families in compliance with the relevant Japanese regulations.

Lithuania: Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Klinikos, Vilnius (LTUUHK)

Patients were recruited in Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Klinikos by a clinical geneticist through a referral of a neurologist or a child neurologist and according to inclusion/ exclusion criteria. All patients were diagnosed with one of the three forms of epilepsy - genetic generalized, focal non-lesional or developmental and epileptic encephalopathy - after exclusion of acquired causes and should have had at least 1,5T brain MRI and a diagnostic EEG. The study was approved by Vilnius Regional Biomedical Research Ethics Committee, and each proband or parents/ legal guardians of a proband signed an informed consent form for participation in the study. Samples of genomic DNA were obtained during the routine procedure for blood sampling for genetic testing done in a clinical testing and the majority of patients had chromosomal microarray, metabolic testing and/or gene/gene panel testing prior to the inclusion into the study. Clinical information was extracted from clinical files and obtained during the clinical genetic consultation.

New Zealand: University of Otago, Wellington (NZLUTO)

Cases were recruited as part of a larger study from neurology, paediatric and genetic outpatient services throughout New Zealand. Participants were between 1 month and 63 years of age from the following ethnic groups: New Zealand European, Māori, Pasifika, Asian, Hispanic, Ethiopian. Using a structured interview and review of medical records diagnosis was based on the International League of Epilepsy (ILAE) classification and made by a paediatric neurologist. The study protocol was approved by the New Zealand Health and Disability Ethics Committee. Participants gave written informed consent for clinical and genetic analysis. DNA was extracted from blood or saliva.

Turkey: Bogazici University, Istanbul (TURBZU)

Patients were recruited by the Child Neurology and Neurology clinics at the different university hospitals in Turkey. The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board for Research with Human Subjects (INAREK) of Boğaziçi University, and parents or the legal guardian of each proband signed an informed consent form for participation in the study. Genomic DNA of individuals was extracted from peripheral blood according to standard procedures. Clinical information was reported by their treating (pediatric) neurologists. All developmental and epileptic encephalopathy patients had severe epilepsy, with developmental delay and regression, normal neuroimaging and epileptiform activity on EEG. Turkish population control group included individuals with no symptoms of any neurological disorder.

Turkey: Istanbul University, Istanbul (TURIBU)

Epilepsy patients were recruited from Epilepsy Clinic, Department of Neurology, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul University. The study population consisted of patients with idiopathic/genetic generalized epilepsies, lesional or non-lesional focal epilepsies and epileptic encephalopathies, including sporadic and familial cases. All patients were long-term follow-up. Seizure types, age of onset, neurological examinations, past and family history, prognosis and response to treatment, features of electroencephalography and neuroimaging were evaluated. Ethics committee approval was obtained. Peripheral blood samples were collected from all patients following written informed consent. DNA isolation was performed in Department of Genetics, Aziz Sancar Institute of Experimental Medicine, Istanbul University.

USA: Boston Children's Hospital, Boston (USABCH)

Cases from Boston Children's Hospital (BCH) were ascertained from 3 local repositories. All repository protocols are approved by the BCH Institutional Review Board and participants were consented under one (or more) of the following protocols. The Genetics of Epilepsy and Related Disorders protocol, led by Dr. Annapurna Poduri, enrolls patients with a clinical epilepsy diagnosis for genotype/phenotype correlation. Samples are obtained from BCH and non-BCH patients and biological samples collected for genetic sequencing. Patient medical records (BCH and outside records) are reviewed for phenotyping purposes¹². The Phenotyping and Banking Repository of Neurological Disorders is a local repository led by Dr. Mustafa Sahin. BCH patients with any neurological phenotype, including epilepsy, are enrolled and biological samples collected. Boston Children's Biobank for Health Discovery is a local repository led by Dr. Kenneth Mandl that enrolls any patient of BCH, regardless of diagnosis or phenotype. Samples from these two broader repositories are available to BCH researchers through an application process, including a supporting IRB-approved protocol. Patients with a clinical diagnosis of epilepsy were reviewed for Epi25 eligibility using their BCH medical records.

USA: Philadelphia/CHOP (USACHP) and Philadelphia/Rowan (USACRW)

The Philadelphia Cohort began in 1997 and collected blood, saliva and brain tissues from patients with common forms of idiopathic human epilepsy, mostly genetic generalized epilepsy (GGE) and non-acquired focal epilepsy (NAFE). The collection began at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia and expanded to include six other sites: The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, The University of Pennsylvania, The University of Cincinnati, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Beth Israel Deaconess and The University of Montreal. The cohort consists of 2615 samples from epilepsy patients collected and supported during two periods of NIH funding (R01NS493060, 2001-2007 RJ Buono PI and R01NS06415401, 2009-2012 RJ Buono and H Hakonarson Co- PI). Over 1000 additional samples from first degree relatives of the patients were also collected. Many of these samples are available to the research community via the NINDS sample repository at the Coriell Institute in Camden NJ. All studies were approved by Institutional Review Boards at each participating site. All patients were identified and recruited by trained epileptologists at tertiary care centers using inclusion and exclusion criteria previously published. Diagnostic methods applied included EEG, MRI, and collection of deep phenotypic information on family history, medications, risk factors, age of onset, and other information. Inclusion and exclusion criteria for the cohort were published previously^{6, 13}. For the Epi25K project, blood and saliva were used as the source of DNA.

USA: Epilepsy Phenome/Genome Project (USAEGP)

Infantile spasms (IS), Lennox-Gastaut syndrome (LGS), genetic generalized epilepsy (GGE), and non-acquired focal epilepsy (NAFE) patients were collected through the Epilepsy Phenome/Genome Project¹⁴ (EPGP, <http://www.epgp.org>). More than 4,000 participants in EPGP were enrolled across 27 clinical sites from around the world. The subset of samples included in Epi25 were enrolled from 20 sites across the USA and in Australia. IS patients were required to have hypsarrhythmia or a hypsarrhythmia variant on EEG. LGS patients were required to have EEG background slowing or disorganization for age and generalized spike and wave activity of any frequency or generalized paroxysmal fast activity (GPFA). IS and LGS cases were enrolled as trios with both biological parents. Participants with NAFE and GGE were required to have a first degree relative who also had NAFE or GGE (did not have to be concordant). All patients had no confirmed genetic or metabolic diagnosis, and no history of congenital TORCH infection, premature birth (before 32 weeks gestation), neonatal hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy or neonatal seizures, meningitis/encephalitis, stroke, intracranial haemorrhage, significant head trauma, or evidence of acquired epilepsy. Enrollment required detailed confirmation of detailed phenotypic data including medical record review and abstraction, patient

interviews, EEG and MRI, and comprehensive review by expert scientific cores for EEG, MRI, and clinical final diagnosis.

USA: NYU Human Epilepsy Project (USAHEP)

Participants were recruited for the Human Epilepsy Project at 33 different medical centers located in US, Canada, Australia, Austria, Finland, and Ireland. All participants were between 12 and 60 at the age of enrollment and had a clinical history consistent with a diagnosis of focal epilepsy, as determined by an eligibility panel of epilepsy specialists. Participants were required to have two or more spontaneous seizures with clinically observable features in the past 12 months, and 4 or fewer months of anticonvulsant treatment. Those with major medical comorbidities, intellectual disability, or significant psychiatric disease were excluded, as were those with progressive neurological lesions on imaging or known neurodegenerative disease. Participants completed daily electronic diaries tracking seizures, medication adherence, and mood. Mood and cognition were assessed periodically via standardized instruments, and brain MRIs and EEGs were obtained for all participants. Blood was collected and banked annually, allowing for study of DNA, RNA and protein. HEP was approved by the IRBs at all participating sites, and all participants or their parent/legal guardian gave written informed consent. Minors also gave written assents. HEP was funded by the Epilepsy Study Consortium.

USA: Penn/CHOP, Philadelphia (USAUPN)

The USAUPN cohort was recruited at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn), including pediatric and adult patients with epilepsies through dedicated IRB protocols at CHOP and UPenn. Patients were recruited in an inpatient and outpatient setting and samples were also contributed through the Penn Biobank.

Details of individual control cohorts (not including samples obtained from dbGaP)

Italian controls (PI: Spalletta)

Right-handed healthy individuals were recruited and had whole blood drawn by local advertisements at Santa Lucia Foundation in Rome, Italy. All of the individuals were born and educated in Italy and had Italian-Caucasian ancestry, to reduce the possibility of artifactual association caused by ethnic stratification. Exclusion criteria were: (i) major medical illnesses and/or known or suspected history of alcoholism or drug dependency and abuse; (ii) mental disorders (i.e. schizophrenia, mood, anxiety, personality and/or any other significant mental disorders) according to the DSM-IV-TR criteria assessed by the Structured Clinical Interviews for DSM-IV-TR [SCID-I and SCID-II] and/or neurological disorders diagnosed by an accurate clinical neurological examination; (iii) presence of vascular brain lesions, brain tumour and/or marked cortical and/or subcortical atrophy on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan; and (iv) suspicion of cognitive impairment or dementia based on Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE) scores ≤ 24 (a cut-off point for dementia screening in the Italian population)¹⁵ and confirmed by a clinical neuropsychological evaluation using the Mental Deterioration Battery¹⁶ and the NINCDS-ADRDA criteria for dementia¹⁷. The presence of anxiety symptoms was assessed using the Hamilton Rating Scale for Anxiety (HAM-A)¹⁸. Written, informed consent was obtained from all subjects participating in the study, which was approved by the local ethics committee at the Santa Lucia Foundation of Rome (protocol number CE/11.9)¹⁹.

German controls

Subjects have been recruited at the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, University of Würzburg, Germany, with the exception of the TK samples (n=63, they are anonymous blood donors). All subjects have been screened for the absence of mental disorders (by MINI) as well

as severe medical and neurological (including epilepsy) disorders (by self-report). Ethnicity is Caucasian by self-report in all cases, and DNA source is blood. Studies were approved by the IRB, University Hospital Würzburg; all participants gave written informed consent.

UK/IRL controls 1 (PI: McQuillin)

The UCL control sample consisted of 480 genomic DNA samples that were extracted from EBV transformed peripheral blood lymphocytes from unscreened healthy British blood donors (<https://www.phe-culturecollections.org.uk/products/dna/hrcdna/hrcdna>). The remaining DNA samples were extracted from whole blood samples from healthy volunteers of UK or Irish ancestry who were interviewed with the initial clinical screening questions of the SADS-L and selected on the basis of not having a past or present personal history of any RDC-defined mental disorder. Heavy drinking and a family history of schizophrenia, alcohol dependence or bipolar disorder, were also used as exclusion criteria for controls. UK National Health Service multi-centre and local research ethics approvals were obtained and all subjects gave signed informed consent²⁰.

UK/IRL controls 2 (PIs: McIntosh, Blackwood, and Johnstone)

Participants were recruited from clinical service around Edinburgh and Scotland and screened using the SADS-L. DNA samples were extracted from whole blood for genotyping and sequencing. Research was conducted after research ethics and NHS management approvals²¹.

FINRISK controls

The controls from FINRISK that contributed to the Epi25 WES study were part of the FINRISK inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) cohort. The population-based FINRISK study have been followed up for IBD and other disease end-points using annual record linkage with the Finnish National Hospital Discharge Register, the National Causes-of-Death Register and the National Drug Reimbursement Register. Controls were chosen to have a high polygenic risk score for IBD without an IBD diagnosis. A detailed description of the FINRISK cohort can be found at Borodulin *et al*²².

Genomic Psychiatry Cohort (GPC) controls

The controls from GPC that contributed to the Epi25 WES study were a subset of the overall control participants of European ancestry with no personal or family history of schizophrenia or bipolar disorder. All the samples were exome-sequenced at the Broad Institute. A detailed description of the GPC cohort can be found at Pato *et al*²³.

Supplemental acknowledgments

Additional funding sources and acknowledgment of individual patient cohorts are as follows: The **AUSAUS** cohort was supported by NHMRC Program Grant (ID: 1091593). Effort at **AUSRMB** was supported by NHMRC Project Grant (#1059858) and NHMRC Program Grant (#1091593). H.S. from the **BELATW** cohort is a PhD fellow of the Fund for Scientific Research Flanders (FWO, 1125416N); and S.W. receives funding support from the BOF-University of Antwerp (FFB180053) and FWO (Senior Clinical Investigator Fellowship 1861419N). Funding that supported activities at the **BELULB** site included Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique, Fonds Erasme, Université Libre de Bruxelles, and European Commission grant 279062. Work conducted at **CANUTN** was supported by funding from Ontario Brain Institute – EpLink. The **CHEUBB** cohort was supported by directorate for Public Health and Social prevention of the Canton of Bern: Medical Innovation “next-generation-sequencing epilepsy” 2015. Work at the **CYPCYP** site was funded by TELETHON/33173158. Effort at **CZEMTH** was supported by Ministry of Health of Czech Republic AZV 15–33041 and DRO 00064203. At **DEUPUM**, all patients were

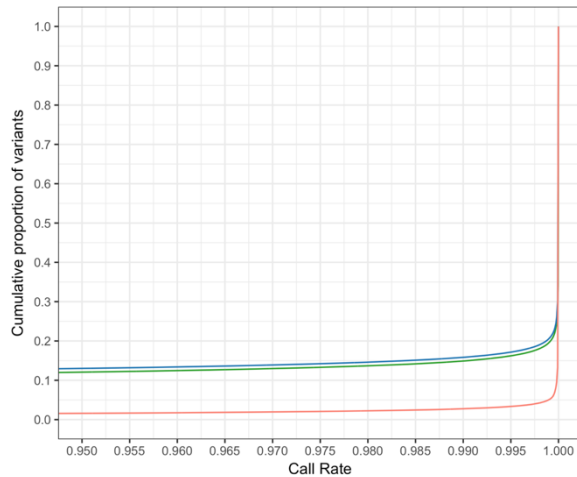
phenotyped in detail by epilepsy specialists (KMK, FR, SK, PSR) within the EpimiRNA project (European Union's 'Seventh Framework' Programme (FP7) under Grant Agreement no. 602130). KMK, FR and PSR were supported by the Detlev-Wrobel-Fonds for Epilepsy Research Frankfurt. At **DEUUKB**, sample recruitment of the University Bonn cohort was funded by the European Community (FP7 project EpiPGX, grant 279062 to WSK). The work at **USAUPN** and **DEUUKL** was supported by intramural funds of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, the German Research Foundation (HE5415/3-1 to I.H.) within the EuroEPINOMICS framework of the European Science Foundation, the German Research Foundation (DFG, HE5415/5-1, HE5415/6-1, HE5415/7-1 to I.H.), and the Genomics Research and Innovation Network (GRIN, grinnetwork.org), a collaboration amongst the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Boston Children's Hospital, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. I.H. also received support through the International League Against Epilepsy. This work was also partially supported by NIH grant NS108874. Further funding for the **DEUUTB** cohort was obtained from the German Research Foundation and the Fond Nationale de la Recherche in Luxembourg in the frame of the Research Unit FOR-2715 (grants Le1030/16-1, Kr5093/2-1, We4896/4-1, He5415/7-1), by the German Society for Epileptology, and by the foundation no-epilep. The **FINKPH** cohort was supported by funding from the Saastamoinen Foundation, Vaajasalo Foundation and Kuopio University Hospital State Research. Effort at **FINUVH** was supported by Folkhälsan Research Foundation, Helsinki Finland and Foundation for Pediatric Research, Helsinki, Finland. Funding for the **GBRSWU** cohort included Health and Care Research Wales, Wales Gene Park, The BRAIN Unit. The **GBRUCL** cohort thanks the Epilepsy Society, Muir Maxwell Trust and Wellcome Trust Strategic Award (WT104033AIA) for funding support. The work conducted at **GBRUCL** was undertaken at University College London Hospitals, which received a proportion of funding from the NIHR Biomedical Research Centres funding scheme. Assembly of the **GBRUNL** cohort was supported by generous funding from The Wellcome Trust, the Imperial College NIHR Biomedical Research Centre, the Department of Health (UK), the Medical Research Council (UK), and the National Institute of Health Research (UK). The **HKGHKK** cohort was supported by Research Grants Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China (project number CUHK4466/06M). The **HRVUZG** cohort acknowledges Sarah Weckhuysen and Hannah Stamberger for help with sample shipping. The work at **IRLRCI** was supported by research grants from Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) (16/RC/3948 and 13/CDA/2223) and co-funded under the European Regional Development Fund and by FutureNeuro industry partners. Effort at **ITAICB** was supported by European project, Grant agreement 602531 (DESIRE) (Silvana Franceschetti only was involved) The **ITAIGI** cohort thanks the Genetic Commission of Italian League Against Epilepsy (LICE) for its contribution to this work. The **ITAUBG** cohort thanks Dr Baldassari S; Dr Caporali L and Prof Carelli V and all the staff of the Laboratory of Neuro-genetics in Bologna; and Dr Margherita Santucci and the Child Neurology Unit, Bellaria Hospital in Bologna, as well as all physicians and nurses of the Epilepsy Centre from the Bellaria Hospital in Bologna. Work at **ITAUMR** was supported by the European Commission Seventh Framework Programme under the project DESIRE (grant agreement no. 602531) (to R.G.). Research at the **JPNRKI** cohort was (partly) supported by AMED under Grant Number JP18dm0107092 and JP18ek0109388 (K.Y.). Effort at **NZLUTO** was supported by Health Research Council of New Zealand: 15/070 – Gene Discover in Epilepsy: the building block of precision medicine; Cure Kids New Zealand: 3576 – Genetics of Epilepsy. The **TURBZU** cohort was supported by Bogazici University Research Fund, Project No: 17B01P3. **USACHP** and **USACRW** were supported by NIH funding (R01NS493060, 2001-2007 RJ Buono PI and R01NS06415401, 2009-2012 RJ Buono and H Hakonarson Co- PI). U01HG006830 (PI Hakonarson) and The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Endowed Chair in Genomic Research (PI Hakonarson). Work at **USAEGP** was supported by National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke (NINDS) grant U01 NS053998, as well as planning grants from the Finding a Cure for Epilepsy and Seizures (FACES) Foundation and the Richard Thalheimer Philanthropic Fund. At **USAHEP**, H.E.P is sponsored by The Epilepsy Study Consortium (ESCI).

ESCI is a non-profit organization dedicated to accelerating the development of new therapies in epilepsy to improve patient care. The funding provided to ESCI to support HEP comes from industry, philanthropy and foundations (UCB Pharma, Eisai, Pfizer, Lundbeck, Sunovion, The Andrews Foundation, The Vogelstein Foundation, Finding A Cure for Epilepsy and Seizures (FACES), Friends of Faces and others). C.A.E. from the **USAUPN** cohort was supported in part by a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Institutional Research Training Grant, T32 NS091008-01.

Additional funding sources and acknowledgment of individual control cohorts are as follows: Collection of the **Italian controls** was supported by RF-2013-02359074; NET-2011-02346784 (Italian Ministry of Health) and was sequenced as part of the CCDG funding. Sequencing of the **German controls** was funded by the Dalio Foundation DFG grant TRR-CRC 58, Z02. The **UK/IRL controls** were collected and sequenced with support from the Neuroscience Research Charitable Trust, the Central London NHS (National Health Service) Blood Transfusion Service and the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) funded Mental Health Research Network. The **FINRISK controls** were part of the FINRISK studies supported by THL (formerly KTL: National Public Health Institute) through budgetary funds from the government, with additional funding from institutions such as the Academy of Finland, the European Union, ministries and national and international foundations and societies to support specific research purposes. The **GPC controls** were sequenced with funding from NIH grants MH085548 and MH085542 and the Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. Public controls used for the analysis were obtained from dbGaP at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gap>. Controls from the MIGen studies were obtained through dbGaP accession numbers phs000806.v1.p1, phs001000.v1.p1, and phs000814.v1.p1. We thank the Broad Institute for generating high-quality sequence data for the MIGen studies supported by NHGRI funds (grant # U54 HG003067) with Eric Lander as PI. The Sweden-Schizophrenia (SCZ) controls were obtained through dbGaP accession number phs000473.v2.p2. These samples were provided by the Swedish Cohort Collection supported by the NIMH grant R01MH077139, the Sylvan C. Herman Foundation, the Stanley Medical Research Institute and The Swedish Research Council (grants 2009-4959 and 2011-4659). Support for the Swedish-SCZ exome sequencing was provided by the NIMH Grand Opportunity grant RCMH089905, the Sylvan C. Herman Foundation, a grant from the Stanley Medical Research Institute and multiple gifts to the Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard.

Supplemental Figures

(A) Raw data



(B) Pre-filtered

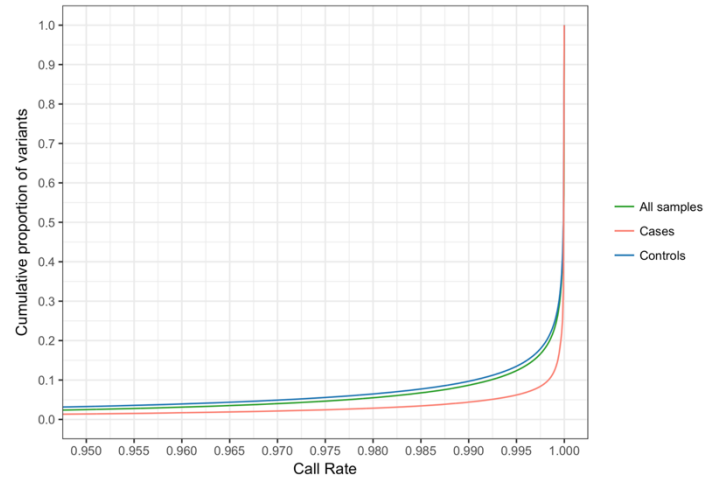


Figure S1. Variant pre-filtering: restricting to well-covered exome intervals across platforms reduced variant calling bias due to capture difference

As the first step of the QC process, we removed sites that fell outside regions with at least 10x coverage in 80% of the samples across sequencing batches and platforms (Illumina and Agilent), regardless of targeted capture intervals. This pre-filtering effectively minimized the call rate difference between cases and controls.

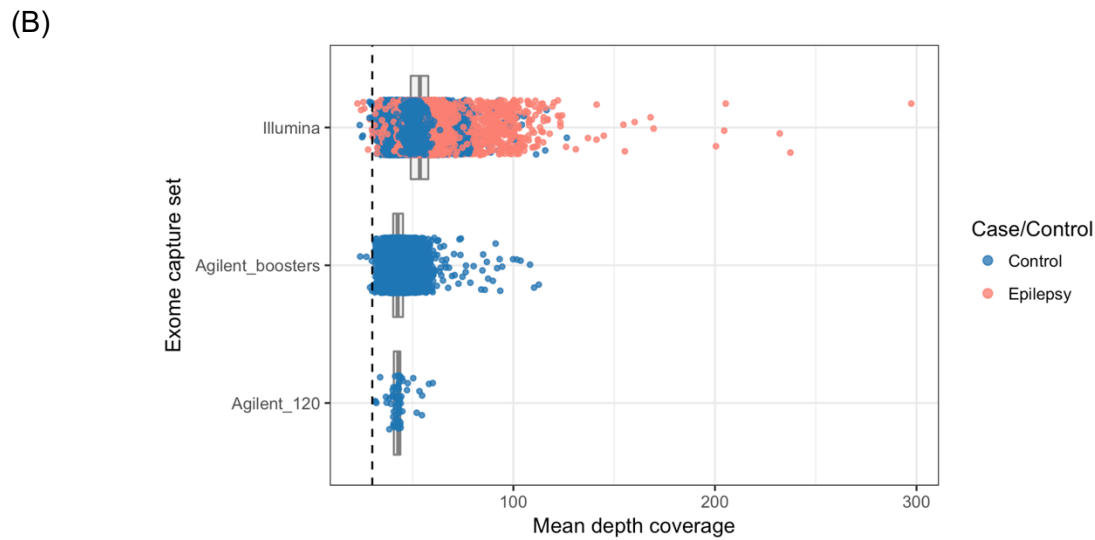
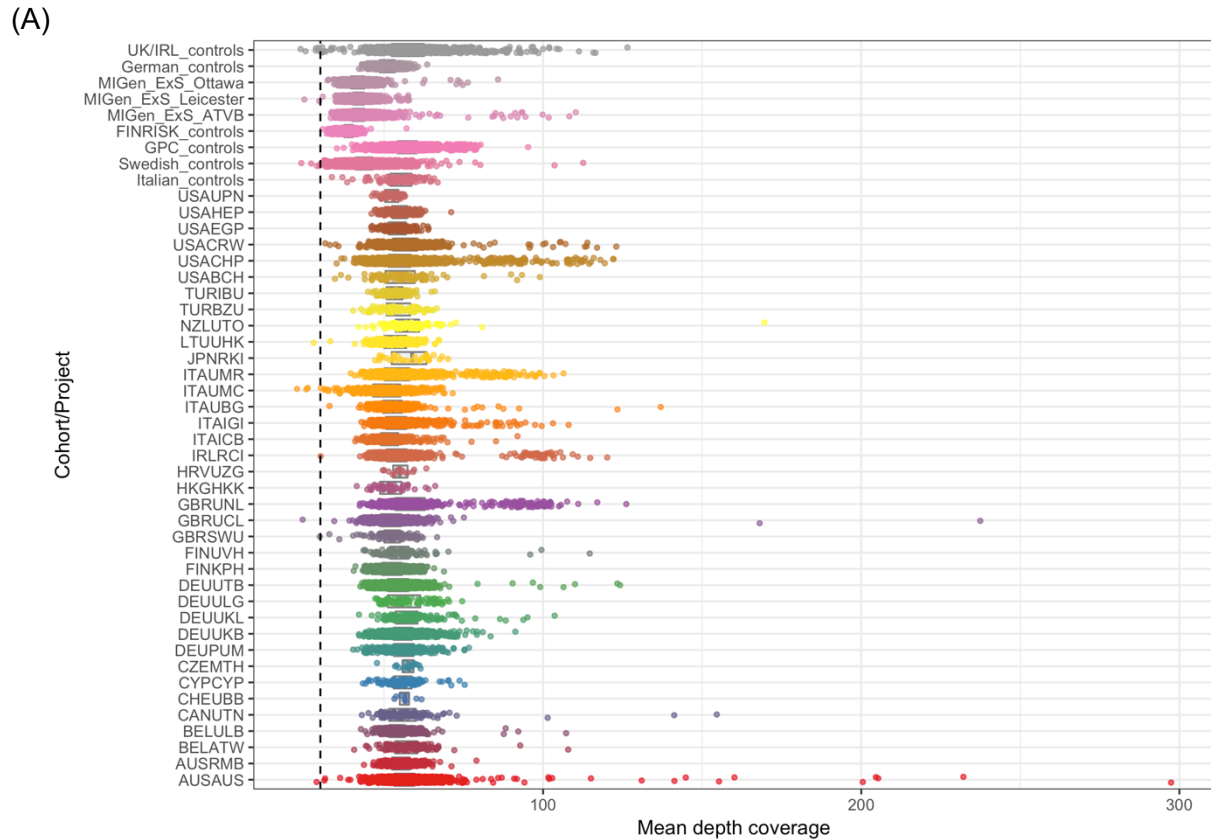


Figure S2. Average sample sequencing depth for pre-filtered data across cohorts (A) and by capture platform (B)

Cohorts with a six-letter name were case cohorts, and the rest were controls cohorts. Epilepsy cases overall had better average coverage than control samples due to capture platform difference (Illumina vs. Agilent exome enrichment kit). Dashed lines indicated the QC threshold, below which samples were removed (mean depth < 30).

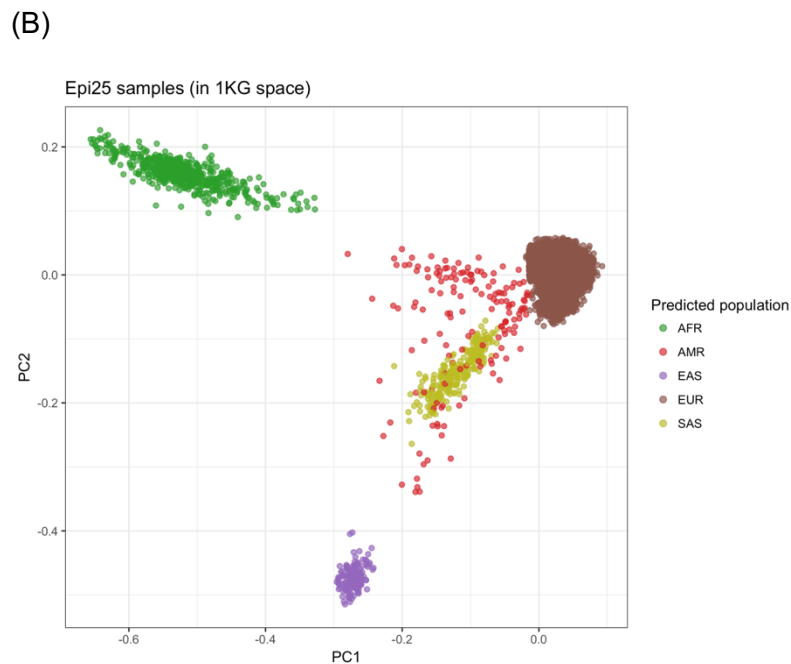
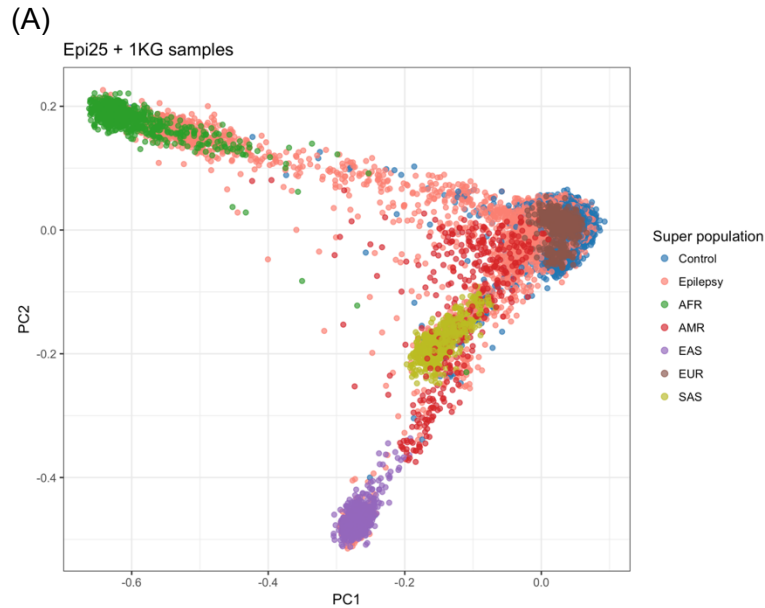
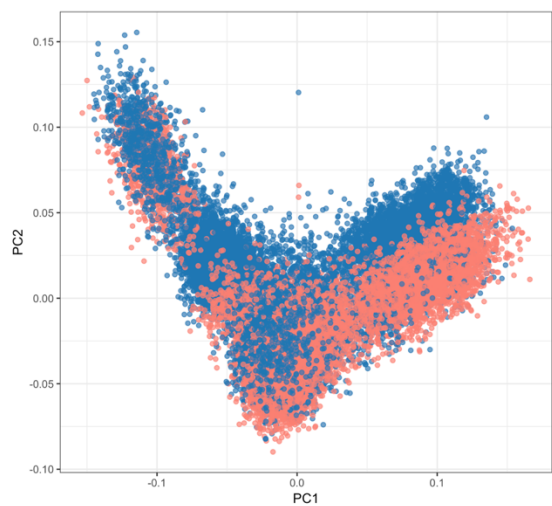


Figure S3. Population structure of the initial cases and controls based on principal component analysis (PCA)

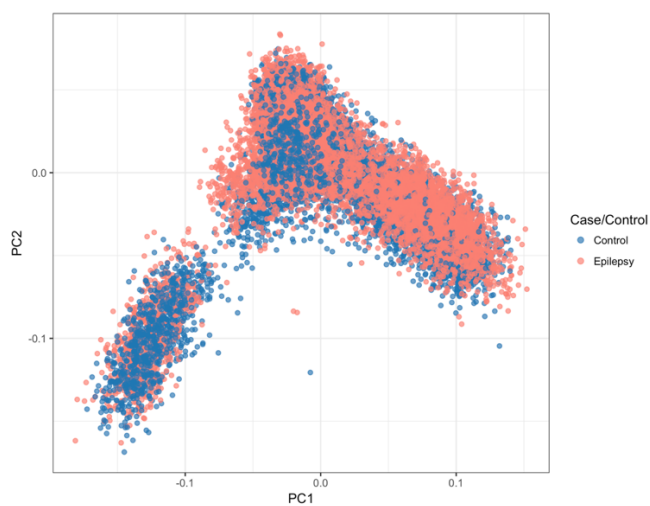
(A) PCA was run on the study samples along with 1000 Genomes (1KG) phase 3 super populations to infer genetic ancestry. Epilepsy cases consisted of individuals from each of the super populations, while control samples were mostly of European descent.

(B) Genetic ancestry of the epi25 cases and controls were predicted by the Random Forest classifier based on top 6 PCs, using 1KG samples as the training data. Individuals were assigned to a particular 1KG-ancestry with a predicted probability >0.9, as depicted in the figure. We removed samples with unknown or unclassified ancestry and focused on European samples—the largest population under study with abundant cases and controls—moving forward.

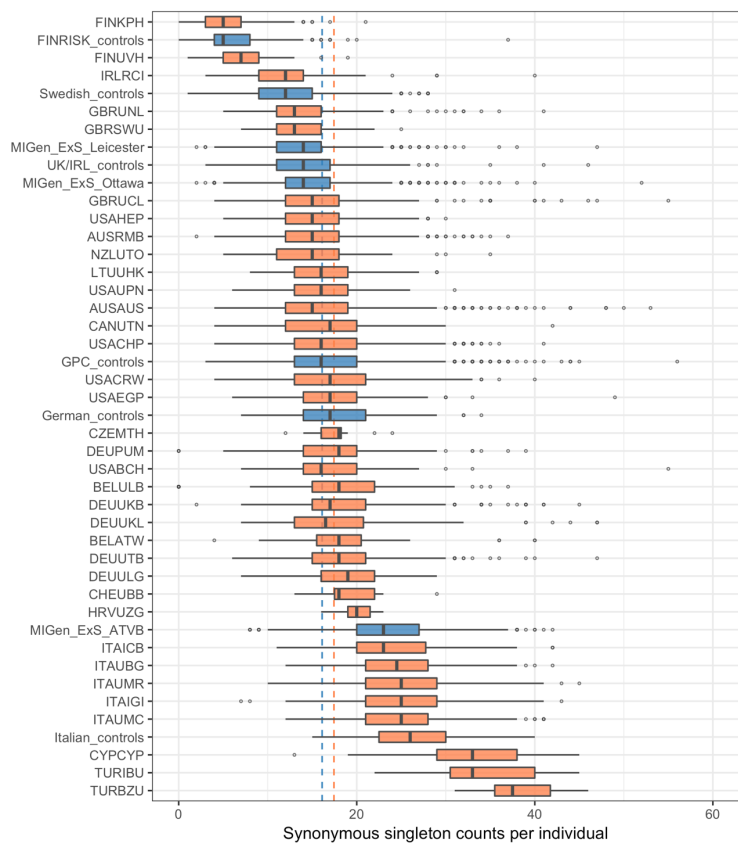
(A)



(B)



(C)



(D)

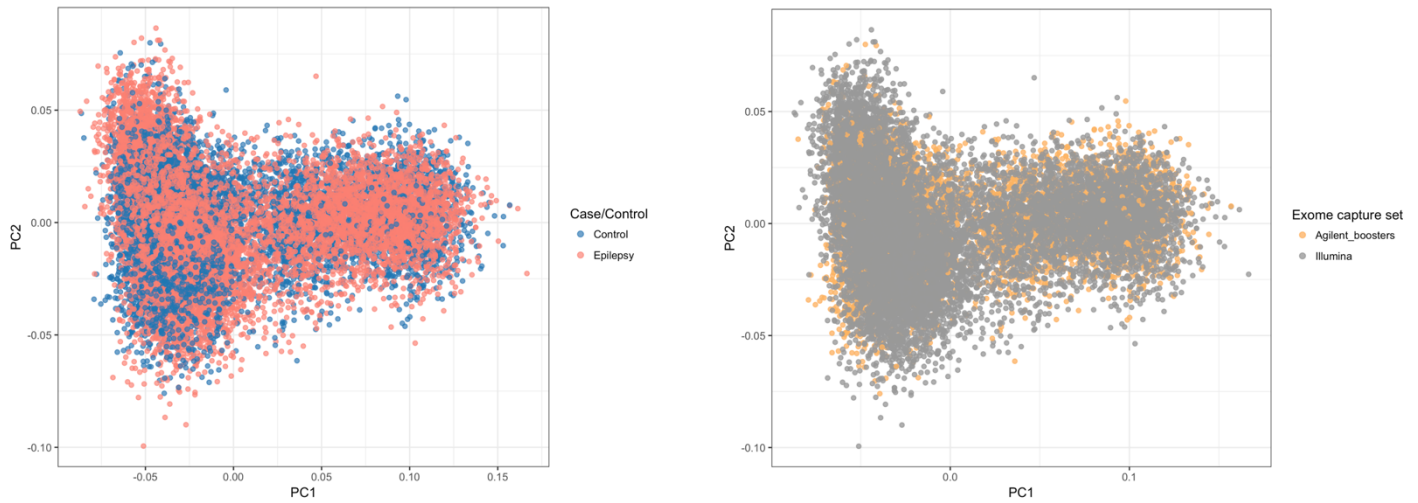


Figure S4. PCA on European samples

- (A) Initial PCA on individuals classified as having a European descent. Ancestry was not well-matched between cases and controls.
- (B) PCA after removing controls not pair-matched with cases based on top 2 PCs. Discarded controls were mostly Swedish and Finnish due to their unique genetic architecture.
- (C) Synonymous singleton count distribution of ancestry-matched samples. This number tracks with intra-continental ancestry, showing a larger count in Southern Europeans relative to Northern Europeans. Case cohorts (orange) and control cohorts (blue) overall had a similar rate of singleton synonymous variants, indicated by the group averages (dashed lines). A few cohorts (Finland, Cyprus, Turkey) showed deviation from the mean and were removed from further analysis.
- (D) Post-QC PC plots (PC1 vs. PC2), by case-control status and exome capture platform, showing a genetically homogeneous population for which analyses would be performed

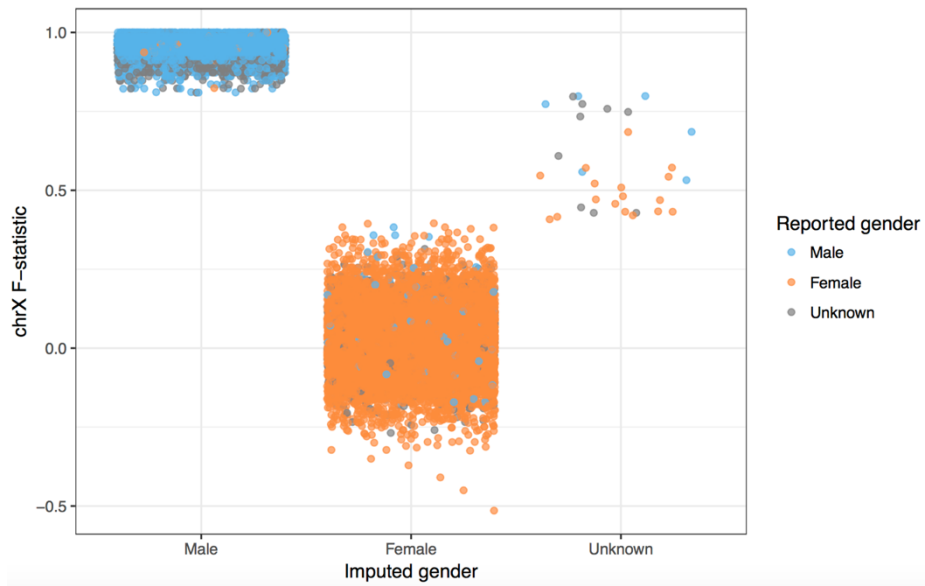


Figure S5. Sex check: concordance between genetically-imputed sex and self-reported sex

Sex was determined using the X-chromosome homozygosity rate, or F-statistics (≤ 0.4 : female; ≥ 0.8 : male; in between: unknown). Samples with either undefined genetic sex or discordant between imputed and reported gender were discarded.

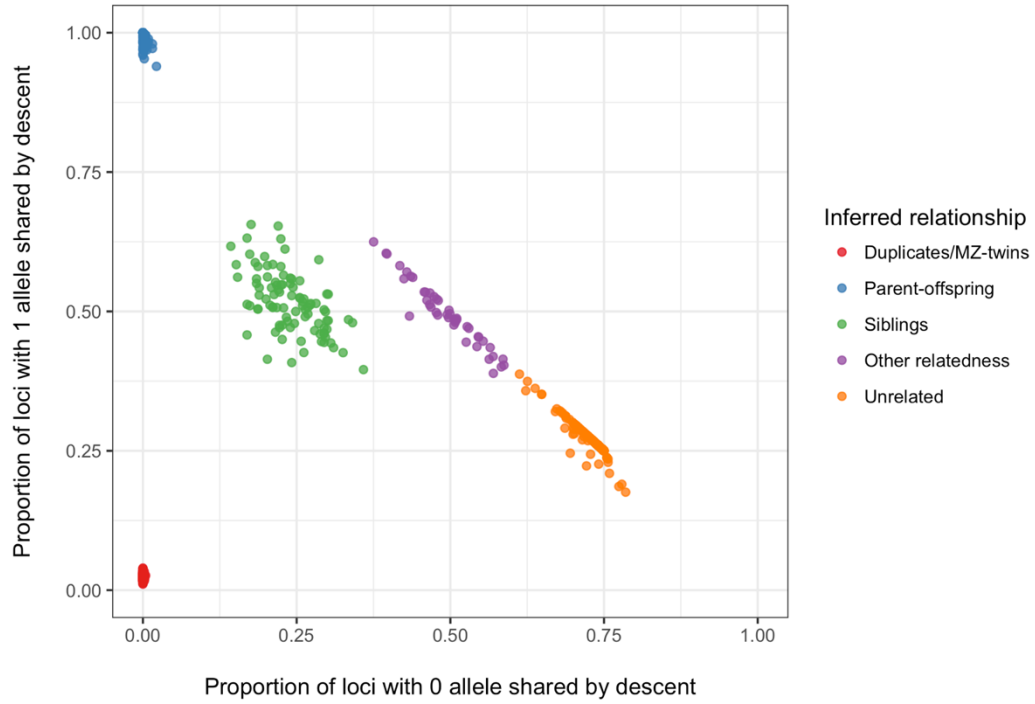


Figure S6. Identify-by-descent (IBD) estimate for ancestry-matched (EUR) samples

This plot shows only pairs of individuals with a relatedness > 0.125 for clarity. One individual in each of the related pairs with IBD > 0.2 was removed. Samples appearing in multiple related pairs were removed first, and cases were preserved over controls.

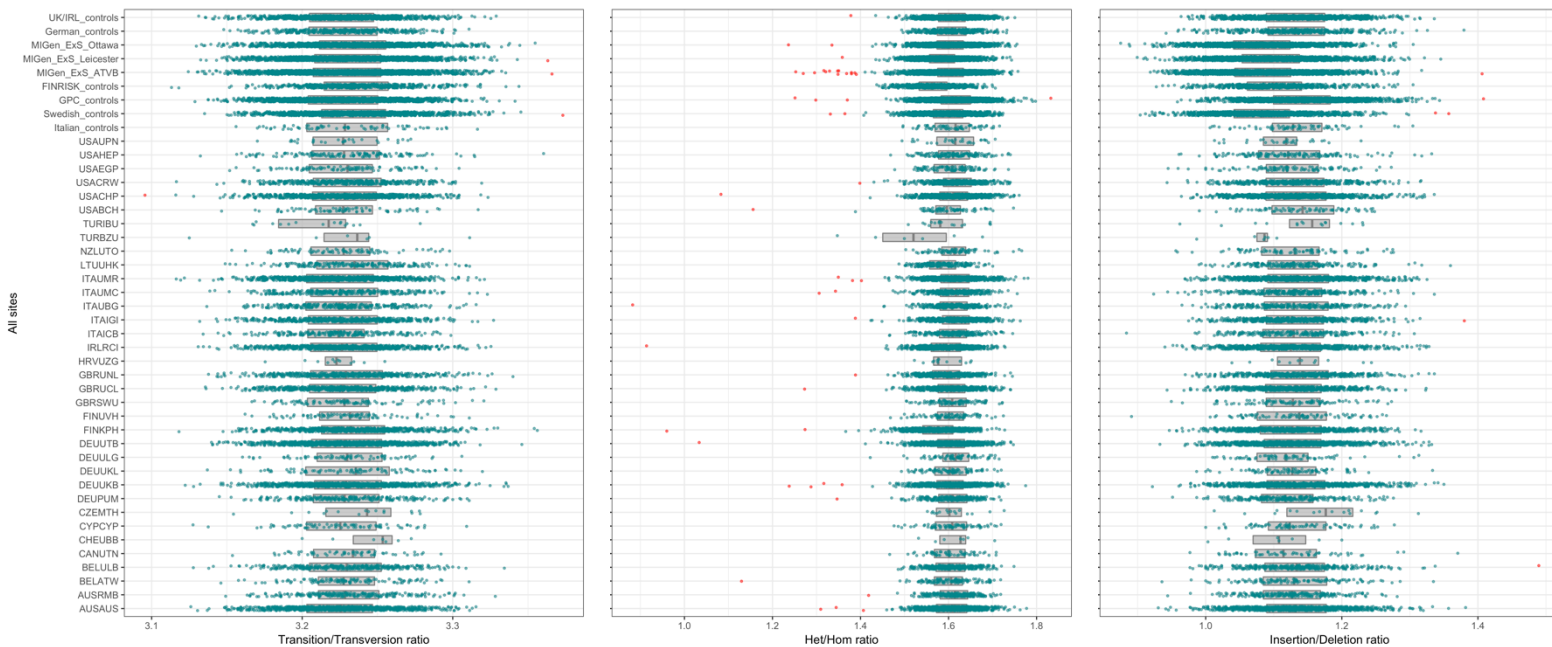


Figure S7. Sample outliers of QC metrics: transition to transversion ratio (Ti/Tv), heterozygous to homozygous ratio (Het/Hom), and insertion to deletion ratio.

Samples in each cohort that had a value outside the range of $\text{mean} \pm 4\text{SD}$ were removed (red dots).

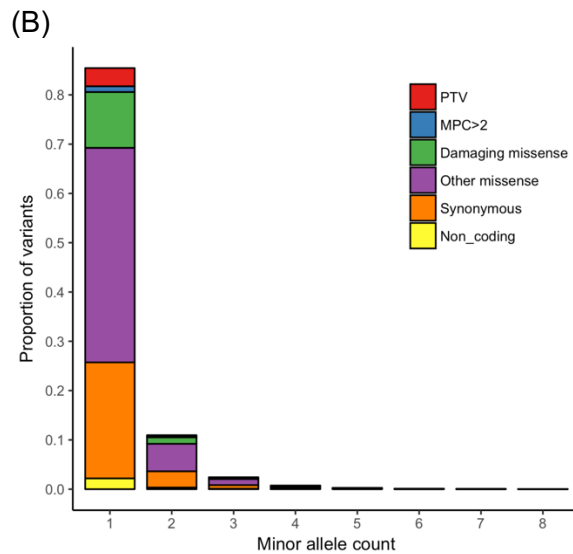
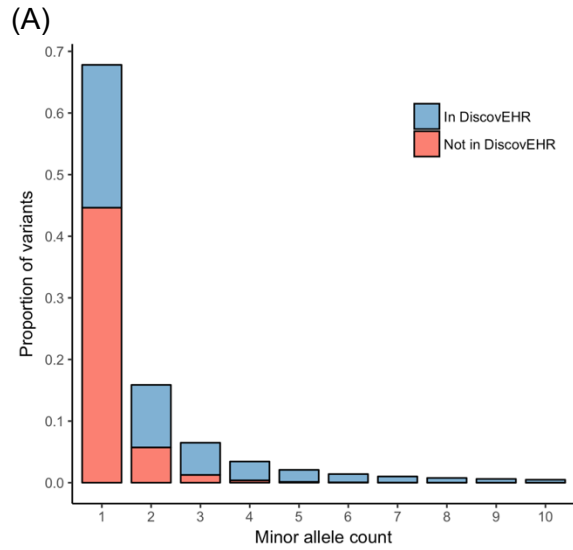


Figure S8. Post-QC allele count distribution

(A) showed the proportion of variants absent in DiscovEHR (48%) for which a majority were singletons

(B) showed the proportion of *non-DiscovEHR* sites by functional annotation. For the purpose of visualization, plotted here were non-overlapping proportions from the six functional classes of variants. Specifically, 4.1% were PTVs, 1.3% were missense variants with $MPC \geq 2$, 13% were non-MPC damaging missense, 50.1% were non-MPC benign missense variants (predicted by Polyphen-2 and SIFT), 27.9% were synonymous variants, and 2.8% were non-coding variants. In the analyses, however, the full damaging and benign missense annotations (predicted by PolyPhen-2 and SIFT) contained 59% and 41% of the $MPC \geq 2$ variants, respectively.

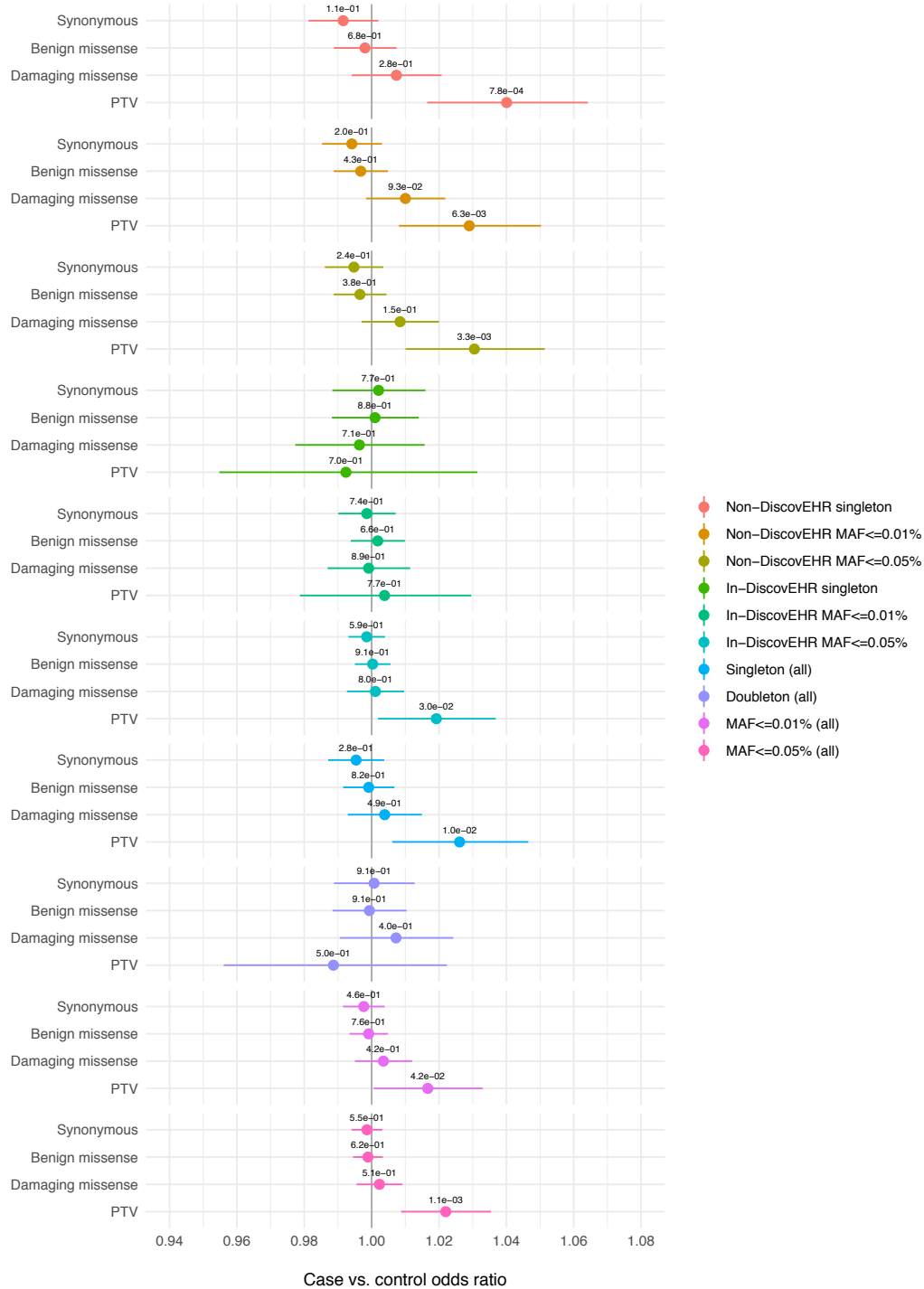


Figure S9. Exome-wide burden of rare variants in epilepsy versus controls across allele frequency categories

The burden of deleterious variants increased with a decrease in allele frequency. Risk of epilepsy was predominantly enriched among the singleton variants absent from the DiscovEHR cohort (a population allele frequency database).

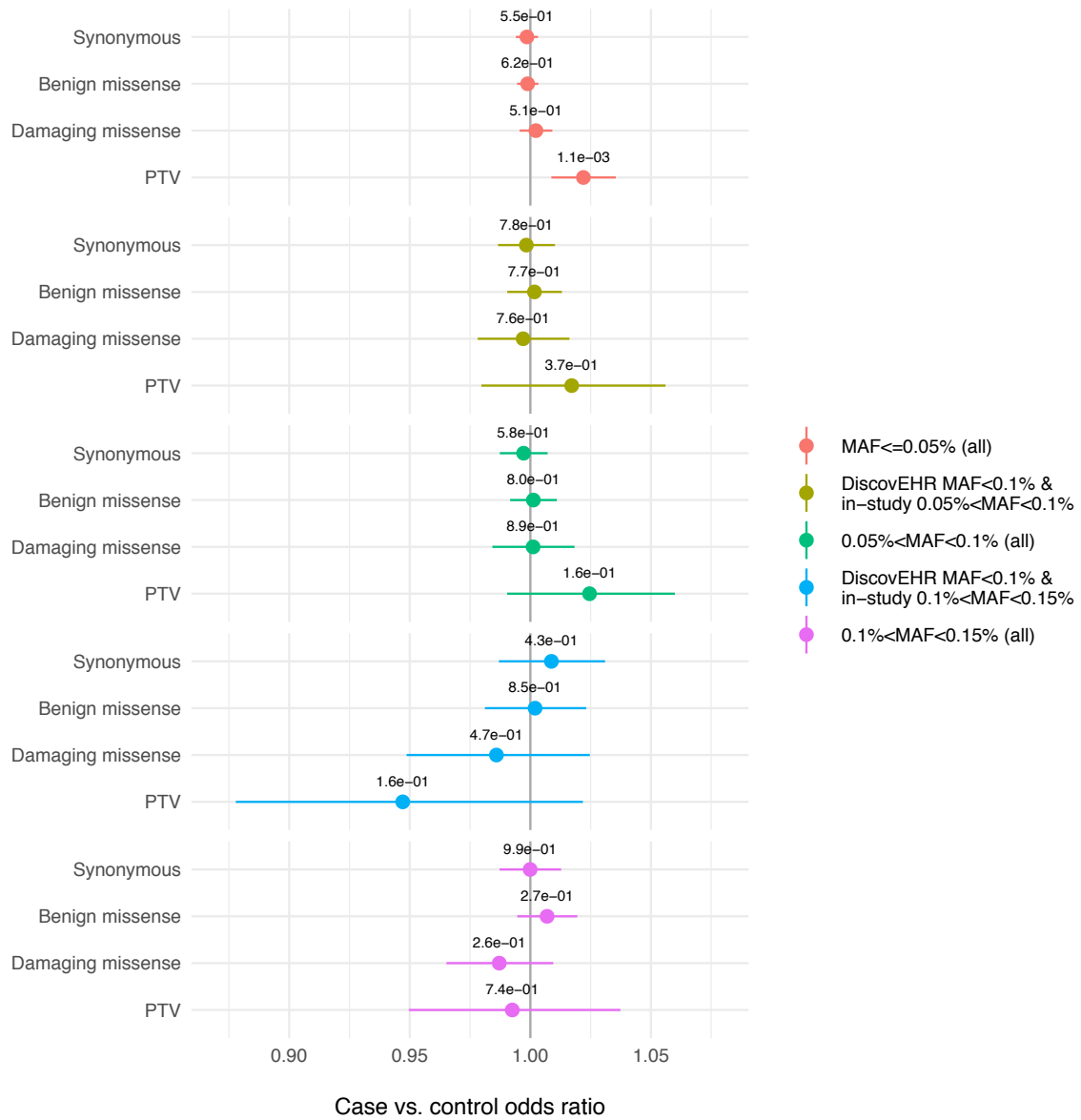


Figure S10. Exome-wide burden of rare and low-frequency variants in epilepsy versus controls

The excess burden of deleterious variants diminished in epilepsy with an increased in allele frequency, and are contained within ultra-rare variants (**Figure S9**).

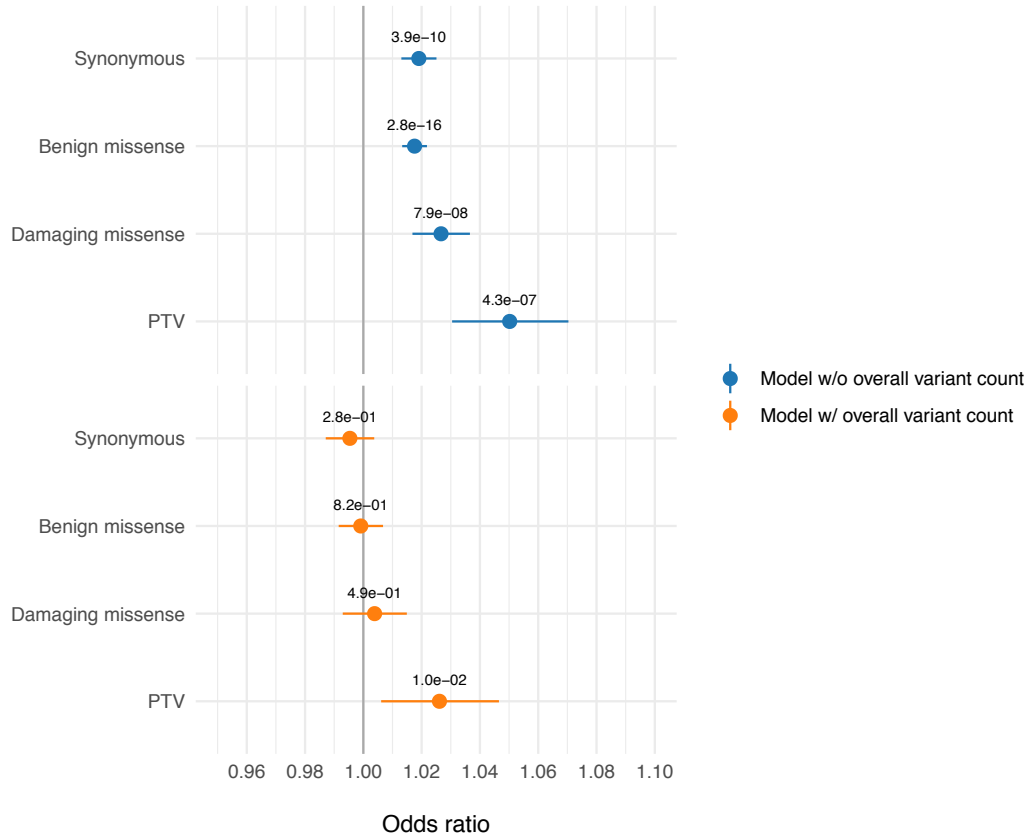


Figure S11. Correcting for exome-wide burden in gene-set burden test: controlling for overall variant count calibrated burden test p-values

This example was a burden analysis that assessed the exome-wide singleton enrichment in all epilepsy cases versus controls. Logistic regression model adjusting for total singleton count regardless of annotation (orange) successfully reduced the inflated burden across all annotation categories due to residual population stratification not captured by PCA.

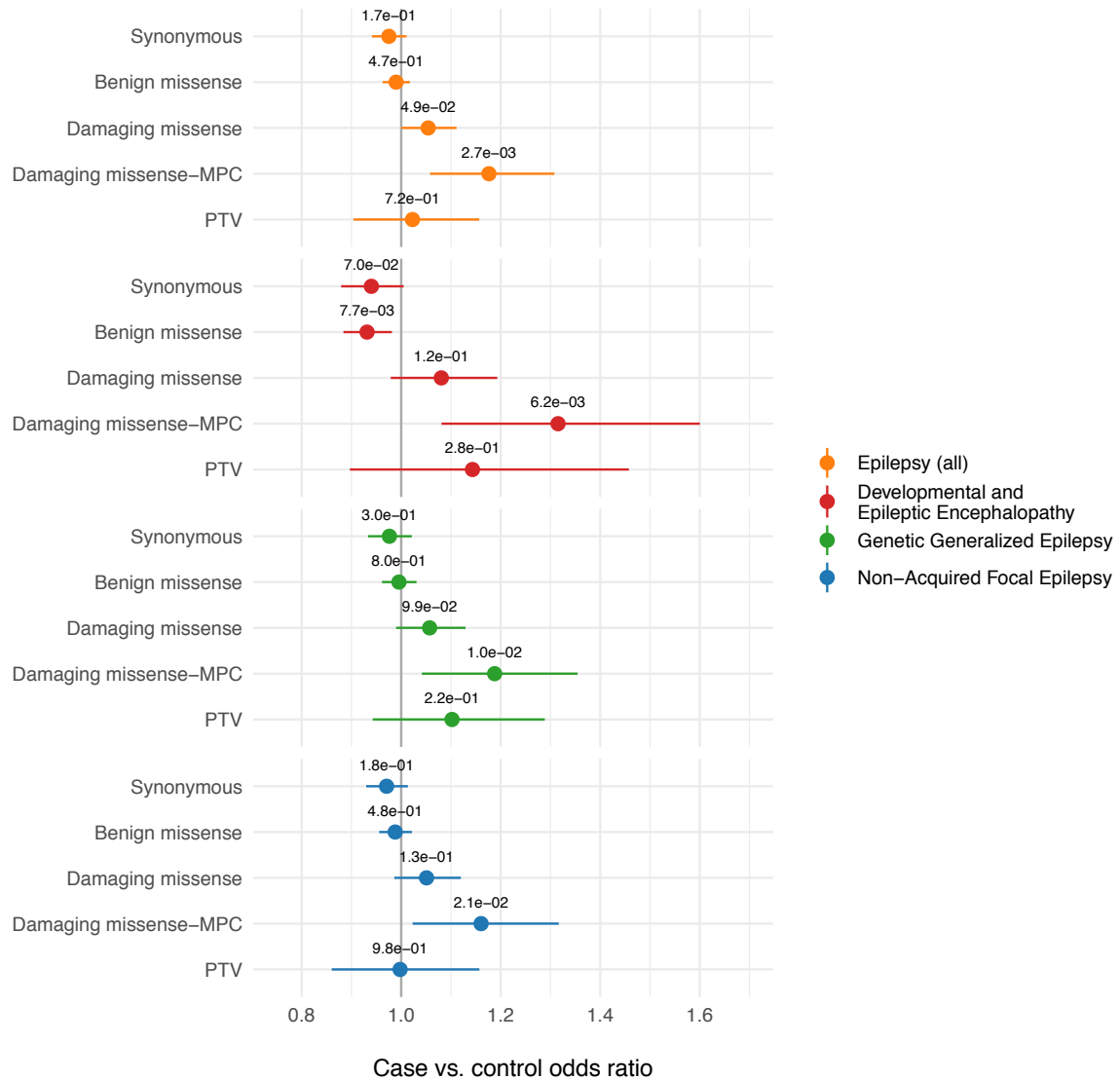


Figure S12. Burden of ultra-rare singletons in LoF-intolerant genes with $0.9 < pLI < 0.995$, using only non-ExAC controls (N=4,042)

Burden signals of PTVs disappeared after restricting to genes within the range of $0.9 < pLI < 0.995$, suggesting that most enrichment of PTVs in haploinsufficient genes associated with epilepsy was driven by genes with a $pLI > 0.995$.

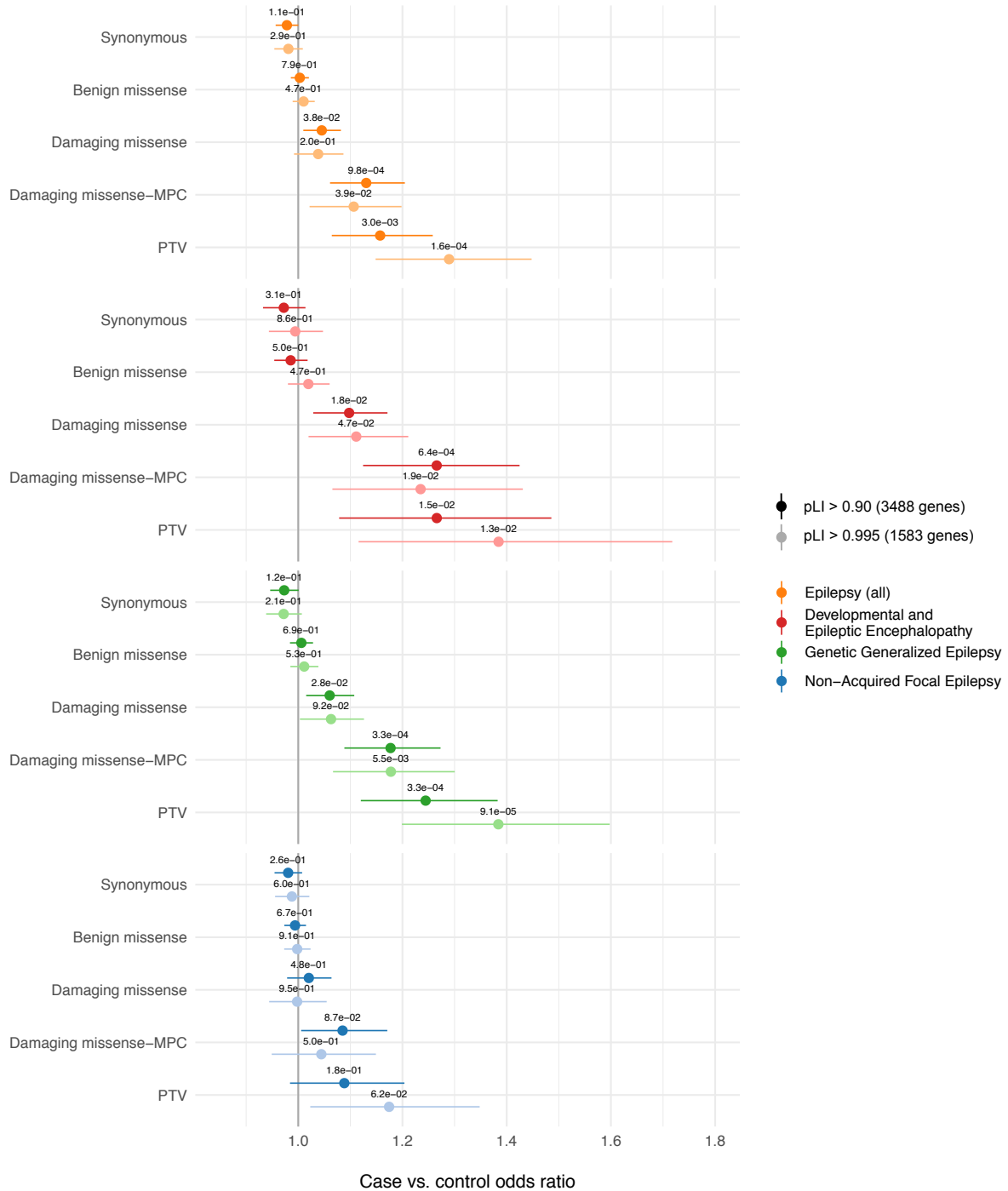


Figure S13. Burden of ultra-rare singletons in LoF-intolerant genes ($pLI > 0.9$ and > 0.995), using only non-ExAC controls ($N=4,042$)

Significance of association was displayed in FDR-adjusted p-values. A strongly significant enrichment of PTVs and damaging missense variants ($MPC \geq 2$) were seen in patients with DEE and GGE, but not NAFE ($FDR < 0.05$). PTV burden was even stronger when restricting to genes with $pLI > 0.995$. Only non-ExAC controls were used as pLI scores were derived from ExAC samples.

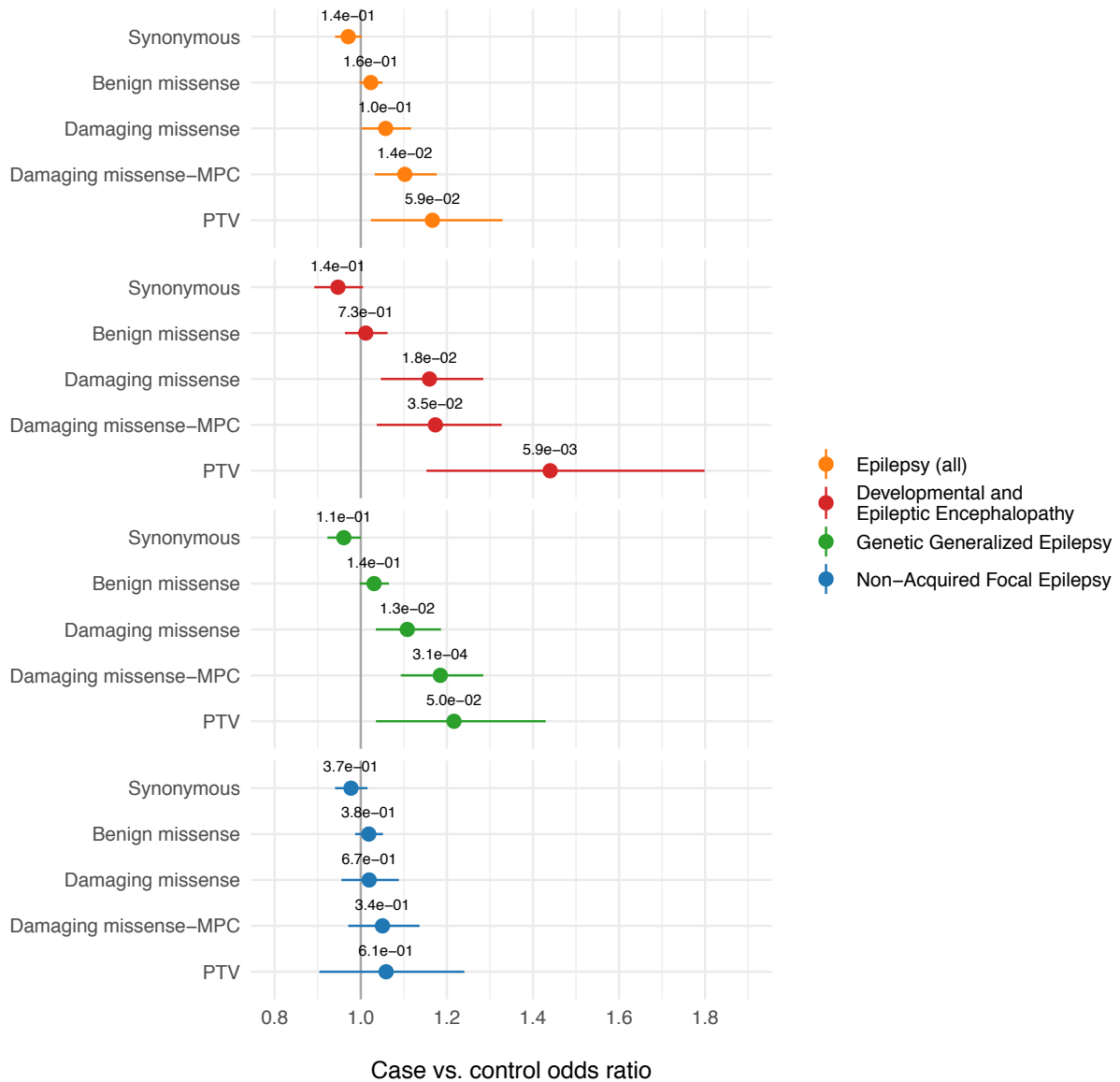


Figure S14. Burden of ultra-rare singletons in missense constrained genes ($mi-Z > 3.09$), using only non-ExAC controls ($N=4,042$)

Significance of association was displayed in FDR-adjusted p-values. PTV and damaging missense ($MPC \geq 2$) burden were significant for all epilepsy phenotypes at $FDR < 0.05$ except NAFE.

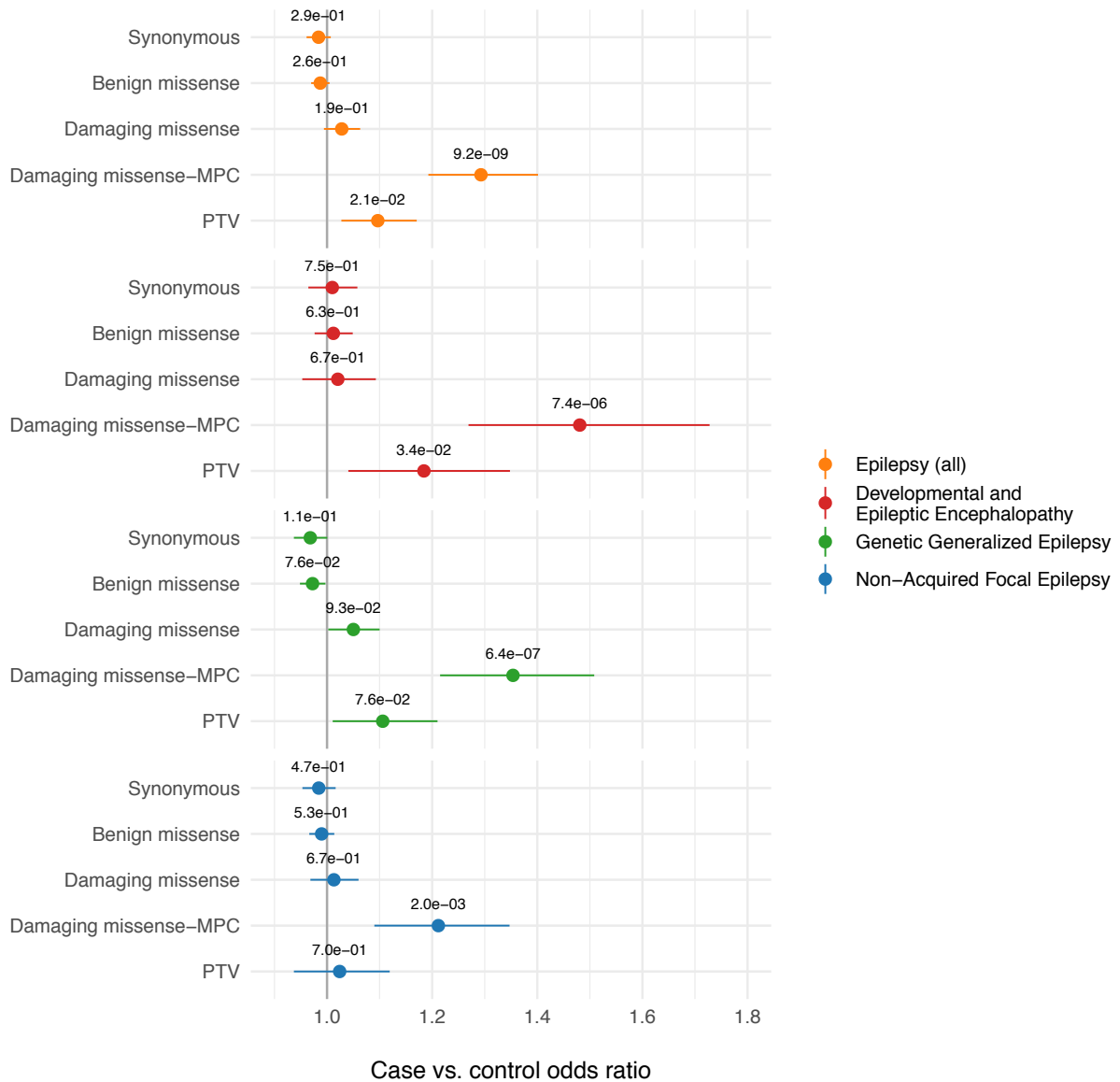
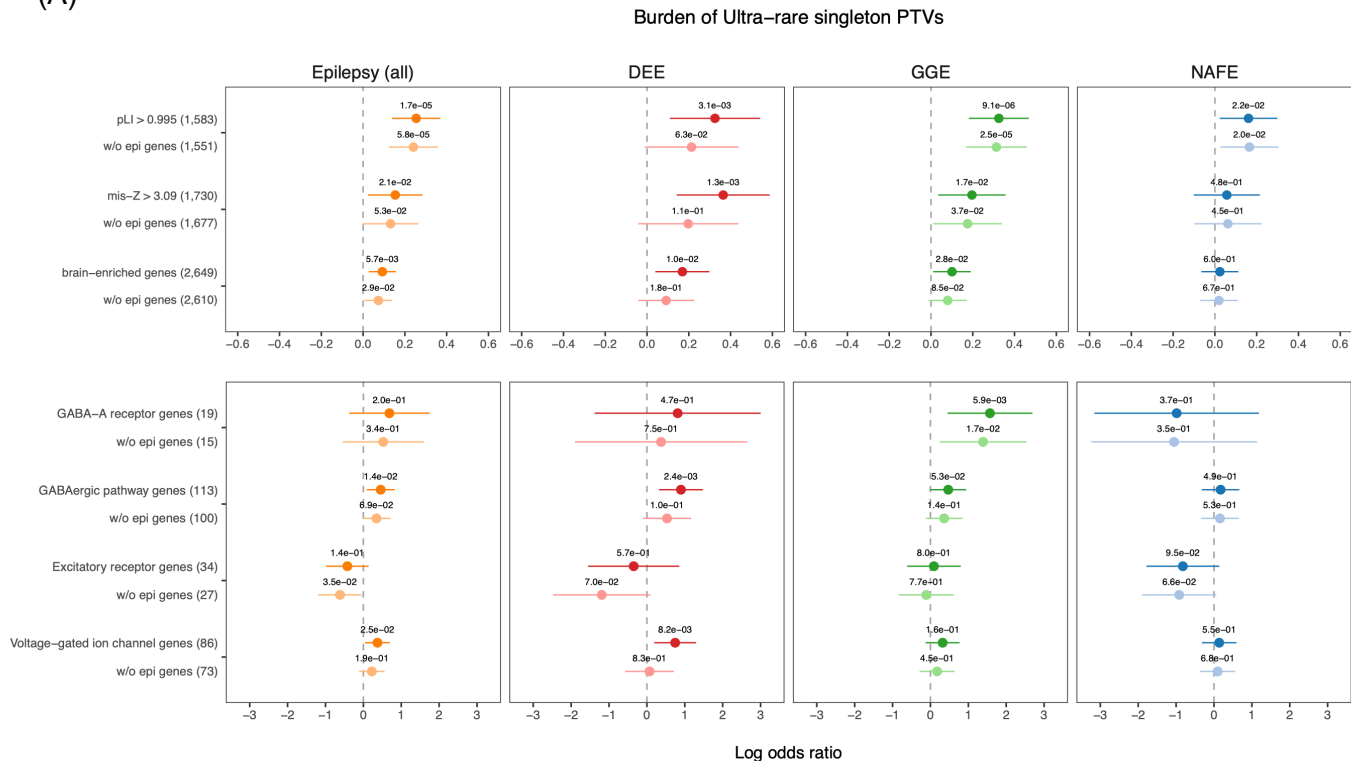


Figure S15. Burden of ultra-rare singletons in 2,649 brain-enriched genes

Significance of association was displayed in FDR-adjusted p -values. Damaging missense (MPC \geq 2) variants in brain-enriched genes were significantly enriched in all epilepsy types and had a much higher burden relative to PTVs. PTV burden was stronger in patients with DEE (FDR < 0.05) than with common epilepsy types.

(A)



(B)

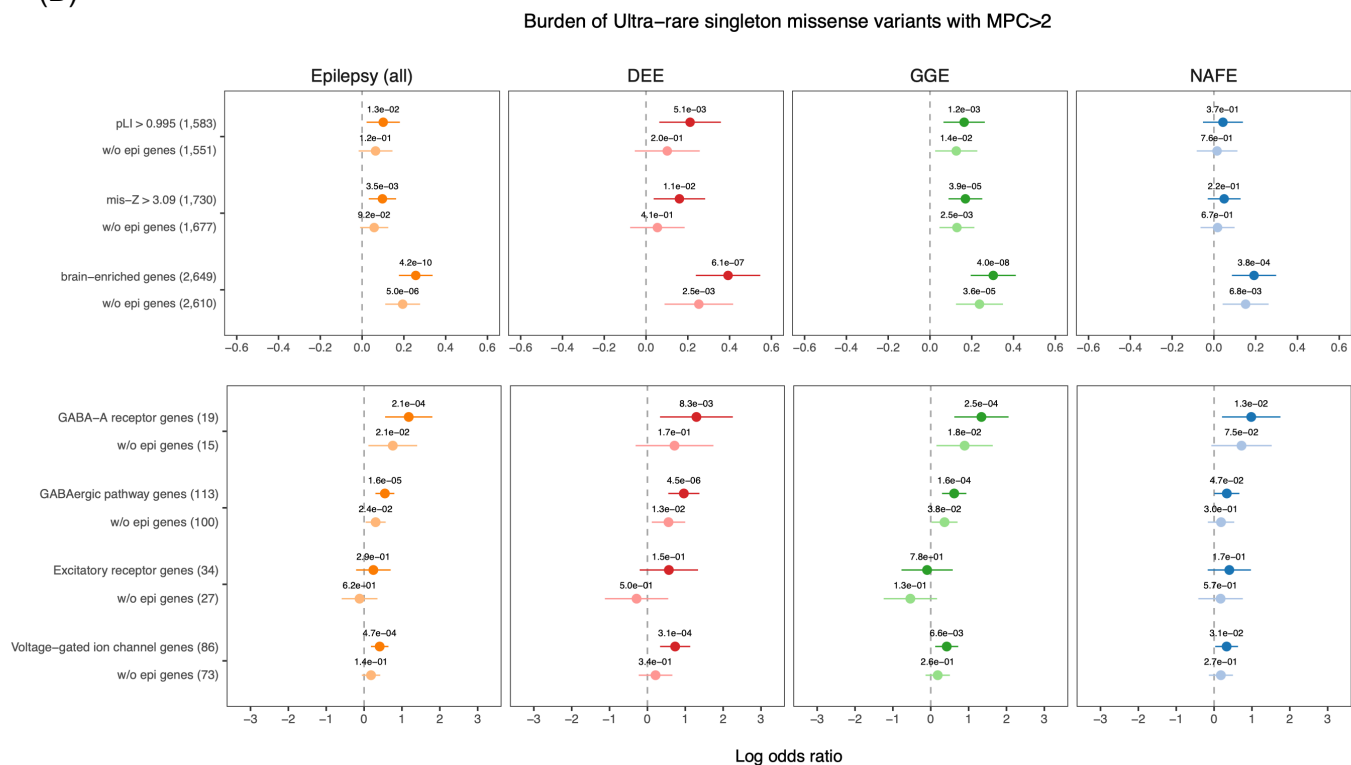
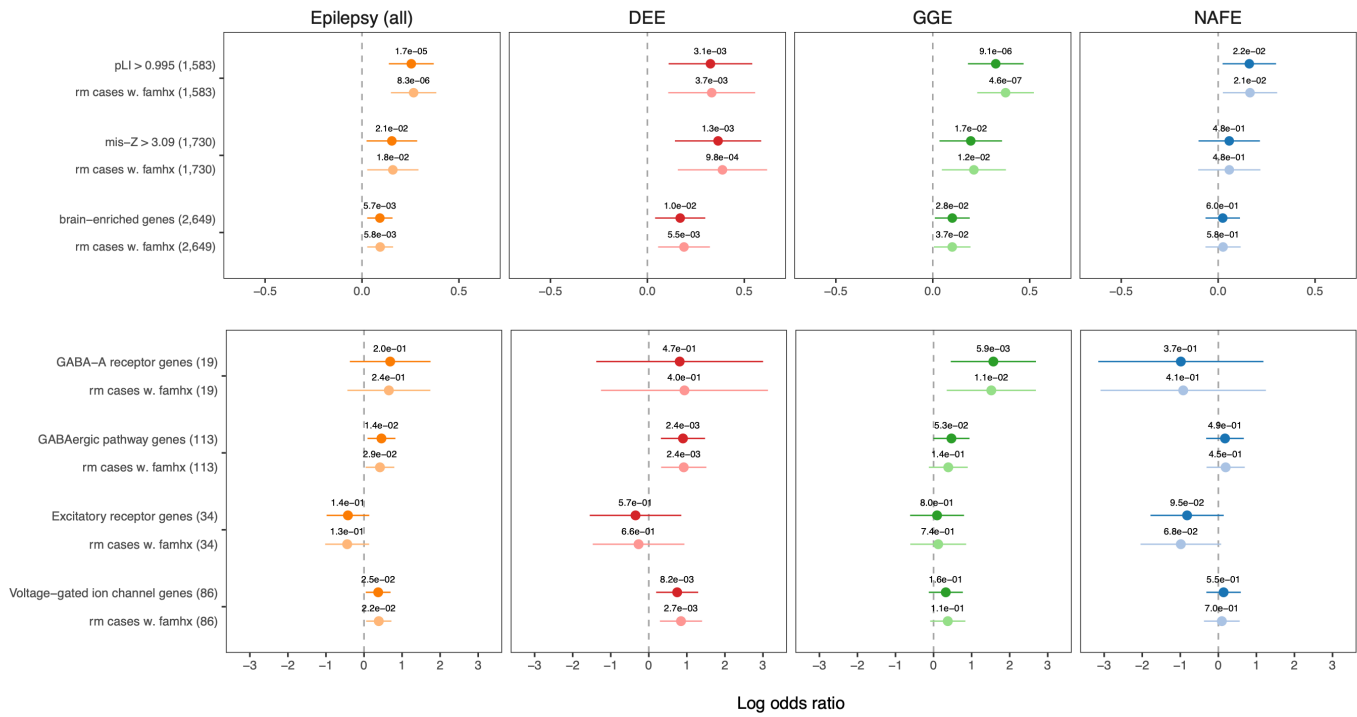


Figure S16. Burden of ultra-rare singleton PTVs (A) and missense-MPC \geq 2 variants (B) before and after correcting for events in genes previously associated with epilepsy

Genes previously associated with epilepsy included 74 non-overlapping genes from the 43 dominant epilepsy genes, 50 dominant DEE genes, and 33 NDD-EPI genes (**Table S6**). For each gene set, the darker (upper) color showed burden signals before adjusting for counts in the 74 genes and the lighter (lower) color showed the residual signals after correcting for associations driven by the 74 genes. P-values were shown in original values.

(A)

Burden of Ultra-rare singleton PTVs



(B)

Burden of Ultra-rare singleton missense variants with MPC>2

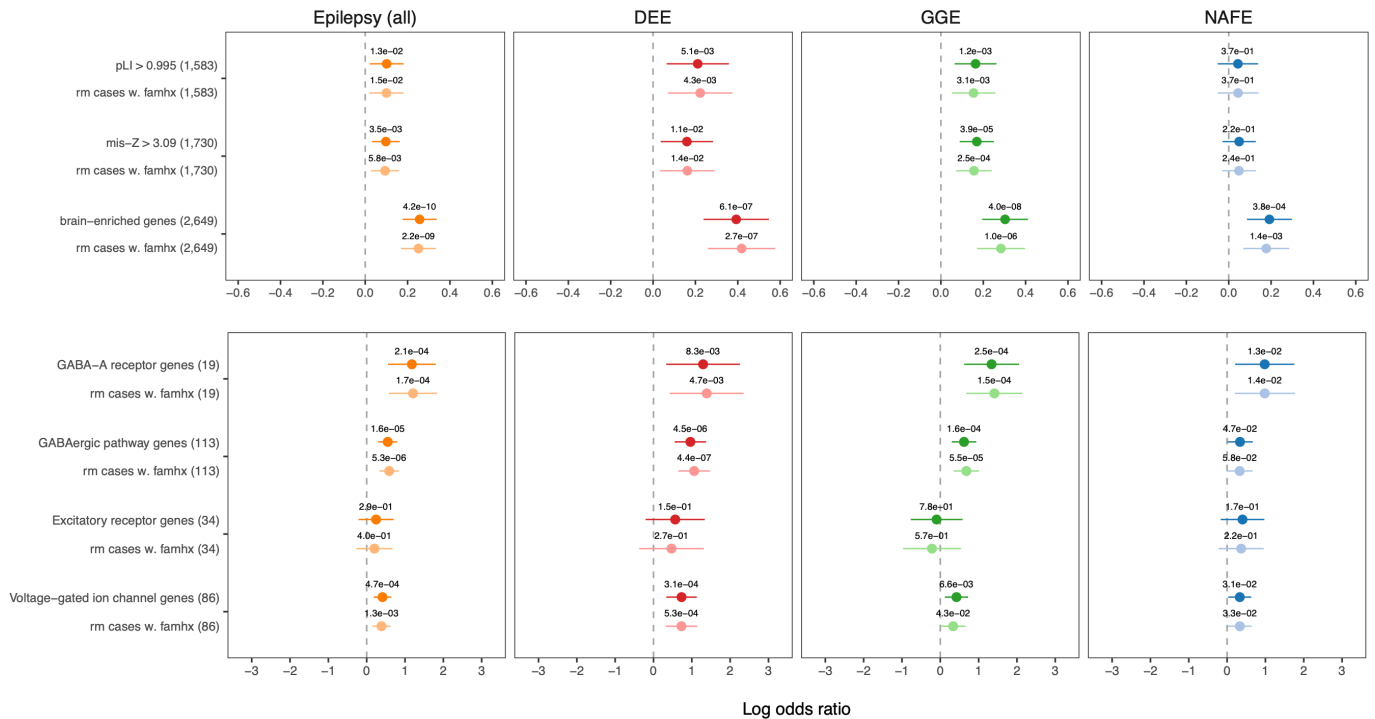


Figure S17. Burden of ultra-rare singleton PTVs (A) and missense-MPC>2 variants (B) before and after removing patients with a reported family history (of an affected first-degree relative)

The number of individuals reported to have an affected first-degree relative include 96 DEE, 380 GGE, and 197 NAFE cases. Showing on the figure is the estimated burden before (darker color) and after (lighter (lower) removing these individuals for each gene set. P-values were shown in original values.

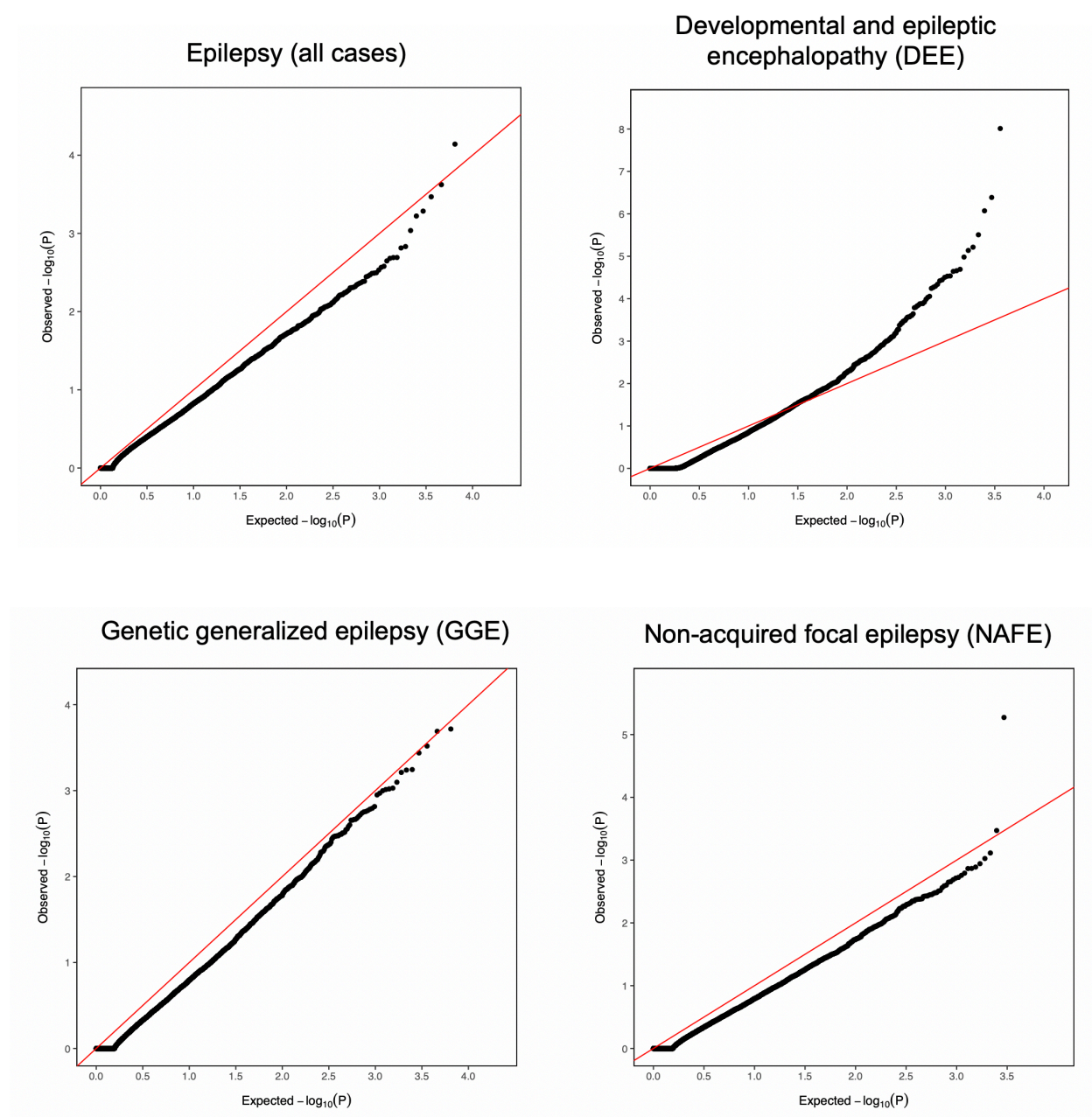


Figure S17. Burden of all low-frequency damaging missense variants assessed using SKAT

Shown were the SKAT gene burden results based on damaging missense variants (predicted by PolyPhen-2 and SIFT) with MAF < 0.01. Exome-wide significant gene associations were observed only among DEE patients compared to controls, where the top genes included previously associated genes (e.g. *STXBP1*, $P=9.3e-09$; *KCNA2*, $P=1.0e-05$). Burden of missense variants with MPC \geq 2 showed a very similar pattern but was in general more underpowered due to low counts (data not shown).

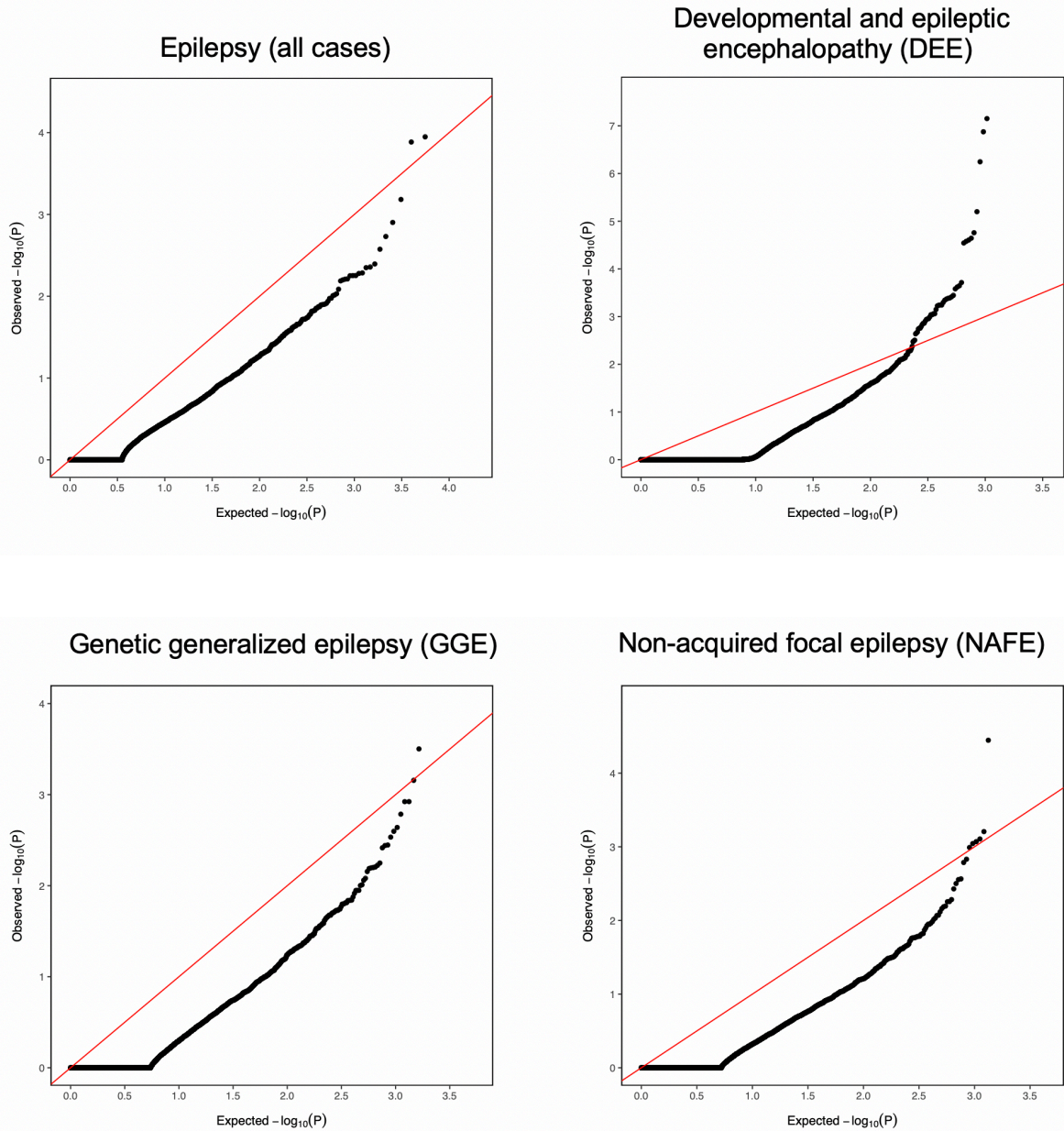


Figure S18. Burden of all low-frequency protein truncating variants assessed using SKAT

Shown were the SKAT gene burden results based on protein truncating variants with $MAF < 0.01$. Exome-wide significant gene associations were observed only among DEE patients compared to controls, with the top genes including some previously associated genes (e.g. *KIAA2022*, $P = 7.1e-08$; *SCN1A*, $P = 3.9e-04$). Associations with other epilepsy phenotypes were largely underpowered due to low counts.

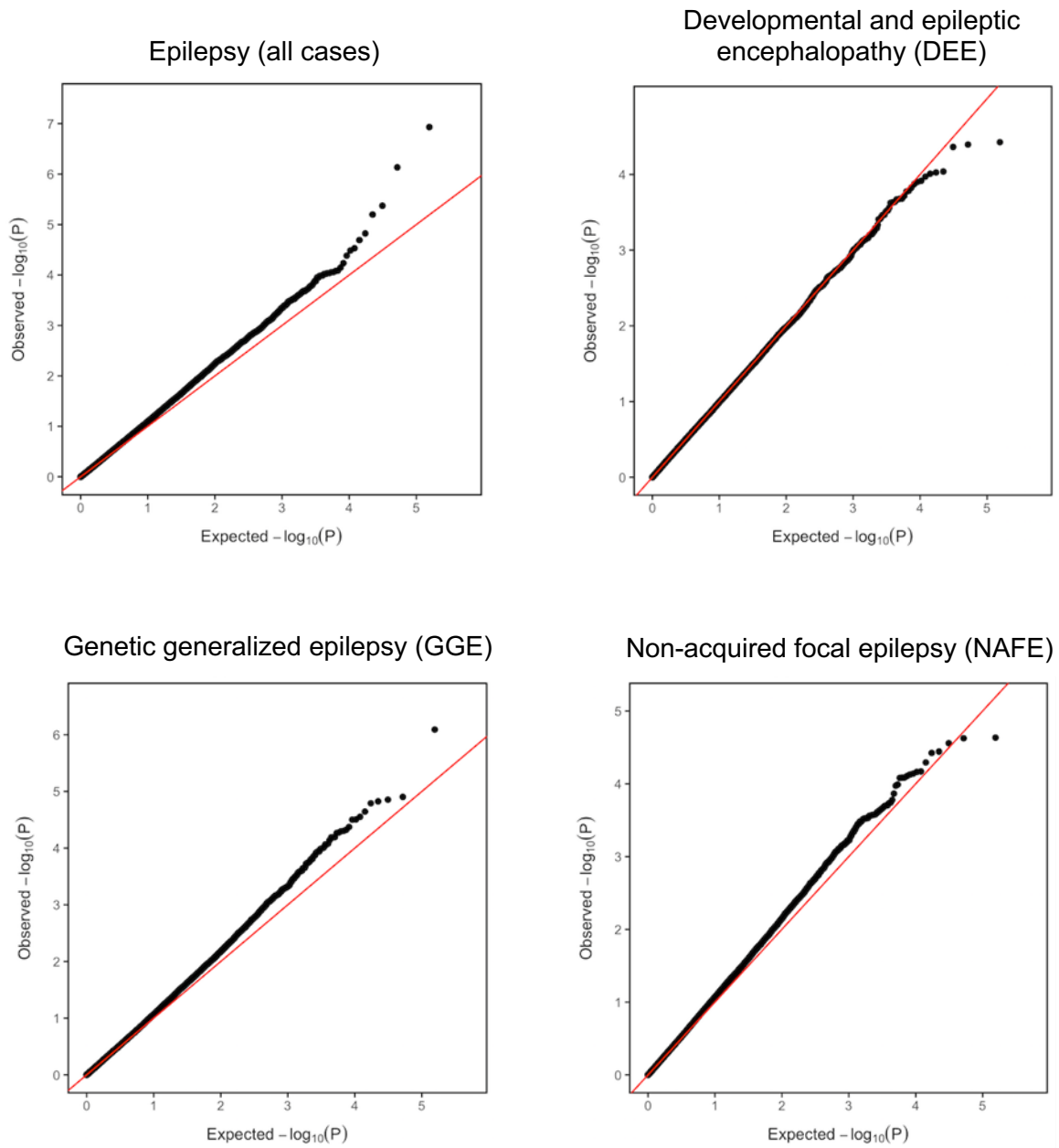
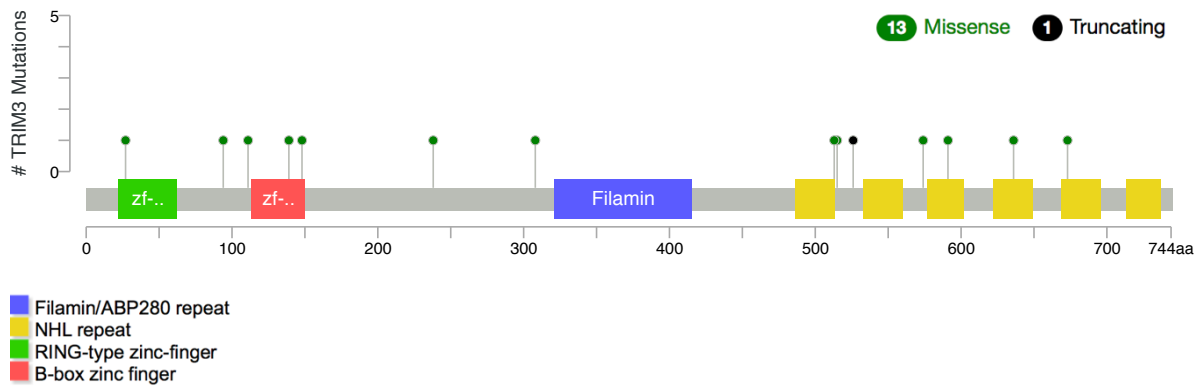


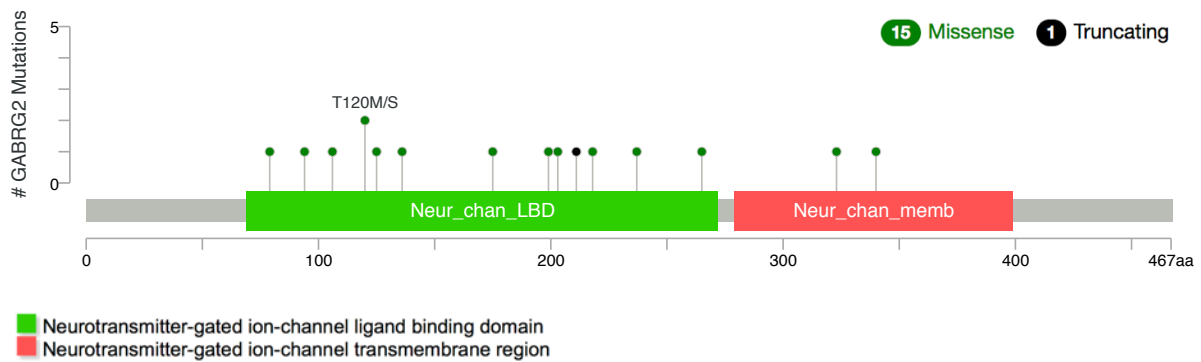
Figure S19. Association with common and low frequency variants (for variants with MAF > 0.001)

After multiple-testing correction, no coding variants were significantly associated with overall epilepsy (all cases) or within any epilepsy type.

(A) **TRIM3** (2 DEE, 2 GGE, 7 NAFE, 3 Lesional)



(B) **GABRG2** (7 GGE, 7 NAFE, 1 Lesional, 1 Control)



(C) **CACNA1G** (2 DEE, 10 GGE, 4 NAFE, 3 Lesional, 3 Control)

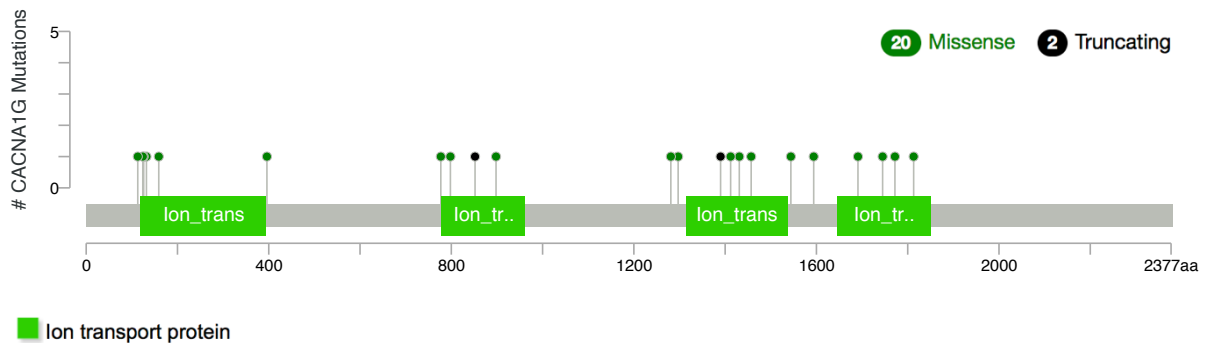


Figure S20. Mutational diagrams of selected top genes in all-epilepsy gene burden analysis

These genes were shown to harbor a higher burden of missense (MPC \geq 2) than protein-truncating URVs in epilepsy patients.

Table S1. Epi25 epilepsy patients for whole-exome sequencing (WES)

DEE: developmental and epileptic encephalopathy; GGE: genetic generalized epilepsy; NAFE: non-acquired focal epilepsy; LFE: lesional focal epilepsy; FS: febrile seizure; UE: unclassified epilepsy (including those under review or labeled excluded)

Site Name	Site Code	Epilepsy						TOTAL
		DEE	GGE	NAFE	LFE	FS	UE	
Australia: Melbourne	AUSAUS	139	412	366	236	57	6	1216
Australia: Royal Melbourne	AUSRMB	0	88	128	42	0	12	270
Belgium: Antwerp	BELATW	87	36	20	0	0	0	143
Belgium: Brussels	BELULB	6	71	190	120	0	0	387
Canada: Andrade	CANUTN	37	43	8	3	0	5	96
Switzerland: Bern	CHEUBB	0	0	6	2	0	0	8
Cyprus	CYPCYP	7	53	52	4	0	2	118
Czech Republic: Prague	CZEMTH	16	0	0	0	0	0	16
Germany: Frankfurt/Marburg	DEUPUM	4	58	130	60	0	7	259
Germany: Bonn	DEUUKB	0	206	557	61	193	36	1053
Germany: Kiel	DEUUKL	47	81	20	0	0	1	149
Germany: Leipzig	DEUULG	0	0	89	0	0	0	89
Germany: Tuebingen	DEUUTB	63	346	256	351	33	6	1055
Finland: Kuopio	FINKPH	20	55	636	21	0	2	734
Finland: Helsinki	FINUVH	26	51	17	1	0	0	95
Wales: Swansea	GBRSWU	0	45	56	0	0	6	107
UK: UCL	GBRUCL	5	304	314	2	0	87	712
UK: Imperial/Liverpool	GBRUNL	0	190	343	0	0	0	533
Hong Kong	HKGHKK	0	21	23	0	0	0	44
Croatia	HRVUZG	11	2	0	0	0	1	14
Ireland: Dublin	IRLRCI	14	145	464	155	15	18	811
Italy: Milan	ITAICB	50	97	14	29	0	6	196
Italy: Genova	ITAIGI	100	269	13	26	0	2	410
Italy: Bologna	ITAUBG	82	60	117	34	0	6	299
Italy: Catanzaro	ITAUMC	5	72	264	28	0	4	373
Italy: Florence	ITAUMR	402	186	128	155	0	56	927
Japan: RIKEN Institute	JPNRKI	0	31	0	0	0	0	31
Lithuania	LTUUHK	33	96	70	14	0	3	216
New Zealand: Otago	NZLUTO	27	42	42	6	0	0	117
Turkey: Bogazici	TURBZU	89	0	0	0	0	0	89
Turkey: Istanbul	TURIBU	5	50	52	6	0	1	114
USA: BCH	USABCH	60	12	9	7	1	5	94
USA: Philadelphia/CHOP	USACHP	0	988	479	0	0	0	1467
USA: Philadelphia/Rowan	USACRW	0	324	236	0	0	0	560
USA: EPGP	USAEGP	126	2	1	1	0	0	130
USA: NYU HEP	USAHEP	0	0	214	0	0	0	214
USA: Penn/CHOP	USAUPN	15	17	17	1	0	0	50
TOTAL		1476	4453	5331	1365	299	272	13196

Table S2. Control collection for Epi25 WES analysis

Control cohorts	General control	MI/CAD/CHD ¹	Exome capture platform	Source	dbGaP Accession or PMID	In ExAC
MIGen ATVB	1802	1875	Agilent	dbGaP	phs000814.v1.p1	Yes
MIGen Leicester	1100	0	Illumina	dbGaP	phs001000.v1.p1	No
MIGen Ottawa Heart Study	987	993	Agilent	dbGaP	phs000806.v1.p1	Yes
Genomic Psychiatry Cohort (GPC) controls	1946	0	Illumina	Broad local	23650244 ²³	No
German controls	414	0	Illumina	Broad local	N/A	No
FINRISK controls	681	0	Illumina	Broad local	29165699 ²²	No
Swedish SCZ controls	6242	0	Agilent	dbGaP	phs000473.v2.p2	Yes
UK/IRL controls	1223	0	Illumina	Broad local	N/A	No
Italian controls	106	0	Illumina	Broad local	N/A	No
Epi25 Italian controls (ITAICB & ITAIGI)	300	0	Illumina	Epi25	N/A	No
Total	17669					

¹Myocardial infarction, coronary artery disease, or coronary heart disease

Table S3. Sample QC and number of sample dropout at each QC step

Sample QC metric	Number of cases (%)	Number of controls (%)
Initial numbers	13,196 (100%)	17,669 (100%)
<i>Initial sample QC</i> Call rate < 0.98 / %Chimeras > 0.014 Avg. sequence depth < 30 Avg. genotype quality < 85 Freemix contamination > 0.04	84 (0.63%)	372 (2.11%)
<i>PCA</i> Non-European Case-Control ancestry matching (using top PCs)	2034 (15.4%) 0	338 (1.91%) 6838 (38.7%)
<i>Relatedness filtering</i> IBD > 0.2	218 (1.65%)	149 (0.84%)
<i>Sex check</i> Ambiguous imputed sex Imputed sex not equal to reported sex	6 (0.05%) 148 (1.12%)	5 (0.03%) 25 (0.14%)
<i>Outlier removal</i> Per-cohort outliers (>4 SD) of Ti/Tv, Het/Hom, or indel ratio	34 (0.19%)	34 (0.19%)
<i>Control for residual population stratification</i> (using #synonymous singletons) Swedish/Finnish: lower counts Cypriot/Turkish: higher counts	1232 (9.33%) 99 (0.75%)	1472 (8.33%) 0
TBD-phenotype cases / Excluded by review	171 (1.30%)	0
Final numbers	9,170 (69.5%)	8,436 (47.7%)

Table S4. Variant QC and number of variant dropout at each QC step

Variant QC metric	Number of variants removed	%Removed
<i>Pre-filtering:</i>		
Failing VQSR	614,459	8.90%
In low complexity region	69,003	1.00%
Outside well-covered regions	2,996,409	43.40%
<i>Initial QC:</i>		
Call rate < 0.975	220,614	3.20%
Case- & Ctrl-call rate < 0.975	224,033	3.20%
Case/Ctrl call rate diff > 0.005	662	0.01%
pHWE < 1e-06	732,640	10.60%
AC = 0		
<i>Final QC:</i>		
Call rate < 0.98	195,586	2.80%
Case/Ctrl call rate diff > 0.005		
pHWE < 1e-06		
AC = 0		
Associated with capture platform ($p < 0.05$)	5,906	0.09%

Table S5. Grouping of functional consequences of the called sites

Consequence	VEP Terms/annotation
Protein-truncating variant (PTV)	"transcript_ablation", "splice_acceptor_variant", "splice_donor_variant", "stop_gained", or "frameshift_variant"
Missense	"stop_lost", "start_lost", "transcript_amplification", "inframe_insertion", "inframe_deletion", "missense_variant", "protein_altering_variant", or "splice_region_variant"
Benign/Other missense	Not classified by PolyPhen-2 and SIFT as damaging or deleterious
Damaging missense	PolyPhen-2 "probably_damaging" & SIFT "deleterious"
Damaging missense-MPC	MPC score (M issense badness, P olyPhen-2, and C onstraint) ≥ 2
Synonymous	"incomplete_terminal_codon_variant", "stop_retained_variant", "synonymous_variant"

Table S6. Gene sets collected for burden analysis

Gene set	Number of genes	Reference	Genes (display only smaller gene sets)
Constrained genes			
LoF-intolerant (pLI > 0.9)	3,488	Samocha 2014 ²⁴	ExAC non-psych
LoF-intolerant (pLI > 0.995)	1,583	Samocha 2014 ²⁴	ExAC non-psych
Missense constrained (misZ > 3.09)	1,730	Samocha 2014 ²⁴	ExAC non-psych
Tissue-specific			
Brain enriched (GTEx)	2,649	Ganna 2016 ²⁵	
Candidate epilepsy genes			
Known epilepsy genes	43	Epi4K 2017 ²⁶	Table S5 <i>SPTAN1, SCN8A, CHD2, SCN2A, GRIN2B, GRIN2A, SYNGAP1, KCNMA1, PRICKLE2, SCN1A, CDKL5, KCNT1, GRIN1, PCDH19, CHRNA4, KCNQ2, DEPDC5, KCNQ3, HCN1, CHRNA2, LGI1, SLC6A1, GNAO1, SLC2A1, GABRG2, KCNC1, DNM1, CHRN2, KCNA2, HNRNPU, EEF1A2, STXBP1, MEF2C, GABRB3, GABRA1, SCN1B, SLC35A2, STX1B, KCNB1, PRRT2, SCN9A, SIK1, ALG13</i>
Known DEE genes	50	Heyne 2018 ²⁷	Table S3 <i>ALG13, ARHGEF9, ARX, CACNA1A, CASK, CDKL5, CHD2, DNM1, EEF1A2, FOXP1, GABRA1, GABRB3, GNAO1, GNB1, GPHN, GRIN1, GRIN2A, GRIN2B, HCN1, IQSEC2, KCNA2, KCNB1, KCNQ2, KCNT1, MBD5, MECP2, MEF2C, PCDH19, PIGA, PURA, SCN1A, SCN2A, SCN8A, SIK1, SLC2A1, SLC35A2, SLC6A1, SLC6A8, SLC9A6, SPTAN1, STXBP1, SYN1, SYNGAP1, TSC1, TSC2, UBE3A, WDR45, ZEB2, SLC1A2, GRIN2D</i>
Genes in neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs) with epilepsy	33	Heyne 2018 ²⁷	Table S6 <i>KCNQ2, SCN2A, SCN1A, STXBP1, CHD2, CDKL5, DNM1, DYRK1A, MEF2C, SYNGAP1, GABRB3, EEF1A2, SLC6A1, SCN8A, PURA, WDR45, GNAO1, HNRNPU, SMC1A, FOXP1, ARID1B, GRIN2A, GRIN2B, ALG13, ASXL3, KCNH1, GABRB2, NEXMIF, MECP2, SNAP25, COL4A3BP, SLC35A2, ARHGEF9</i>
Neurotransmission			
GABA-A receptor genes	19	May 2018 ²⁸	Table S5 <i>GABRA1, GABRA2, GABRA3, GABRA4, GABRA5, GABRA6, GABRB1, GABRB2, GABRB3, GABRD, GABRE, GABRG1, GABRG2, GABRG3, GABRP, GABRQ, GABRR1, GABRR2, GABRR3</i>

GABAergic pathway genes	113	May 2018 ²⁸	Table S5	<p><i>ABAT, ADCY1, ADCY2, ADCY3, ADCY4, ADCY5, ADCY6, ADCY7, ADCY8, ADCY9, ANK2, ANK3, ARHGEF9, DISC1, DLC1, DLC2, DNAI1, FGF13, GABARAP, GABARAPL1, GABARAPL2, GABBR1, GABBR2, GABRA1, GABRA2, GABRA3, GABRA4, GABRA5, GABRA6, GABRB1, GABRB2, GABRB3, GABRD, GABRE, GABRG1, GABRG2, GABRG3, GABRP, GABRQ, GABRR1, GABRR2, GABRR3, GAD1, GAD2, GLS, GLS2, GLUL, GNAI1, GNAI2, GNAI3, GNAO1, GNB1, GNB2, GNB3, GNB4, GNB5, GNG10, GNG11, GNG12, GNG13, GNG2, GNG3, GNG4, GNG5, GNG7, GNG8, GNGT1, GNGT2, GPHN, HAP1, KCNB2, KCNC1, KCNC2, KCNC3, KCNJ6, KIF5A, KIF5B, KIF5C, MAGI, MKLN1, MYO5A, NLGN2, NRXN1, NSF, PFN1, PLCL1, PRKACA, PRKACB, PRKACG, PRKCA, PRKCB, PRKCG, RAFT1, RDX, SCN1A, SCN1B, SCN2B, SCN3A, SCN8A, SEMA4D, SLC12A2, SLC12A5, SLC32A1, SLC38A1, SLC38A2, SLC38A3, SLC38A5, SLC6A1, SLC6A11, SLC6A13, SRC, TRAK1, TRAK2</i></p>
Excitatory receptor genes (Glutamate ionotropic receptors & cholinergic receptors)	34	May 2018 ²⁸	Table S5	<p><i>CHRNA1, CHRNA10, CHRNA2, CHRNA3, CHRNA4, CHRNA5, CHRNA6, CHRNA7, CHRNA9, CHRNB1, CHRNB2, CHRNB3, CHRNB4, CHRND, CHRNE, CHRNG, GRIA1, GRIA2, GRIA3, GRIA4, GRIK1, GRIK2, GRIK3, GRIK4, GRIK5, GRIN1, GRIN2A, GRIN2B, GRIN2C, GRIN2D, GRIN3A, GRIN3B, GRID1, GRID2</i></p>
Voltage-gated cation channel genes	86	May 2018 ²⁸	Table S5	<p><i>SCN10A, SCN11A, SCN1A, SCN1B, SCN2A2, SCN2B, SCN3A, SCN3B, SCN4A, SCN4B, SCN5A, SCN7A, SCN8A, SCN9A, CACNA1A, CACNA1B, CACNA1C, CACNA1D, CACNA1E, CACNA1F, CACNA1G, CACNA1H, CACNA1I, CACNA1S, CACNA2D1, CACNA2D2, CACNA2D3, CACNA2D4, CACNB1, CACNB2, CACNB3, CACNB4, KCNA1, KCNA10, KCNA2, KCNA3, KCNA4, KCNA5, KCNA6, KCNA7, KCNAB1, KCNAB2, KCNAB3, KCNB1, KCNB2, KCNC1, KCNC2, KCNC3, KCNC4, KCND1, KCND2, KCND3, KCNE1, KCNE1L, KCNE2, KCNE3, KCNE4, KCNF1, KCNG1, KCNG2, KCNG3, KCNG4, KCNH1, KCNH2, KCNH3, KCNH4, KCNH5, KCNH6, KCNH7, KCNH8, KCNQ1, KCNQ2, KCNQ3, KCNQ5, KCNQ4, KCNRG, KCNS1, KCNS2, KCNS3, KCNT1, KCNV1, KCNV2, HCN1, HCN2, HCN3, HCN4</i></p>

Table S7. Prior gene panel screening of the 1,021 DEE-affected individuals
 More than 50 different gene panels were used across our patient cohorts. This table summarizes the overall screening results, but heterogeneity exists in the numbers and the types of genes tested, how the testing was performed, etc.

Gene panel screening	Results		
	Abnormal or unknown	Normal	Total
Yes	89	257	346
No	-	-	247
Not entered/answered	-	-	428

Table S8. Estimating sample size required for lead genes of GGE and NAFE to achieve exome-wide significance

Focusing on top genes for GGE (e.g., *CACNA1G*, *UNC79*, *GABRG2*) and NAFE (e.g., *TRIM3*, *LGI1*, *GABRG2*), the aggregated allele frequency (AF) of the deleterious URVs in these genes is approximately 0.001 in cases and 0.0001 in controls (see Tables S13 & S15). If we are willing to hold the case- and control-specific AF constant, as well as assuming we can maintain the case:control ratio at around 1:2.5, the following table shows the corresponding Fisher's Exact p-values with increasing sample size:

(take *GABRG2* in the GGE cohort for example, the first row shows the current sample size and AF)

N_case	N_control	AC_case	AC_control	AF_case	AF_control	P-value
3108	8436	7	1	~0.0011	~0.0001	6.2×10^{-4}
6000	15000	12	3	0.001	0.0001	5.4×10^{-5}
7000	17500	14	3.5	0.001	0.0001	2.2×10^{-5}
8000	20000	16	4	0.001	0.0001	2.8×10^{-6}
8500	21250	17	4.25	0.001	0.0001	9.7×10^{-7}

Consider testing one epilepsy type at a time, Bonferroni correction suggests an exome-wide significance at a p-value $< 1/20,000$ (genes) = 2.5×10^{-6} . That means, under this particular scenario, we will need about 8000 cases and 20,000 controls to identify exome-wide significant genes for GGE and NAFE, separately.

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(D-1) EPI: PTV burden

Gene	Ncase_carrie	Ncase_nonca	Ncontrol_car	Ncontrol_noi	OR	Pval.obs
DGAT2L6	0	9170	5	8431	0	0.02524127
ITIH6	1	9169	7	8429	0.13132761	0.03232174
LILRA2	0	9170	4	8432	0	0.05269174
MAP7D2	0	9170	4	8432	0	0.05269174
ACTRT1	9	9161	18	8418	0.45944766	0.05540856
MAGEC1	9	9161	2	8434	4.14288833	0.06787037
TP53AIP1	0	9170	3	8433	0	0.10998847
CYSLTR1	0	9170	3	8433	0	0.10998847
PIR	0	9170	3	8433	0	0.10998847
CXorf22	3	9167	8	8428	0.34476928	0.13261292
OR13H1	5	9165	1	8435	4.60174577	0.2211133
IFI44L	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
PLXNA3	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
USP6	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
CHP2	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
ZNF418	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
XAGE5	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
ITGB1BP2	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
ZCCHC16	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
TLDC2	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518

(D-2) EPI: MPC burden

Gene	Ncase_carrie	Ncase_nonca	Ncontrol_car	Ncontrol_noi	OR	Pval.obs
TBC1D25	1	9169	6	8430	0.15323372	0.06027489
RPS6KA3	7	9163	1	8435	6.44385027	0.07215284
TLR7	0	9170	3	8433	0	0.10998847
WEE1	4	9166	0	8436	Inf	0.12626134
TRPC5	3	9167	8	8428	0.34476928	0.13261292
SLC16A2	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
KLHL15	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
CGB1	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
GDI1	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
NKRF	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
HNRNPH2	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
ATRX	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
BTK	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
GRIA3	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
CDKL5	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
IL1RAPL1	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
PMS2	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
ZMYM3	3	9167	0	8436	Inf	0.25126104
USP9X	2	9168	5	8431	0.36784468	0.27107731
G6PD	11	9159	6	8430	1.68741129	0.33926598

(D-3) EPI: in-frame indel burden

Gene	Ncase_carrie	Ncase_nonca	Ncontrol_car	Ncontrol_noi	OR	Pval.obs
BMP15	30	9140	43	8393	0.64065442	0.06126956
TRO	7	9163	1	8435	6.44385027	0.07215284
C3orf30	0	9170	3	8433	0	0.10998847
FOXR2	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
CD200R1	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
GPRASP1	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
OR2T12	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
MAP1A	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
TMEM187	0	9170	2	8434	0	0.22957518
MAGEC1	3	9167	0	8436	Inf	0.25126104
KRTAP5-1	3	9167	0	8436	Inf	0.25126104
MAGEC2	1	9169	3	8433	0.30657651	0.35544825
DMD	1	9169	3	8433	0.30657651	0.35544825
PQBP1	5	9165	2	8434	2.30060011	0.45587951
KIAA1377	0	9170	1	8435	0	0.47915483
EDA	0	9170	1	8435	0	0.47915483
SLC6A8	0	9170	1	8435	0	0.47915483
DICER1	0	9170	1	8435	0	0.47915483
PRSS16	0	9170	1	8435	0	0.47915483
PRM3	0	9170	1	8435	0	0.47915483

Table S20. Top 20 genes with burden of deleterious URVs (AC=1), removing patients with family history (of an affected first-degree relative)

(A) DEE				(B) GGE			
Ncase = 1021, Ncontrol = 8436				Ncase = 3108, Ncontrol = 8436			
Gene	Ncase carrier	Ncontrol carrier	Pval	Gene	Ncase carrier	Ncontrol carrier	Pval
SCN1A	11	5	5.8E-08	CACNA1G	10	3	2.5E-04
NEXMIF	6	0	1.6E-06	EEF1A2	6	0	3.8E-04
COBLL1	5	0	1.5E-05	UNC79	7	1	6.2E-04
KCNB1	5	2	2.5E-04	GABRG2	7	1	6.2E-04
SCN8A	5	3	6.1E-04	ALDH4A1	5	0	1.4E-03
PASK	4	1	6.2E-04	SLC6A1	8	3	2.0E-03
CEPT1	3	0	1.3E-03	RC3H2	6	1	2.0E-03
PHYHIP	3	0	1.3E-03	GABRA1	7	2	2.2E-03
TAS1R3	4	3	3.6E-03	DNAJC13	4	0	5.2E-03
SLC6A1	4	3	3.6E-03	ZBTB2	4	0	5.2E-03
YWHAG	3	1	4.6E-03	LRRFIP1	4	0	5.2E-03
GTSE1	3	1	4.6E-03	HDLBP	5	1	6.6E-03
PIP4K2B	3	1	4.6E-03	SLC9A1	5	1	6.6E-03
CCDC50	3	1	4.6E-03	TTC7A	5	1	6.6E-03
KDM5C	3	1	4.6E-03	FBXO42	5	1	6.6E-03
APOBEC3D	3	1	4.6E-03	FRY	8	5	9.1E-03
ATP9A	3	1	4.6E-03	CYLD	6	3	1.5E-02
PAPSS2	3	1	4.6E-03	ATR	6	3	1.5E-02
APC	3	1	4.6E-03	DNMT3A	0	14	1.6E-02
LRRC8A	4	4	6.6E-03	PPFIA3	5	2	1.8E-02

(A) DEE				(B) GGE			
Ncase = 925, Ncontrol = 8436				Ncase = 2728, Ncontrol = 8436			
Gene	Ncase carrier (no famhx)	Ncontrol carrier	Pval	Gene	Ncase carrier (no famhx)	Ncontrol carrier	Pval
SCN1A	11	5	2.3E-08	ALDH4A1	5	0	8.7E-04
NEXMIF	6	0	9.2E-07	CACNA1G	8	3	1.0E-03
COBLL1	5	0	9.3E-06	SLC6A1	8	3	1.0E-03
SCN8A	5	3	4.0E-04	GABRG2	6	1	1.2E-03
PHYHIP	3	0	9.6E-04	EEF1A2	4	0	3.6E-03
KCNB1	4	2	1.2E-03	LRRFIP1	4	0	3.6E-03
TAS1R3	4	3	2.6E-03	GABRA1	6	2	3.7E-03
SLC6A1	4	3	2.6E-03	UNC79	5	1	4.2E-03
PASK	3	1	3.6E-03	FBXO42	5	1	4.2E-03
GTSE1	3	1	3.6E-03	FRY	8	5	4.8E-03
PIP4K2B	3	1	3.6E-03	ATR	6	3	8.8E-03
KDM5C	3	1	3.6E-03	SPEN	5	2	1.2E-02
APOBEC3D	3	1	3.6E-03	FAT2	5	2	1.2E-02
ATP9A	3	1	3.6E-03	ZBTB17	7	5	1.2E-02
PAPSS2	3	1	3.6E-03	SLC12A5	7	5	1.2E-02
APC	3	1	3.6E-03	RC3H2	4	1	1.4E-02
LRRC8A	4	4	4.8E-03	ENTPD5	4	1	1.4E-02
TET3	4	4	4.8E-03	CIC	4	1	1.4E-02
STXBP1	4	4	4.8E-03	HDLBP	4	1	1.4E-02
AGO1	4	4	4.8E-03	CADM4	4	1	1.4E-02

(C) NAFE				(D) NAFE			
Ncase = 3597, Ncontrol = 8436				Ncase = 3400, Ncontrol = 8436			
Gene	Ncase carrier	Ncontrol carrier	Pval	Gene	Ncase carrier (no famhx)	Ncontrol carrier	Pval
LG11	7	0	2.1E-04	TRIM3	7	0	1.6E-04
TRIM3	7	0	2.1E-04	LG11	6	0	5.6E-04
GABRG2	7	1	1.3E-03	ZNF587	5	0	2.0E-03
ZNF587	5	0	2.4E-03	ACSM2B	5	0	2.0E-03
ACSM2B	5	0	2.4E-03	FXR1	6	1	3.0E-03
FXR1	6	1	3.7E-03	GABRG2	6	1	3.0E-03
CORO1A	9	4	3.9E-03	PPFIA3	7	2	3.3E-03
PPFIA3	7	2	4.2E-03	FBXL6	4	0	6.8E-03
FBXL6	4	0	8.0E-03	KCNJ3	4	0	6.8E-03
KCNJ3	4	0	8.0E-03	ZDHHC11	4	0	6.8E-03
ZDHHC11	4	0	8.0E-03	NFATC3	4	0	6.8E-03
CSNK2B-LY6C	4	0	8.0E-03	CORO1A	8	4	7.1E-03
NFATC3	4	0	8.0E-03	DEPDC5	7	3	8.1E-03
ARFGEF1	8	4	9.2E-03	ABCA4	7	3	8.1E-03
SYNE1	2	24	9.8E-03	TRPM6	5	1	8.9E-03
SCN8A	7	3	1.0E-02	EXPH5	6	2	8.9E-03
DEPDC5	7	3	1.0E-02	KCNH7	6	2	8.9E-03
ABCA4	7	3	1.0E-02	COL7A1	8	5	1.4E-02
TRPM6	5	1	1.1E-02	SYNE1	2	24	1.6E-02
EXPH5	6	2	1.1E-02	ARFGEF1	7	4	1.7E-02