

Transferability of European-derived Alzheimer's Disease Polygenic Risk Scores across Multi-Ancestry Populations.

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328 **A polygenic score (PGS) for Alzheimer's disease (AD) was recently derived from data**
329 **on genome-wide significant loci in European ancestry populations. We applied this PGS**
330 **to populations in 17 European countries and observed a consistent association with AD**
331 **risk, age at onset, and cerebrospinal fluid levels of AD biomarkers, independently of**
332 **apolipoprotein E (APOE). This PGS was also associated with the AD risk in many other**
333 **populations of diverse ancestries. A cross-ancestry polygenic risk score (PRS)**
334 **improved the association with AD risk in most of the multi-ancestry populations tested**
335 **when the APOE region was included. Lastly, we found that the PGS/PRS, captured AD-**
336 **specific information because the association weakened as the diagnosis was**
337 **broadened. In conclusion, a simple PGS captures the AD-specific genetic information**
338 **that is common to populations of different ancestries, but studies of more diverse**
339 **populations are still needed for a better characterization of the AD genetics.**

340 Over the last 15 years, genome-wide association studies (GWASs) have fostered the
341 development of powerful approaches for characterizing disease processes and proposed
342 diagnostic/prognostic tools such as polygenic scores (PGS)^{1,2}. Given the high estimated
343 heritability (60-80%, in twin studies) of Alzheimer's disease (AD)³, a number of PGSs have
344 been developed and their associations with AD risk or related phenotypes have been almost
345 systematically reported^{4,5,6,7,8,9,10}. However, comparisons across studies are complicated by
346 marked differences in the populations analyzed, PGS-calculation methods, the summary
347 statistics used, and the variants included¹¹. Furthermore, most PGSs have been developed
348 from studies of European-ancestry populations, and only a few studies have investigated PGS
349 performance in populations of different ancestries^{12,13,14,15}.

350 In this manuscript, we first generated a PGS (PGS^{ALZ}) including the genome-wide significant,
351 independent sentinel single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) at the loci reported by
352 Bellenguez et al.¹⁶ excluding the *apolipoprotein E (APOE)* locus (n=83; see Supplementary
353 Table 1 for the list of variants). We studied the associations between PGS^{ALZ} and AD risk or
354 relevant endophenotypes in populations from 17 European countries. We next extended
355 PGS^{ALZ} study to populations of diverse ancestries from Asia, Africa, Latin and North America.
356 Finally, as already developed in other complex human diseases^{17,18,19,20}, we generated a cross-
357 ancestry polygenic risk score (PRS) by integrating GWAS summary statistics from multiple
358 populations to potentially improve PGS^{ALZ} predictive performance^{21,22}.

359 We first evaluated the association between PGS^{ALZ} and the risk of developing AD in case-
360 control studies of European countries (see Supplementary Table 2 for population description
361 and adjustments used per population; Supplementary Fig. 1-3 for PGS^{ALZ} distributions).
362 PGS^{ALZ} was significantly associated with AD risk irrespective of APOE adjustment (Extended
363 Fig. 1A and Supplementary Fig. 4). PGS^{ALZ} was similarly associated with AD risk in men and
364 in women (Extended Fig. 1B and Supplementary Fig. 6) and with a younger age at onset
365 (Extended Fig. 2). It is noteworthy that when the PGSs were adjusted for difference in PGS^{ALZ}
366 distribution between the European populations, the association with AD remained similar
367 (Supplementary Fig. 5).

368 As we did not identify any potential bias/heterogeneity when comparing PGS^{ALZ} in the
369 European populations, we performed a combined analysis (mega-analysis) of our European
370 datasets to assess the risk of developing AD within various PGS^{ALZ} strata: 0-2%, 2-5%, 10-
371 20%, 20-40%, 60-80%, 80-90%, 90-95%, 95-98%, and 98-100% with the 40-60% PGS^{ALZ}
372 stratum as the reference. We also generated a PGS that included both the sentinel AD GWAS
373 loci and the two SNPs defining the ϵ 2/ ϵ 3/ ϵ 4 APOE alleles. As expected, the risk of developing
374 AD in the most extreme strata was particularly high when APOE was included (Fig. 1A). The
375 association with PGS^{ALZ} was also significant in all strata analyzed, irrespective of APOE
376 adjustment. In the 0-2% and 98-100% strata, PGS^{ALZ} was respectively associated with a more
377 than 2-fold decrease in the AD risk and a more than 3-fold increase in the AD risk compared
378 with the 40-60% stratum (Fig. 1A and Supplementary Table 3).

379 Since these results suggested an association for PGS^{ALZ} independently of APOE, we took
380 advantage of our mega-analysis to determine how PGS^{ALZ} interacts with the APOE genotypes.
381 We found a limited interaction between PGS^{ALZ} and the number APOE ϵ 4 alleles on the risk of

382 developing AD ($p=3\times 10^{-4}$). We next stratified the mega-analysis into four *APOE* genotype
383 groups ($\epsilon 2\epsilon 2/\epsilon 2\epsilon 3$, $\epsilon 3\epsilon 3$, $\epsilon 2\epsilon 4/\epsilon 3\epsilon 4$, and $\epsilon 4\epsilon 4$) and assessed the association between PGS^{ALZ}
384 and the AD risk per quintile (0-20%, 20-40%, 60-80%, and 80-100%) for each subpopulation
385 (reference: 40-60% stratum). PGS^{ALZ} was similarly associated with the AD risk in all the strata,
386 even if a stronger association might be present among $\epsilon 4\epsilon 4$ carriers (Fig. 1B and
387 Supplementary Table 4).

388 To determine whether PGS^{ALZ} is associated with AD pathophysiological processes, we
389 analyzed GWAS data of CSF levels of $A\beta_{42}$, tau and p-tau (n=13,051 individuals) as previously
390 described²³. PGS^{ALZ} was associated with a decrement in $A\beta_{42}$ levels and an increment in tau
391 and p-tau levels whatever the adjustment on *APOE* (Fig. 2A,B and Supplementary Fig. 7). We
392 also checked the available samples for a possible association between PGS^{ALZ} and $A\beta_{42}$ levels,
393 tau and p-tau levels in quintiles (0-20%, 20-40%, 60-80%, and 80-100%); again, the 40-60%
394 stratum served as a reference. As expected, PGS^{ALZ} was associated with the lowest and
395 highest levels of p-tau and $A\beta_{42}$ in the 0-20% strata and, conversely, the highest and lowest
396 levels of p-tau and $A\beta_{42}$ in the 80-100% stratum. (Fig. 2C and Supplementary Table 5).

397 We then extended the PGS^{ALZ} analyses to other European-ancestry populations (USA,
398 Australia), populations from India, East Asia (China, Japan and Korea), North Africa (Tunisia),
399 sub-Saharan Africa (Central African Republic/the Congo Republic), South America (Argentina,
400 Brazil, Chile, and Colombia), and African-, Native- and Latino American ancestry populations
401 from US studies (i.e. more than 75% African or Native American ancestry or self-reporting for
402 Latino American populations; Extended Fig. 3A; supplementary Table 2 for population
403 description). With the exception of the analyses for Korea and Japan (where respectively 72
404 and 74 SNPs were available), most PGS s were constructed from 78 to 85 SNPs (including
405 *APOE* variants; Supplementary Table 1; Supplementary Fig. 8-10 for PGS^{ALZ} distributions).
406 The strength of the *APOE* $\epsilon 4$ -AD association differed by population, as previously described
407 in the literature^{24,25}. ORs ranged from 1.36 in sub-Saharan Africa to 5.46 in Maghreb (Extended
408 Fig 3B).

409 As expected, the PGS^{ALZ} association with AD risk was strongest in European-ancestry
410 populations in the USA or Australia. PGS^{ALZ} was also significantly associated with the AD risk
411 in Maghreb, East Asia, Latino American and African American populations (Fig. 3A and
412 Supplementary Fig. 11). Lastly, PGS^{ALZ} was not associated with AD risk in the sub-Saharan
413 African and Indian populations; this might be related to the small sample size and
414 corresponding lack of statistical power. PGS^{ALZ} was associated with a younger age at onset in
415 most of the populations studied, with the notable exception of the Chinese and Korean
416 populations (Extended Fig. 4). It is noteworthy that the *APOE* $\epsilon 2/\epsilon 3/\epsilon 4$ alleles influenced age
417 at onset in the two latter populations (Supplementary Fig. 12).

418 To refine our analysis of these populations of diverse ancestries, we calculated the association
419 between AD and PGS^{ALZ} quintile (0-20%, 20-40%, 60-80%, and 80-100%; reference: 40-60%
420 stratum) and meta-analyzed them per ancestry (Fig. 3B and C, Supplementary Table 6 and
421 Supplementary Table 7). The Indian, Maghreb and sub-Saharan African populations were
422 excluded because of the small sample size. The strength of the association with PGS^{ALZ}
423 decreased from the European American, East Asian, and Latino American populations to the
424 African American population, in that order (Fig. 3B and supplementary Table 6). PGS^{ALZ}
425 generated from European-ancestry population GWAS performed poorly in African-ancestry
426 populations.

427 This latter observation was strengthened by analyzing the association between PGS^{ALZ} and
428 AD risk as a function of the African American admixture. The strength of the association
429 decreased as the percentage of African-ancestry increased and ultimately reached a level
430 similar to that observed in our sub-Saharan African population: the association between
431 PGS^{ALZ} and the AD risk in populations in whom more than 90% of the members were of African
432 ancestry had an OR of 1.09 (95%CI 0.98-1.21, $P=1.4\times 10^{-1}$, adjusted on *APOE*). It is noteworthy
433 that a similar pattern was observed in the Alzheimer Disease Sequencing Project (ADSP)
434 Native American population: the strength of the association decreased as the Native American-

435 ancestry percentage increased from OR=1.21 (95%CI 1.12-1.32), P=5.3x10⁻⁶ and OR=1.14
436 (95%CI 1.05-1.25), P=2.6x10⁻³ to OR=1.12 (95%CI 1.02-1.24, P=1.4x10⁻² in the populations
437 with more than 50%, 75% and 90% of individuals of Native American-ancestry, respectively;
438 adjusted for *APOE*. A similar finding was seen in Chilean and Argentinian populations: the
439 PGS^{ALZ} association weakened as the proportion of Native American ancestry rose¹⁴.

440 We next checked whether we had fully captured the genetic information within the GWAS-
441 defined loci in the non-European admixed populations. To this end, we developed a PGS
442 (PGS^{ALZ+}) that included other SNPs associated with AD risk in non-European ancestry
443 populations (p<10⁻³) at the European-GWAS-defined loci (for details, see Online Methods). We
444 used the summary statistics generated by Kunkle et al.²⁶, Lake et al.²⁷ and Shigemizu et al.²⁸,
445 and added 30, 13 and 47 variants to the initial 83 PGS^{ALZ} variants for Latino American, East
446 Asian and African American ancestries, respectively (Supplementary Table 8). We did not
447 detect any increment in the strength of the PGS^{ALZ+} association with the AD risk or in PGS^{ALZ+}
448 predictive performance, relative to PGS^{ALZ} (Supplementary Table 9).

449 By initially restricting our analyses to the genome-wide significant loci from European ancestry
450 AD GWAS, we likely excluded genetic information associated with the risk of developing AD
451 in these European populations and (especially) non-European multi-ancestry populations (for
452 which ancestry-specific loci may exist). Furthermore, the effect sizes used to construct PGS^{ALZ}
453 were extracted from European ancestry populations without taking account population
454 differences. To deal with these various questions, we used the Bayesian polygenic modeling
455 method PRS-CSx to build a cross-ancestry PRS (PRS)²⁰ which re-estimates variant effect
456 sizes, by coupling diverse summary statistics with external ancestry-matched allele
457 frequencies and local Linkage Disequilibrium structure, according to a sparseness parameter
458 of the genetic architecture of AD. We used GWAS summary statistics generated from
459 European (36,569 AD cases and 63,137 controls), African American (2,784 AD cases and
460 5,222 controls), Latino American (1,088 AD cases and 1,152 controls) and East Asian (3,962
461 AD cases and 4,074 controls) populations^{26,27,28}. Polygenic Risk Scores (PRS), all adjusted for
462 population structure, were generated in multi-ancestry populations from the Million Veteran
463 Program (MVP; European, Latino American and African American ancestries), EPIDEMCA
464 (Sub-Saharan Africa ancestry) and GARD studies (East Asian ancestry; Supplementary Fig.
465 13).

466 We assessed potential increment of PRS association with AD risk and predictive performance
467 when the summary statistics of the European, African American, Latino American or East Asian
468 populations were used independently (respectively, PRS^{EUR}, PRS^{AA}, PRS^{LA}, PRS^{EA}), or when
469 they were combined (PRS^{COMB}) at multiple sparseness parameter (10⁻⁸, 10⁻⁷, 10⁻⁶, 10⁻⁵, 10⁻⁴,
470 10⁻² and 1). We initially excluded the *APOE* region to enable a comparison with PGS^{ALZ}. We
471 did not observe any increases in the association with AD risk or predictive performance in the
472 different multi-ancestry populations (Fig. 4, supplementary Figure 14, supplementary Table
473 10) with the exception of the Latin American MVP population. However, we cannot exclude the
474 possibility that this improvement is due to overfitting. Next, we included the *APOE* region when
475 generating the different PRSs. While no impact was observed in European-ancestry
476 populations when comparing PRS^{EUR} and PRS^{COMB}, we detected a potential increment in both
477 the strength of association with the AD risk and predictive performance when comparing
478 PRS^{EUR} and PRS^{COMB} for all other populations, indicating that a cross-ancestry PRS is more
479 effective than a PRS constructed solely from European summary statistics when the *APOE*
480 region is included (whatever the global shrinkage parameter used; Fig. 5, supplementary
481 Figure 14, supplementary Table 10).

482 Lastly, we leveraged the MVP data to determine how the association between PGS^{ALZ} or
483 PRS^{COMB} (*APOE* region excluded) and the risk of AD changed in multi-ancestry populations as
484 a function of diagnostic specificity. That is, we looked at how a PGS^{ALZ}/ PRS^{COMB} derived from
485 AD case/control performed when the applied to cohorts when the diagnosis was broadened to
486 dementia. In all the multi-ancestry population studied, the association between PGS^{ALZ}/

487 PRS^{COMB} and the AD risk weakened as the diagnosis became less specific (Fig. 6 and
488 Supplementary Table 11).

489 Several major points can thus be highlighted from our work: (i) In European populations, the
490 associations of PGS^{ALZ} with AD risk are potentially slightly impacted by the *APOE* genotype
491 (suggesting two independent genetic entities for sporadic AD; *APOE* ε4-associated sporadic
492 AD, and *APOE* ε4-unassociated sporadic AD as previously proposed²⁹); (ii) this simple PGS^{ALZ}
493 based on the largest GWAS from European populations and the resulting European GWAS-
494 defined loci appears to be enough to detect AD genetic risk in most of the different ancestry
495 populations. Our results thus suggest that most of the different ancestry populations are likely
496 to be affected by shared pathophysiological processes driven in part by genetic risk factors;
497 (iii) Conversely, it is observed in the genetics of complex traits³⁰ and other multifactorial
498 diseases^{17,31,32}, a cross-ancestry PRS built with a Bayesian polygenic modelling method did
499 not systematically outperform a simple PGS^{ALZ} (when the *APOE* locus is excluded). The small
500 population size of GWAS for the different ancestry populations can significantly limit the power
501 of the PRS-CSx approach, potentially explaining this observation. However, this may also
502 indicate that a high proportion of AD genetic risk is already accounted for by the European
503 ancestry GWAS-defined loci; (iv) When PRS includes the *APOE* region, this region appears to
504 likely contain additional multi-ancestry genetic variability as already proposed^{33,34,35,36}; (v)
505 Finally, the PGS/PRS associations mainly captures genetic information related to AD as their
506 association weakened as the diagnosis was broadened. This observation suggests that the
507 quality of the clinical diagnosis can interfere with the measurement of the association between
508 the PGS/PRS and the AD risk in a given population.

509 In conclusion, our study of diverse ancestry populations and AD highlights the importance of
510 cross-ancestry analyses for characterizing the genetic complexities of this devastating disease
511 and to evaluate AD risk assessments in various populations. However, the field of AD genetics
512 is still limited by the size of GWASs in these diverse ancestry populations. In addition, it is likely
513 that the different ancestry populations will differ strongly regarding rare/very rare variants
514 associated with the AD risk. this could clearly impact PRSs association with AD risk and their
515 predictive performances³⁷. Both GWAS and sequencing studies of more diverse populations
516 are thus needed for a better characterization of AD genetics.

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528

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552

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568

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570

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658 **METHODS Online**

659 **Sample and variant quality controls**

660 To ensure that the β s were completely independent of the summary statistics, all samples from
661 ADGC, CHARGE and FinnGen GWASs were filtered out. In addition, Sample overlap was
662 systematically assessed and there was no sample overlap between any of the non-US studies
663 analyzed. Overlap between ADSP and MVP is likely to be negligible (no more than a few
664 cases). For biomarker analysis, there is overlap of 460 samples between the American
665 samples used in the biomarker analyses and the ADGC (which is included in the summary
666 statistics we used to generate the β for the PGS^{ALZ}). However, this overlap is limited (less than
667 2.5%) and in addition, we only analyzed in these samples the association of PGS^{ALZ} with
668 quantitative traits (p-tau, tau and A β 42 CSF concentrations), limiting the risk of inflated results.
669 After it met the conventional GWAS gold standard of sample quality control, each sample was
670 included in the analyses¹⁶. If a discordance in the variant dose or covariate or a discordance
671 between imputed and genotyped (if available) APOE status was observed, the sample was
672 discarded. After the quality control, a demographic description of each study is shown in
673 Supplementary Table 1³⁸. Genotyped variants had to meet the gold standard GWAS variant
674 quality control¹⁶. All the studies including genotyping data were imputed with the TOPmed
675 reference panel^{39,38}. If the variants were imputed, those with a Rsq below 0.3 were excluded.
676 For whole-genome sequencing data, only variants passing the corresponding quality control
677 were selected (see the supplementary information for the ADSP and China samples)
678 (Supplementary Table 2). The global ancestry of each individual in the ADSP samples was
679 determined with SNPweights v.2.1⁴⁰ using a set of ancestry-weighted variants computed on
680 reference populations from the 1000 Genomes Project as in⁴¹. By applying a global ancestry
681 percentage cutoff of >75%, the samples were assigned to the different ancestry populations.
682 The ancestry of MVP participants was determined using the harmonized ancestry and
683 race/ethnicity (HARE) method⁴², which is similar to other genotype-based ancestry calling
684 methods, except that concordance is checked between self-report and genetically inferred
685 ancestry, and those with discrepant ancestry groups are not assigned a HARE category.
686 Within-group PCs for ancestry were computed using FlashPCA2⁴³.

687
688 **European mega-analysis methods**

689 For the mega-analysis of European countries, we merged samples from five datasets: EADB-
690 core, GERAD, EADI, Demgene, and Bonn. To adjust for the population structure, we computed
691 principal components using the following procedure. From the list of 146,705 variants used in
692 the principal component analysis of EADB-core⁴³, we extracted TOPMed imputed variants
693 having an imputation quality ≥ 0.9 in each dataset; this resulted in 91,353 variants. Next, we
694 set a genotype to “missing” if none of the genotype probabilities was higher than 0.8. Lastly,
695 we merged all the datasets and removed variants for which the proportion of missing
696 genotypes was above 0.02. Ultimately, 90,471 variants were fed into the principal component
697 analysis (performed with FlashPCA2). The analyses were adjusted for the first 14 principal
698 components, the genotyping chip, and the center.

699
700 **PGS and PRS Computations**

701 The equation used to calculate the PGSs and the coPRSs is as follow:

702
$$\text{PGS}_{\text{sample}}^{\text{ALZ}} \text{ or coPRS}_{\text{sample}} = \sum_{i=1}^n (\beta_i * \text{genotype}_{i, \text{sample}})$$

703 where the PGS^{ALZ}/PRS is the sum per sample, of the product of the variant i effect size β_i ,
704 extracted from GWAS summary statistics, and the number of risk alleles of this variant i , either
705 as a dosage or as a genotype.

706 The PGS^{ALZ} includes the 83 independent signals associated with AD¹³, listed in Supplementary
707 Table 1. We also calculated another PGS^{ALZ} combining the same 83 independent signals and
708 the two SNPs encoding the APOE $\epsilon 2$ (rs7412) and APOE $\epsilon 4$ alleles (rs429358). The PGS^{APOE}
709 includes only these two last SNPs. The stage I meta-analysis of EADB studies¹³ without the
710 UK Biobank samples, contained 39,106 clinically diagnosed AD cases versus 25,392 in the

711 stage II meta-analysis (including the ADGC, CHARGE and FinnGen data)¹³. To respect the
712 independence between the samples and the GWAS summary statistics, in the PGS analyses,
713 the European summary statistics used are from stage II or (for APOE variants only). In the
714 PGS^{ALZ}/PRS analyses adjusted for difference in distribution between populations, the
715 European more powerful summary statistics, *i.e.* stage I meta-analysis of EADB were
716 preferred.

717 The PGS^{ALZ+} score was developed to include additional SNPs within the GWAS-defined loci to
718 capture more genetic information in non-European-ancestry populations. Firstly, each locus's
719 "start and end positions" (as specified in the GRCh38 assembly) were defined manually by
720 looking at the regional plots and extracting (i) recombination rate peak positions, (ii) starts/ends
721 of chromosomes, (iii) specific variant positions, or (iv) start/end positions of regions containing
722 no variants. Next, insertions and deletions were excluded. Variants that were non ambiguous
723 (*i.e.* A/T or C/G) and present in the 1000 Genomes Phase 3 data (1000GP3) and had an
724 imputation quality above 0.3 in the EADB-core TOPMed imputations, were selected. To extract
725 information of these variants in non-European-ancestry populations, we used the summary
726 statistics generated by Lake et al., Shigemizu et al. and Kunkle et al. to represent Latino
727 American, East Asian and African-American ancestries, respectively^{27,28,26}. Since these
728 summary statistics were based on the GRCh37 assembly, we lifted their positions and alleles
729 in the GRCh38 assembly by using the Picard LiftOverVcf tool (v2.27.5) and restricting the
730 process to variants with a minor allele frequency above 0.01. In order to remove variants in LD
731 with the sentinel variant of each locus, we computed the LD between each sentinel variant and
732 all other variants within the locus by using the 1000GP3 data restricted to samples representing
733 European ancestries (EUR super-population), Latino American ancestries (AMR super-
734 population plus IBS population), Japanese ancestries (JPT population) and African-American
735 ancestries (AFR super-population). Since one of the sentinel variant (chr9:104903697:C:G)
736 was not present in the 1000GP3 data, we replaced it with a proxy variant
737 (chr9:104903754:G:GC, $R^2=1$ in the EUR super-population). In each set of summary statistics,
738 we removed variants with $R^2>0.1$ in either the European summary statistics or the summary
739 statistics for the corresponding ancestry. Lastly, we performed a clumping procedure on the
740 remaining variants in each of the three ancestries by using plink v1.9, a p-value threshold of
741 1×10^{-3} , a R^2 of 0.05 (as estimated in the corresponding 1000GP3 data samples, as described
742 above), and a distance of 1Mb. For the PGS^{ALZ+}, this led us to select 30, 13 and 47 variants
743 (in addition to the initial 85 PGS variants) for the Latino American, East Asian and African-
744 American ancestries, respectively.

745 PRS-CSx^{20,44} was, by the time of analysis, one of the most performing cross-ancestry PRS
746 model method^{45,46}, without a validation dataset and using GWAS summary statistics. With a
747 Bayesian high-dimensional regression framework model based on continuous shrinkage
748 priors, the variant effect sizes were adaptively re-estimated, by coupling cross-ancestry GWAS
749 summary statistics^{13,26,27,28}, and external ancestry-matched allele frequencies and local
750 Linkage Disequilibrium structure, according to a global shrinkage parameter. This global
751 shrinkage parameter provides the sparseness of the genetic architecture of AD, by avoiding
752 over-shrinkage of true signals and by shrinking noisy signals. This sparseness was modeled
753 for the values of 1, 10^{-2} , 10^{-4} , 10^{-5} , 10^{-6} , 10^{-7} and 10^{-8} , with the --meta option and the
754 Strawderman–Berger prior default parameters ($a=1$ and $b=0.5$). The initial 1,297 432 variants
755 present in the 1000 Genomes reference panel, were lifted over in GRCh38. Then, new
756 ancestry-specific or joint-ancestry effect size estimates were obtained with PRS-CSx, leading
757 to a maximal number of 1,292 532 variants in the joint-ancestry summary statistics, potentially
758 included in the PRS computations. The coPRSSs were computed per chromosome, with 1- joint-
759 ancestry and 2- European ancestry and 3- ancestry-specific PRS-CSx-effect size estimates,
760 using PLINK (v.2.0.a) software⁴⁷ and its --score option, then summed across all chromosomes.

761 762 **Adjustment for difference in PGS^{ALZ}/PRS distribution across populations**

763 To account for population structure, PRS_{raw} and PGS^{ALZ}_{raw} were adjusted for difference in
764 distributions across populations⁴⁸. The adjustment was performed with a selection of 84,035

765 variants, common to all studies, independent and well-imputed variants ($R > 0.8$). With this list
766 of variants, FlashPCA2 projected the samples into the 1000G Phase 3 PC-space and
767 calculated the projected PCs. For each study, the raw score was fit in a linear model, in
768 controls, according to the 5 first projected PCs. This model was used to compute a predicted
769 score in all the samples. The resulting adjusted score was the difference between the raw
770 score and the predicted score.

771

772 **Statistical analyses**

773 The different scores (PGS or coPRS) were standardized in a standard normal distribution,
774 using the mean and the standard deviation, calculated over all the samples. The associations
775 between AD status and the different scores were tested in logistic regression, named according
776 to the score and the covariates. The name "ALZinclAPOE" was attributed, if the score included
777 variants in the APOE region (from 43Mb to 47Mb). The other covariates included age, sex, in
778 addition to covariates specific to each study (Supplementary Table 2).

779

- Model PGS^{ALZ}: $AD \sim PGS^{ALZ} + COV$
- Model PGS^{ALZ}: $AD \sim PGS^{ALZ} + COV + \text{the count of APOE } \epsilon 2 \text{ alleles} + \text{the count of APOE } \epsilon 4 \text{ alleles (when adjusted on APOE)}$
- Model PRS: $AD \sim PRS + COV$
- Model PRS: $AD \sim PRS + COV + \text{the count of APOE } \epsilon 2 \text{ alleles} + \text{the count of APOE } \epsilon 4 \text{ alleles (when adjusted on APOE)}$
- Model PRS^{ALZinclAPOE}: $AD \sim PRS^{ALZinclAPOE} + COV$

780

781 To estimate the proportion of phenotypic variance explained by the variance of the score, we
782 computed the Nagelkerke's *Pseudo-R²_{Full}* using the function Nagelkerke implemented in the
783 package *rcompanion* in R^{49,50}. A *Pseudo-R²_{Null}* was computed including only the covariates.
784 The adjusted *Pseudo-R²* is the difference between *Pseudo-R²_{Full}* and the tied *Pseudo-R²_{Null}*.
785 This adjusted *Pseudo-R²* corresponds to the phenotypic variance explained by the genetic
786 score only. The adjusted *Pseudo-R²* was also transformed into a liability scale, for ascertained
787 case-control studies⁵¹, using a prevalence value of 0.15.

788

789 We chose a prevalence of 15%, which we consider to be consistent for populations with an
790 average age over 75. However, this prevalence is different in multi-ethnic populations of the
791 same average age. Furthermore, the AD prevalence increases with age, so the genetic liability
792 is not homogeneous across all age groups. AD heritability cannot be expressed as a single
793 number because it depends on the ages of the cases and controls⁵².

794

795 **Quantile or percentile analyses**

796

797 Depending on the value of the corresponding PGS^{ALZ}, the samples were classified into the
798 reference group or into one of the test groups. In the mega-analysis, the reference group
799 corresponded to the 40-60% percentile and was tested across different percentiles (0-2%, 2-
800 5%, 5-10%, 10-20%, 20-40%, 60-80%, 80-90%, 95-98%, and 98-100%). In the APOE-stratified
801 analysis and in the multi-ancestry analyses, the reference group was defined as the 40-60%
802 percentile and was tested across different quintiles (0-20%, 20-40%, 60-80%, 80-100%). The
803 multi ancestry analyses were performed for each population and then meta-analyzed per
804 genetic ancestry using the inverse variance method, as implemented in METAL⁵³. It should be
805 noted that the Indian, North African and sub-Saharan African populations were excluded
806 because of their small sample size.

807

- Model PGS^{ALZ}: $AD \sim \text{Group}_{0/1}(PGS^{ALZ}) + COV$
- Model PGS^{ALZ}: $AD \sim \text{Group}_{0/1}(PGS^{ALZ}) + COV + \text{number of APOE } \epsilon 2 \text{ alleles} + \text{number of APOE } \epsilon 4 \text{ alleles (when adjusted on APOE)}$
- Model PGS^{ALZinclAPOE}: $AD \sim \text{Group}_{0/1}(PGS^{ALZinclAPOE}) + COV$

842

843 **Data Availability**

844

845

816 1000GP3:
817 http://ftp.1000genomes.ebi.ac.uk/vol1/ftp/data_collections/1000_genomes_project/release/20190312_biallelic_SNV_and_INDEL/
818
819 ADSP: <https://dss.niagads.org/datasets/nq00067/>
820

821 **Code availability**

822 The sets of scripts are available upon request.
823

824 **Reference**

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857
858
859

860 **Figure 1:** Associations between the various PGSs and the risk of developing AD, as a function
861 of APOE status. **(A)** The risk of developing AD, by PGS^{ALZ} stratum (0-2%, 2-5%, 10-20%, 20-
862 40%, 60-80%, 80-90%, 90-95%, 95-98%, and 98-100%). The 40-60% PGS^{ALZ} stratum was
863 used as the reference. **(B)** Risk of developing AD, by PGS^{ALZ} stratum (0-20%, 20-40%, 60-
864 80%, and 80-100%) and the APOE genotype (by grouping together the $\epsilon 2\epsilon 2/\epsilon 2\epsilon 3$, $\epsilon 3\epsilon 3$,
865 $\epsilon 2\epsilon 4/\epsilon 3\epsilon 4$, $\epsilon 4\epsilon 4$ carriers). The 40-60% PGS^{ALZ} stratum was used as the reference.
866

867 **Figure 2:** Association of PGS^{ALZ} with the level of A β ₄₂ and p-tau in the cerebrospinal fluid **(A)**
868 across European-ancestry populations and **(B)** according to PGS^{ALZ} strata (0-20%, 20-40%,
869 60-80% and 80-100%). The 40-60% PGS^{ALZ} stratum was used as the reference. Ncases,
870 number of cases; Ncontrols, number of controls, OR, Odds ratio per standard deviation. The
871 lines in the Forest plots indicate the 95% confidence interval for the ORs. If HetP <0.05,
872 random-effect is shown for the meta-analysis results.
873

874 **Figure 3:** Association of PGS^{ALZ} across multi-ancestry populations. **(A)** Association of PGS^{ALZ}
875 with the risk of developing AD in multi-ancestry populations. European-ancestry meta-analysis
876 includes MVP and Australia. African-American-ancestry (more than 75% AA ancestry) meta-
877 analysis includes MVP and ADSP. East-Asia meta-analysis includes China, Korea and Japan.
878 Latino-American ancestry (self-reporting) meta-analysis includes MVP and ADSP. South-
879 America meta-analysis includes Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Colombia. **(B)** Risk of developing
880 AD according to PGS^{ALZ} (adjusted or not for APOE or included APOE variants) strata (0-20%,
881 20-40%, 60-80% and 80-100%) in multi-ancestry populations. The 40-60% PGS^{ALZ} stratum
882 was used as the reference in each population and results were meta-analyzed. European-
883 ancestry meta-analysis includes MVP and Australia. African-American ancestry meta-analysis
884 includes MVP and ADSP. East-Asia meta-analysis includes China, Korea and Japan. Latin-
885 American ancestry meta-analysis includes MVP and ADSP. South-America meta-analysis
886 includes Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Colombia.
887 Ncases, number of cases; Ncontrols, number of controls; OR, Odds ratio per standard
888 deviation. The lines in the Forest plots indicate the 95% confidence interval for the ORs. If
889 HetP <0.05, random effect is shown for the meta-analysis results. EUR, European; LA, Latino-
890 American; AA, African American.
891

892 **Figure 4:** Comparison of the association of PGS^{ALZ} or PRS (excluding APOE region) with AD
893 risk and the corresponding predictive values (adjusted Nagelkerke R² and Liability R²). All
894 PGS^{ALZ} and PRS were adjusted for difference in distribution between populations; OR, Odds
895 ratio per standard deviation; PRS^{EUR} were generated by using only European ancestry
896 summary statistics; PRS^{COMB} were generated by combining European, African American (AA),
897 Latin-American (LA) and East Asian ancestry summary statistics. Sparseness parameter at
898 10⁻⁸, 10⁻⁷, 10⁻⁶, 10⁻⁵, 10⁻⁴, 10⁻³, 10⁻² or 1.
899

900 **Figure 5:** Association of PRS (including APOE region) with AD risk and the corresponding
901 predictive values (adjusted Nagelkerke R² and Liability R²). All PGS^{ALZ} and PRS were adjusted
902 for difference in distribution between populations; OR, Odds ratio per standard deviation;
903 PRS^{EUR} were generated by using only European ancestry summary statistics; PRS^{COMB} were
904 generated by combining European, African American (AA), Latin-American (LA) and East
905 Asian ancestry summary statistics. Sparseness parameter at 10⁻⁸, 10⁻⁷, 10⁻⁶, 10⁻⁵, 10⁻⁴, 10⁻³,
906 10⁻² or 1.
907

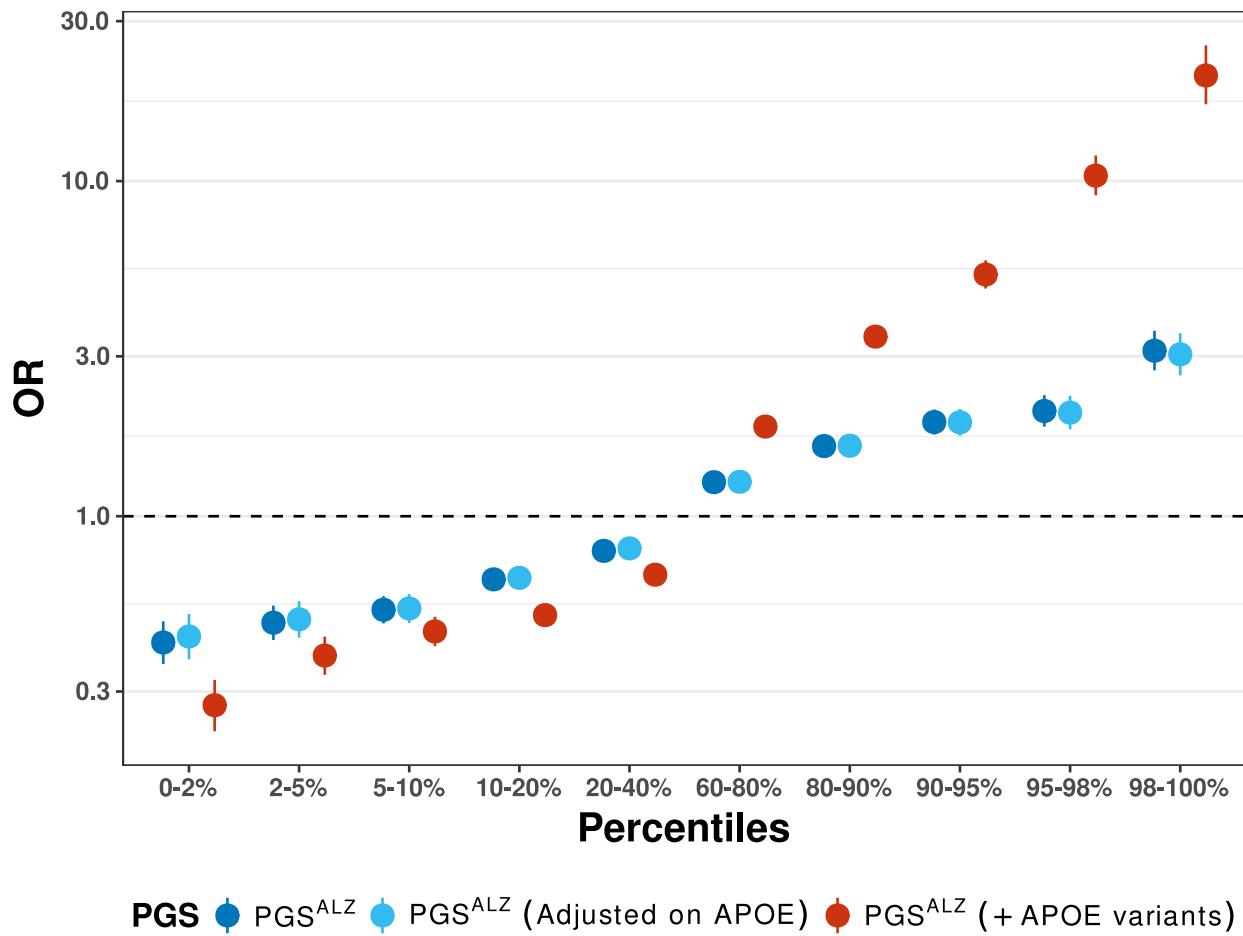
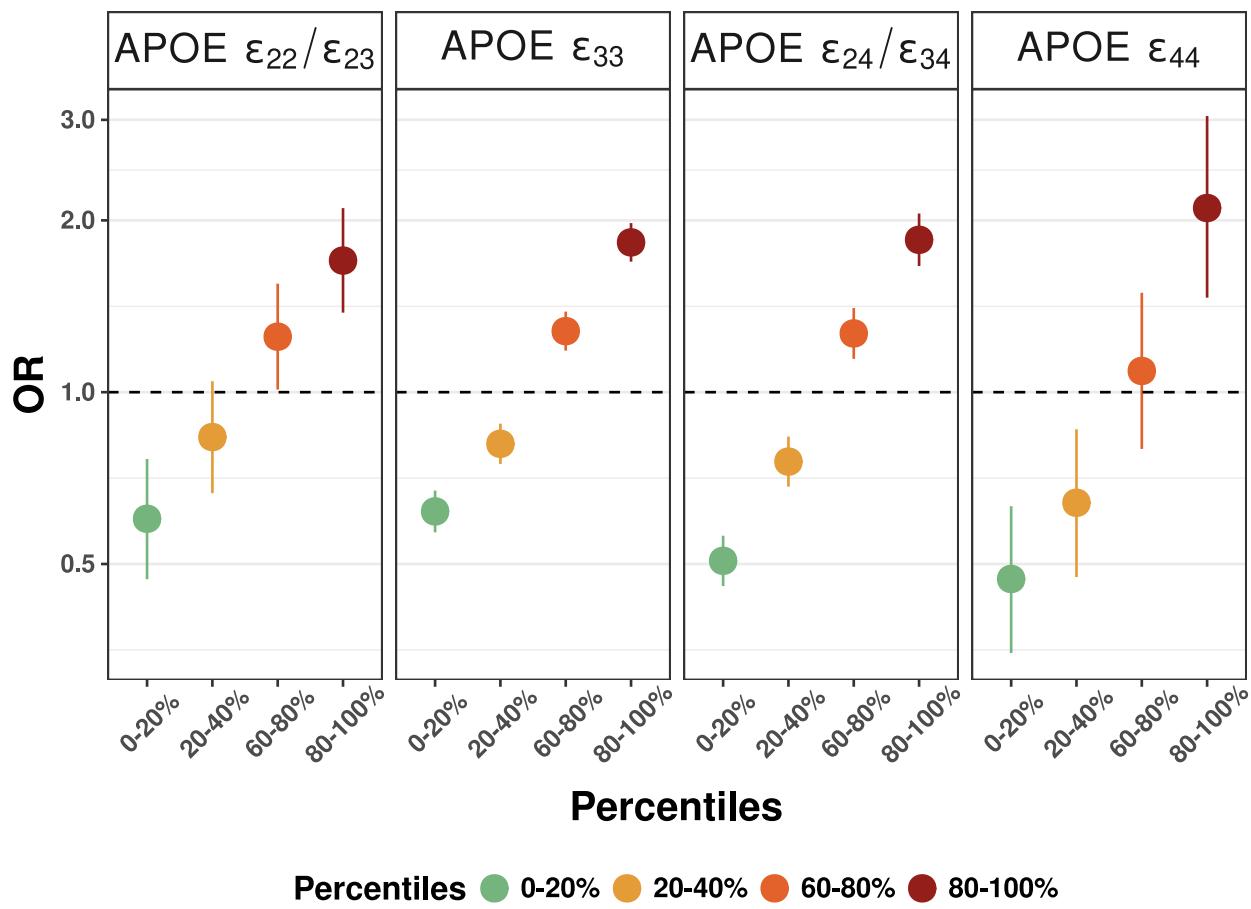
908 **Figure 6:** Association of PGS^{ALZ} or PRS^{COMB} (excluding the APOE region) with AD, AD and
909 related dementia (ADRD) and dementia in MVP and the corresponding predictive values
910 (adjusted Nagelkerke R² and Liability R²). PGS^{ALZ} and PRS were adjusted for APOE and for
911 difference in distribution between populations; OR, Odds ratio per standard deviation; PRS-
912 CSx were generated by combining European (EUR), African American (AA) and Latin-
913 American (LA) and East Asian ancestry summary statistics. Sparseness parameter at 10⁻⁸ and
914 10⁻⁶.

915 **Extended Figure 1:** Association of PGS^{ALZ} with the risk of developing AD **(A)** in 17 European
916 countries and **(B)** in Men and Women. Ncases, number of cases; Ncontrols, number of
917 controls; OR, Odds ratio per Standard deviation. The lines in the Forest plots indicate the 95%
918 confidence interval for the ORs.
919

920 **Extended Figure 2:** Associations between (A) PGS^{ALZ} or (B) PGS^{ALZ} adjusted for APOE and
921 age at onset of AD in European countries. N_{cases}, the number of cases. Since HetP <0.05, the
922 random effect is shown for the meta-analysis results.
923

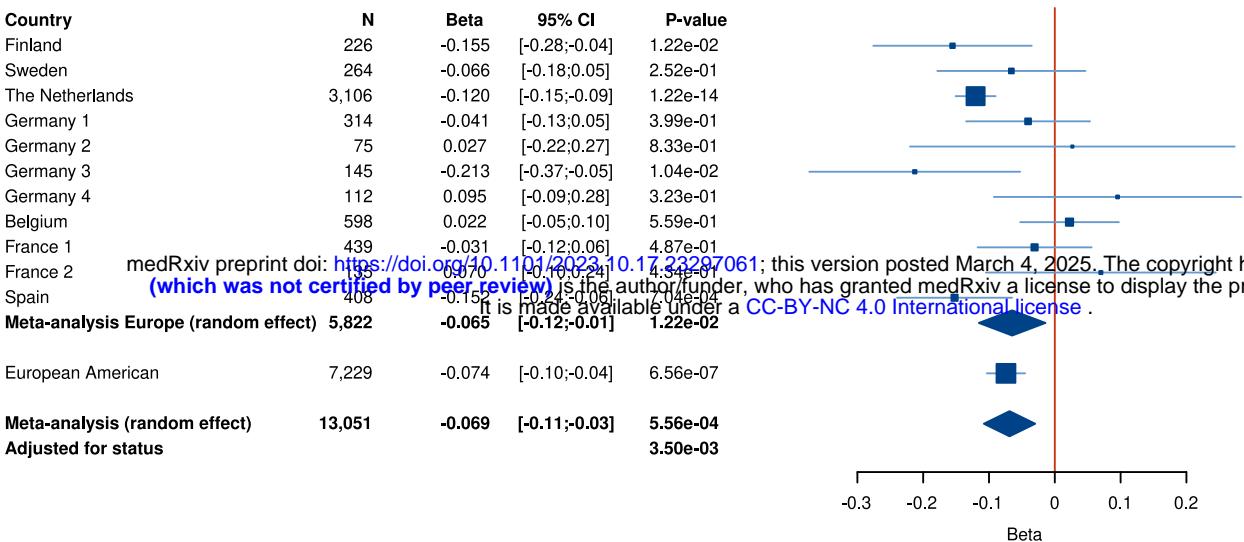
924 **Extended Figure 3:** Distribution and association of APOE ε2/ε3/ε4 alleles with AD risk
925 worldwide. **(A)** World map showing the populations analyzed. A color gradient indicates the
926 strength of the association between APOE ε2/ε3/ε4 alleles and the risk of developing AD in
927 different countries **(B)** frequencies of APOE ε2/ε3/ε4 alleles in case and controls as well
928 association of APOE ε4 alleles with the risk of developing AD in different countries.
929

930 **Extended Figure 4:** Association between (A) PGS^{ALZ} or (B) PGS^{ALZ} (adjusted for APOE) and
931 age at onset of AD in multi-ancestry populations. N_{cases}, number of cases. The African-
932 American-ancestry meta-analysis (more than 75% of the population with African-American
933 ancestry) included the MVP and ADSP datasets. The East Asia meta-analysis included
934 datasets from China, Korea, and Japan. The Latin American (LA) ancestry (self-reporting)
935 meta-analysis included the MMVP and ADSP datasets. The South America meta-analysis
936 included the datasets from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Colombia. * not used in the meta-
937 analysis.

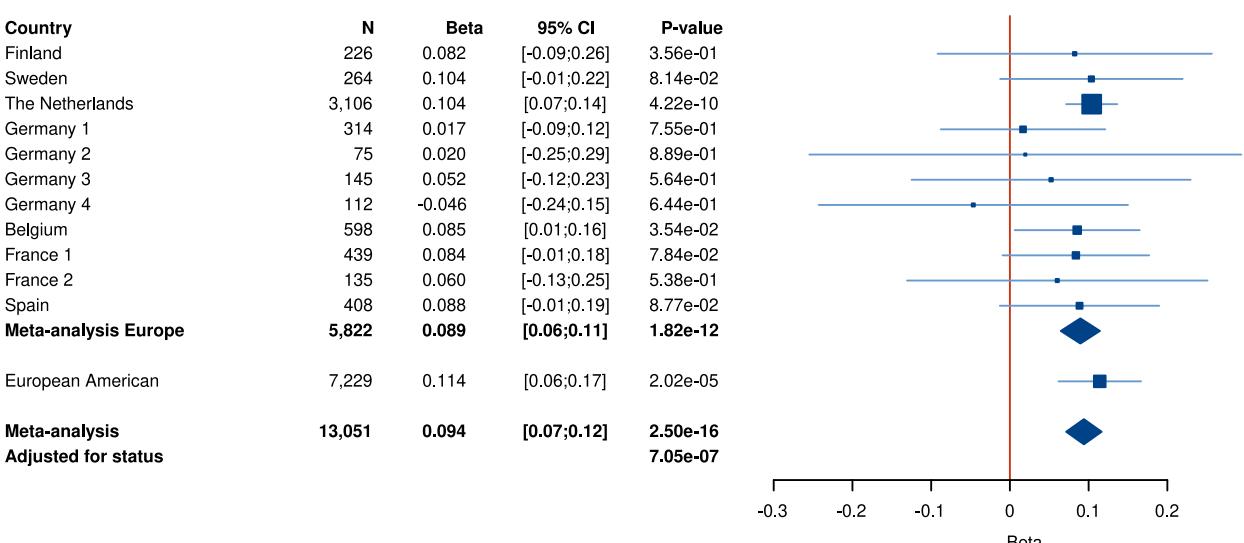
A**B**

A

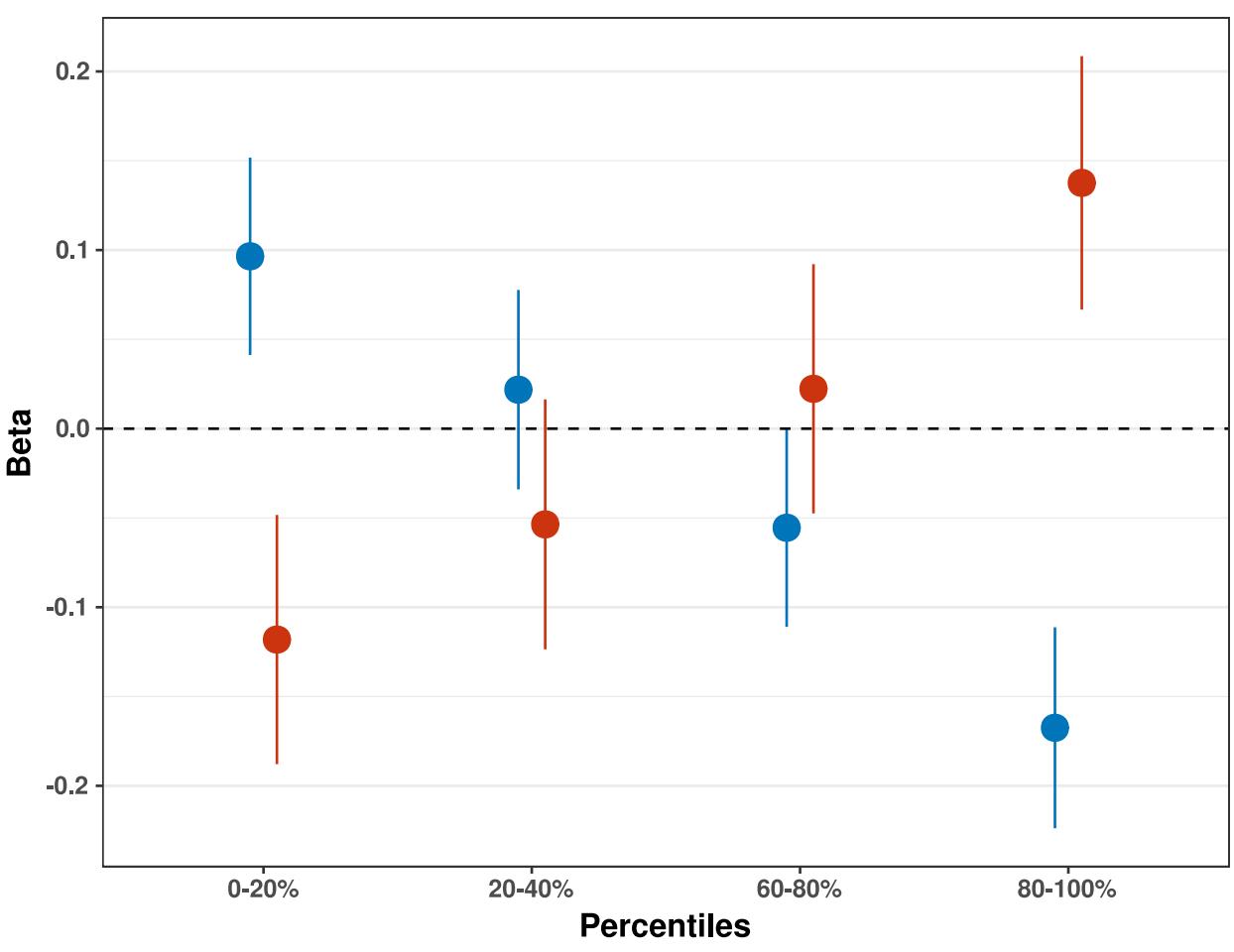
$A\beta_{42} - PGS^{ALZ}$ (Adjusted on APOE)
 Europe : $I^2 = 65.1$, HetP = $1.43e-03$; Global : $I^2 = 62.6$, HetP = $1.94e-03$

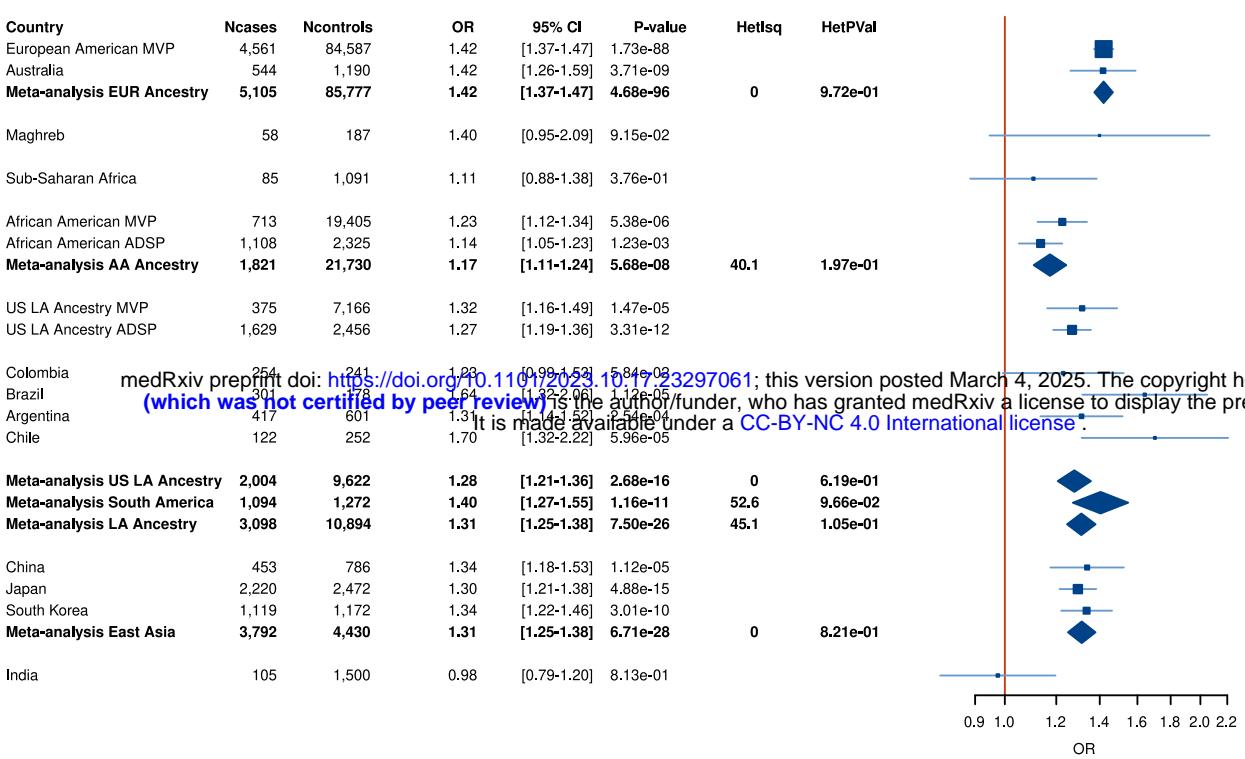
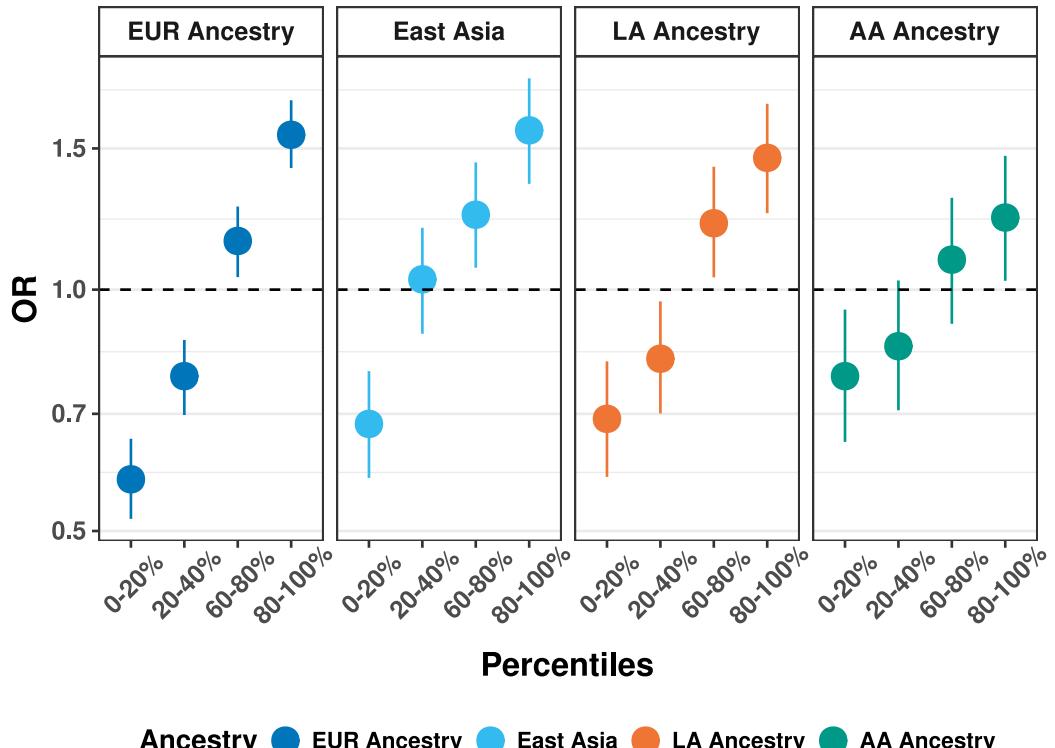
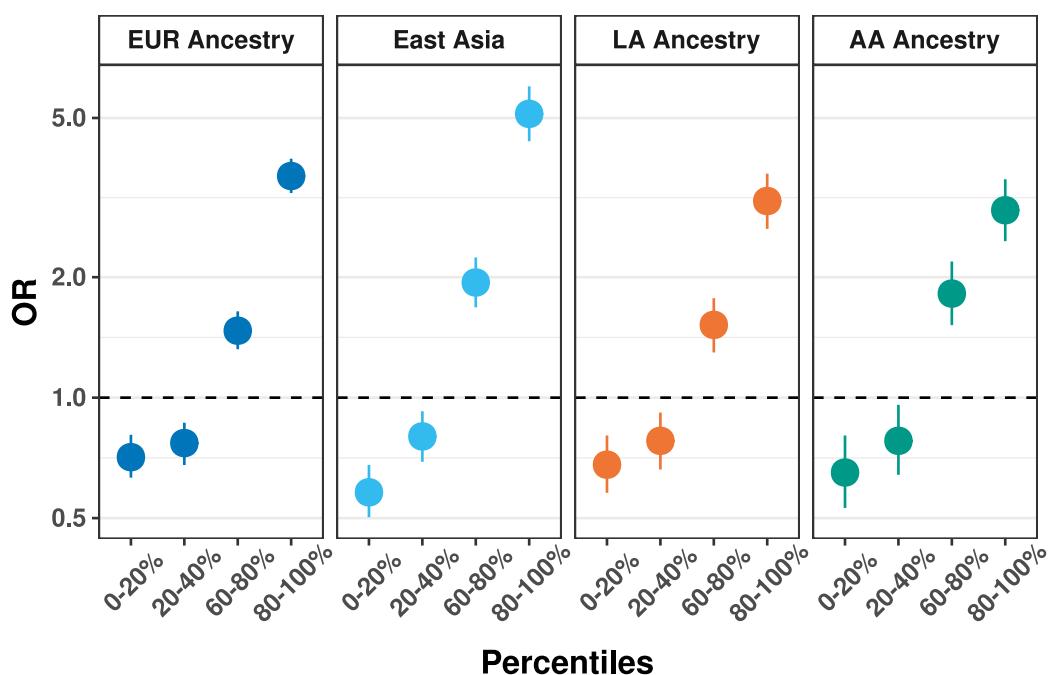
**B**

$pTau - PGS^{ALZ}$ (Adjusted on APOE)
 Europe : $I^2 = 0$, HetP = $8.87e-01$; Global : $I^2 = 0$, HetP = $8.89e-01$

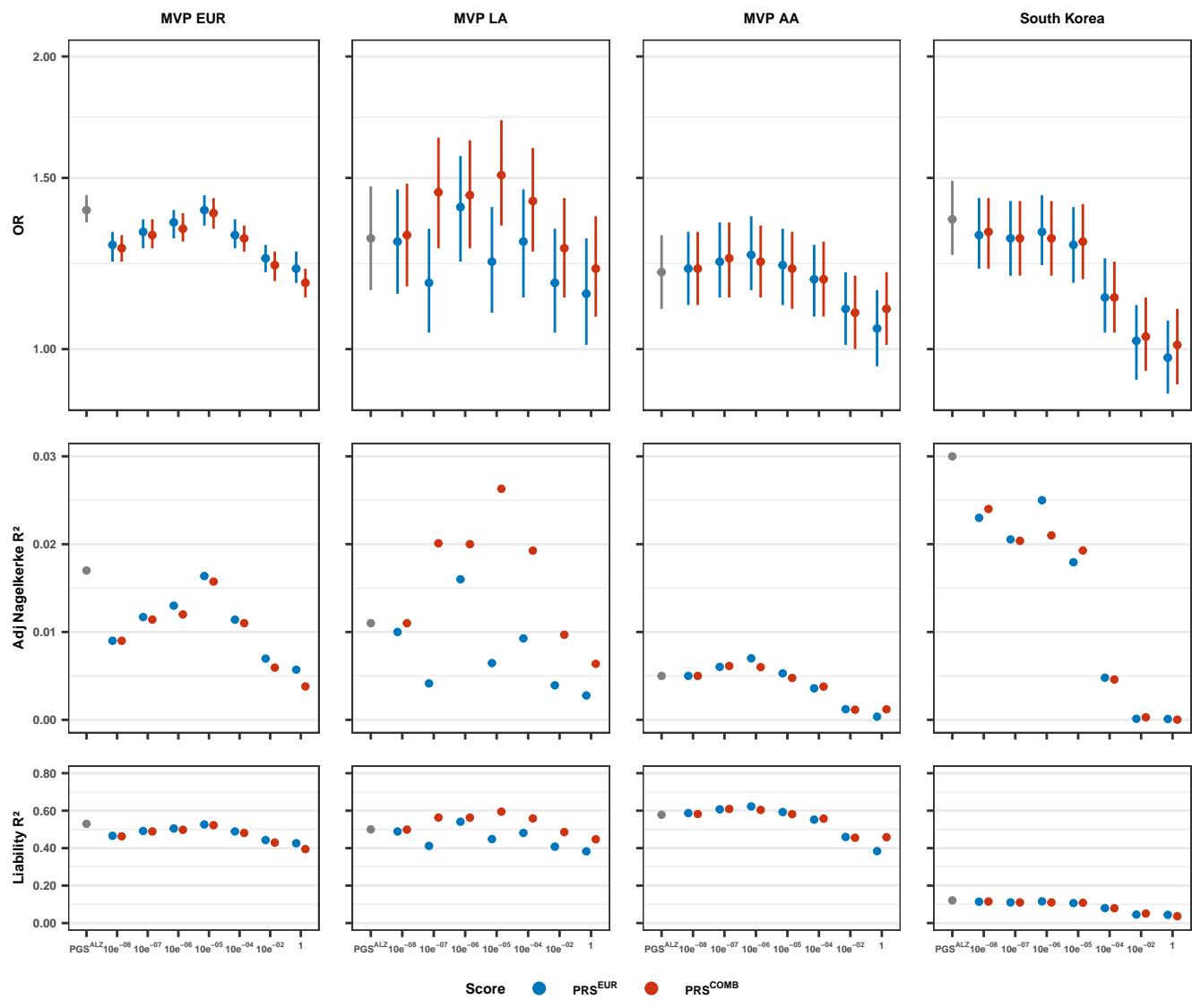


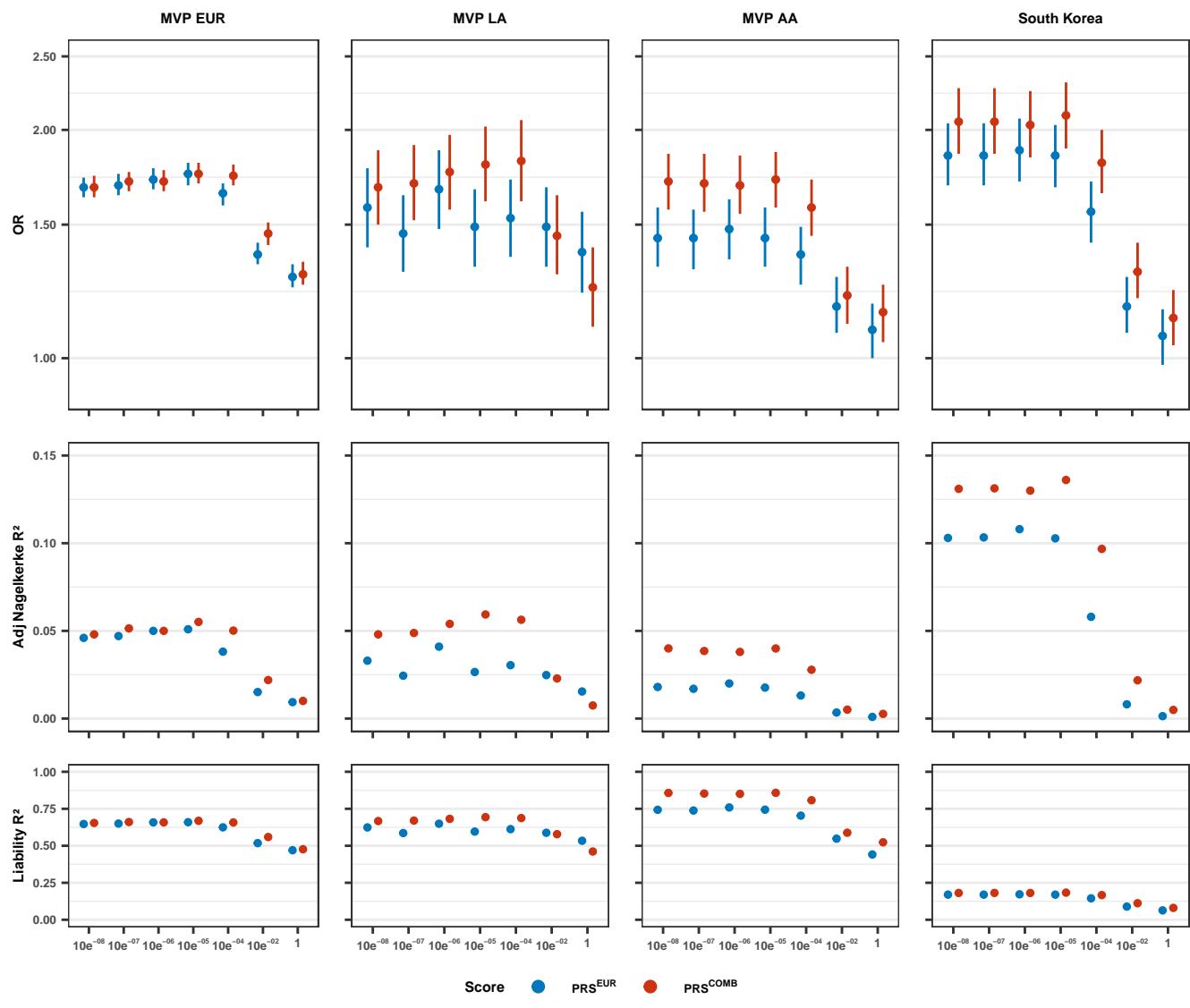
PGS^{ALZ} (Adjusted on APOE)

C

A**PGS^{ALZ} (Adjusted on APOE)****B****PGS^{ALZ} (Adjusted on APOE)****C****PGS^{ALZ} (+ APOE variants)**

Ancestry ● EUR Ancestry ● East Asia ● LA Ancestry ● AA Ancestry



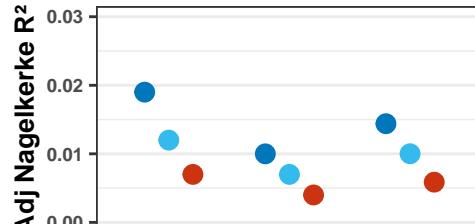
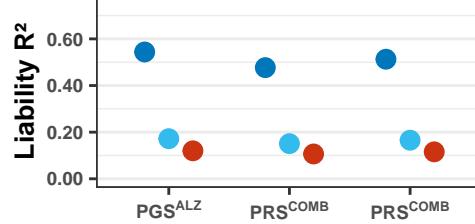


MVP EUR

MVP LA

MVP AA

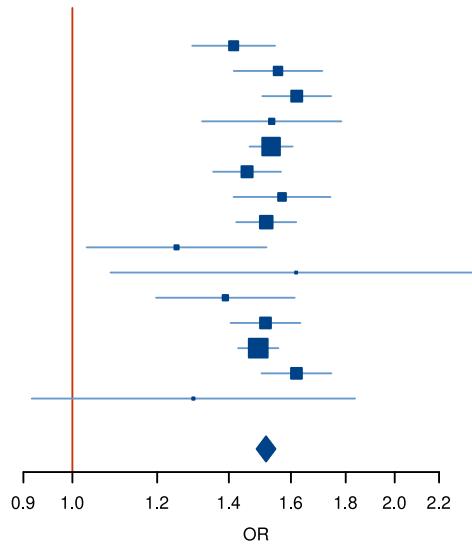
OR

Adj Nagelkerke R²Liability R²PGS^{ALZ}Phi = 10⁻⁸Phi = 10⁻⁶PGS^{ALZ}Phi = 10⁻⁸Phi = 10⁻⁶PGS^{ALZ}Phi = 10⁻⁸Phi = 10⁻⁶

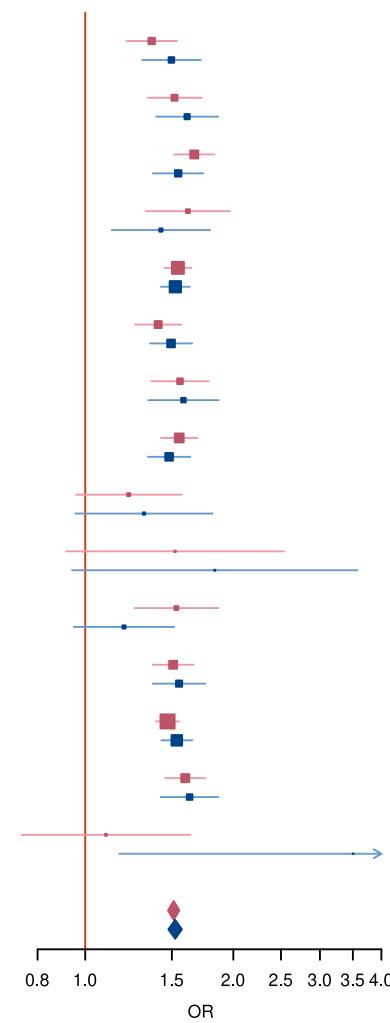
Disease

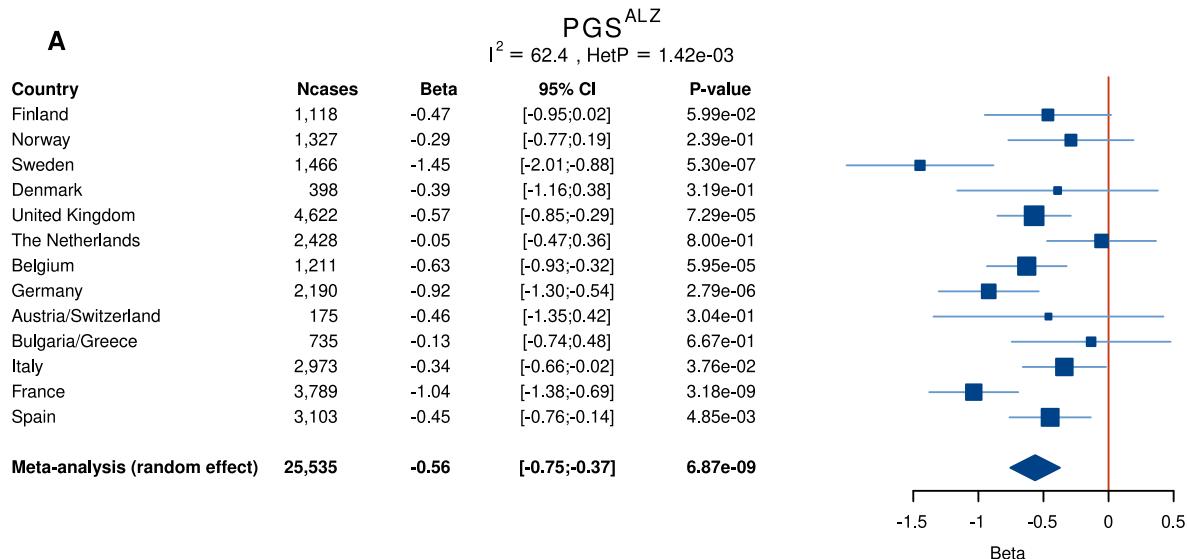
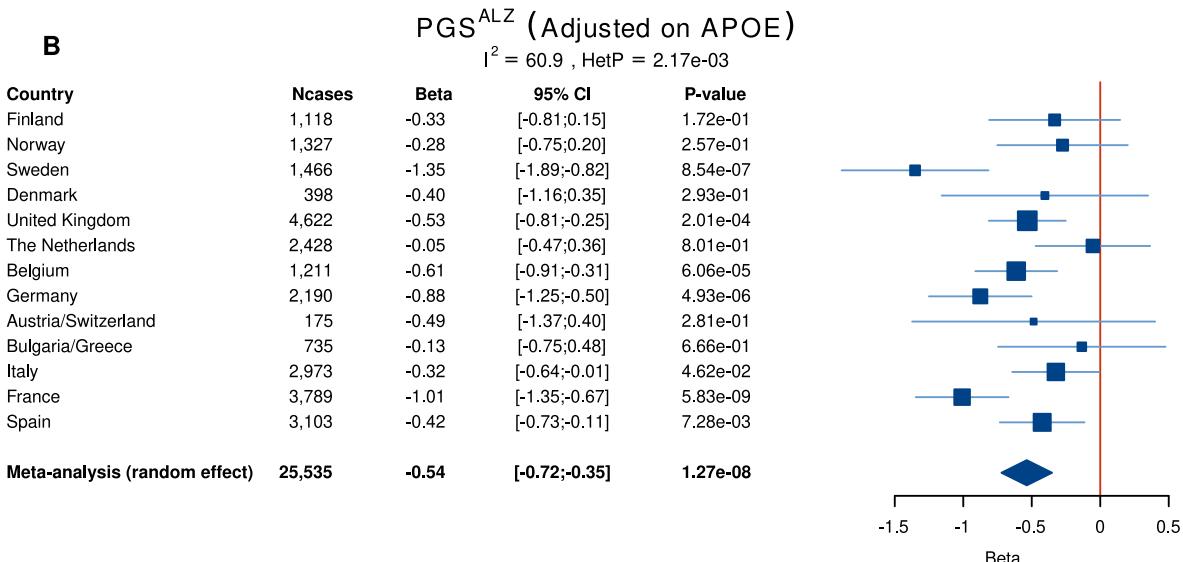
A**PGS^{ALZ} (Adjusted on APOE)** $I^2 = 17.8$, $HetP = 2.54e-01$

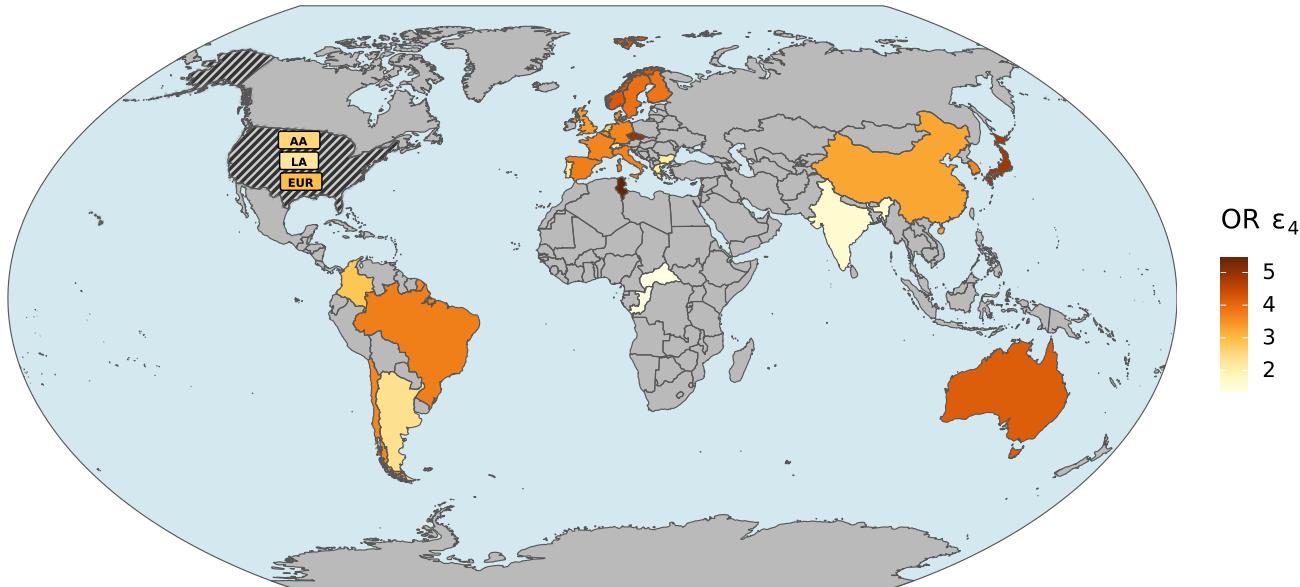
Country	Ncases	Ncontrols	OR	95% CI	P-value
Finland	1,118	1,770	1.41	[1.29-1.55]	2.32e-14
Norway	1,327	1,179	1.56	[1.42-1.71]	8.43e-20
Sweden	1,466	3,078	1.62	[1.51-1.75]	2.27e-37
Denmark	398	650	1.54	[1.32-1.79]	2.08e-08
United Kingdom	4,622	8,414	1.53	[1.46-1.61]	3.13e-73
The Netherlands	2,428	2,024	1.46	[1.35-1.57]	6.50e-24
Belgium	1,211	1,431	1.57	[1.42-1.74]	2.20e-17
Germany	2,190	3,141	1.52	[1.42-1.62]	9.18e-37
Austria/Switzerland	175	372	1.25	[1.03-1.52]	2.32e-02
Czech Republic	177	60	1.62	[1.10-2.45]	1.81e-02
Bulgaria/Greece	735	1,195	1.39	[1.20-1.61]	1.52e-05
Italy	2,973	1,251	1.51	[1.41-1.63]	2.15e-27
France	3,789	9,026	1.49	[1.43-1.56]	4.69e-73
Spain	3,103	1,615	1.62	[1.50-1.75]	2.91e-36
Portugal	80	74	1.30	[0.92-1.86]	1.42e-01
Meta-analysis	25,792	35,280	1.52	[1.49-1.55]	4.93e-353

**B****PGS^{ALZ} (Adjusted on APOE)**Females : $I^2 = 20.1$, $HetP = 2.29e-01$; Males : $I^2 = 0$, $HetP = 7.58e-01$

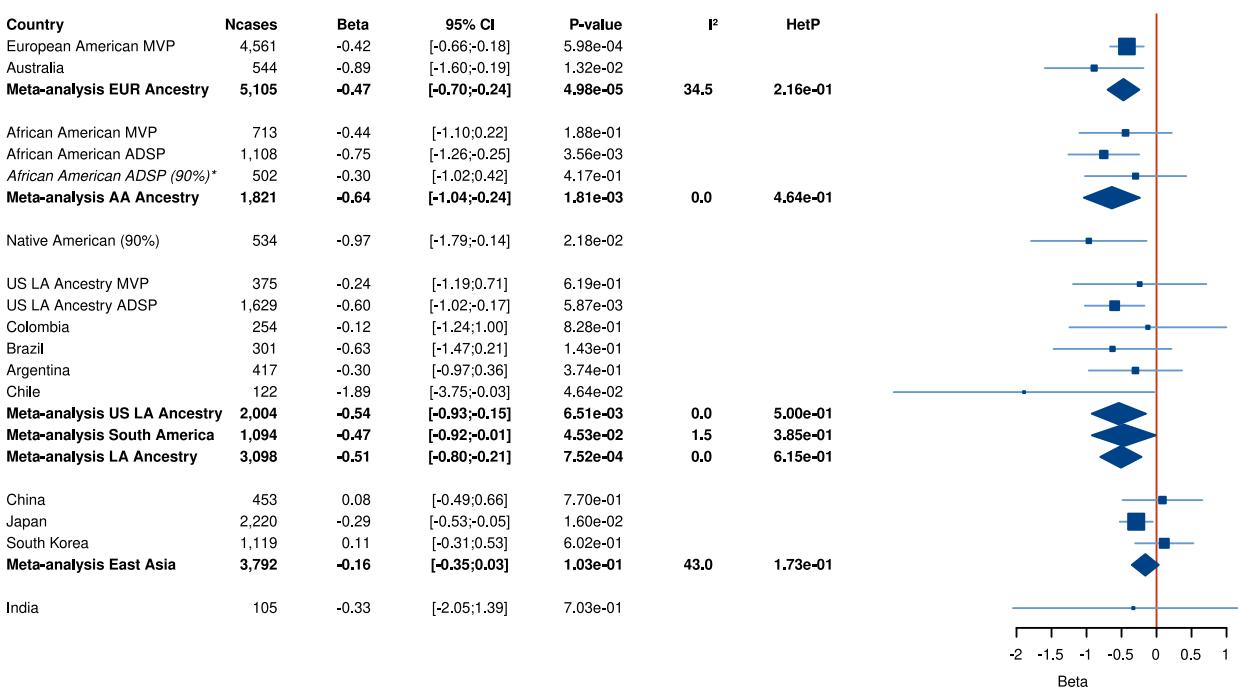
Country	Gender	Ncases	Ncontrols	OR	95% CI	P-value
Finland	Females	716	914	1.36	[1.21-1.54]	2.57e-07
	Males	402	856	1.50	[1.31-1.72]	7.73e-09
Norway	Females	840	622	1.52	[1.34-1.73]	9.49e-11
	Males	487	557	1.61	[1.40-1.87]	1.12e-10
Sweden	Females	926	1,898	1.67	[1.52-1.83]	6.79e-26
	Males	540	1,180	1.54	[1.37-1.74]	5.46e-13
Denmark	Females	227	354	1.62	[1.33-1.98]	2.02e-06
	Males	171	296	1.42	[1.13-1.80]	2.59e-03
United Kingdom	Females	2,633	4,323	1.54	[1.45-1.65]	1.62e-40
	Males	1,989	4,091	1.52	[1.43-1.63]	1.98e-34
The Netherlands	Females	1,354	885	1.41	[1.26-1.57]	7.29e-10
	Males	1,074	1,139	1.49	[1.35-1.65]	1.59e-15
Belgium	Females	783	890	1.56	[1.36-1.79]	1.11e-10
	Males	428	541	1.58	[1.34-1.87]	5.37e-08
Germany	Females	1,347	1,755	1.55	[1.43-1.69]	7.79e-24
	Males	843	1,386	1.48	[1.34-1.64]	7.78e-15
Austria/Switzerland	Females	112	204	1.23	[0.96-1.57]	1.07e-01
	Males	63	168	1.32	[0.96-1.82]	9.27e-02
Czech Republic	Females	107	40	1.52	[0.93-2.59]	1.06e-01
	Males	70	20	1.83	[0.97-3.76]	7.55e-02
Bulgaria/Greece	Females	445	676	1.53	[1.26-1.87]	2.04e-05
	Males	290	519	1.20	[0.95-1.52]	1.31e-01
Italy	Females	2,015	715	1.51	[1.37-1.66]	3.40e-17
	Males	958	536	1.55	[1.37-1.76]	2.31e-12
France	Females	2,383	5,540	1.47	[1.39-1.55]	5.28e-44
	Males	1,406	3,486	1.54	[1.43-1.65]	3.74e-31
Spain	Females	2,076	1,027	1.60	[1.45-1.76]	3.04e-22
	Males	1,027	588	1.63	[1.43-1.87]	1.45e-12
Portugal	Females	60	56	1.10	[0.75-1.66]	6.31e-01
	Males	20	18	3.50	[1.34-12.77]	2.48e-02
Meta-analysis	Females	16,024	19,899	1.51	[1.47-1.55]	3.49e-203
	Males	9,768	15,381	1.52	[1.48-1.57]	3.71e-149



A**B**

A**B**

Country	Cases			Controls			OR ϵ_4	Country	Cases			Controls			OR ϵ_4
	ϵ_4	ϵ_3	ϵ_2	ϵ_4	ϵ_3	ϵ_2			ϵ_4	ϵ_3	ϵ_2	ϵ_4	ϵ_3	ϵ_2	
Finland	0.42	0.56	0.02	0.16	0.79	0.05	3.85 [3.33-4.46]	European American	0.26	0.68	0.06	0.12	0.80	0.08	2.96 [2.78-3.15]
Norway	0.43	0.54	0.03	0.17	0.76	0.08	4.23 [3.62-4.95]	African American	0.36	0.57	0.07	0.20	0.70	0.11	2.59 [2.35-2.84]
Sweden	0.41	0.57	0.03	0.16	0.77	0.08	3.90 [3.47-4.39]	US LA Ancestry	0.23	0.73	0.04	0.10	0.85	0.05	2.25 [2.02-2.52]
Denmark	0.34	0.60	0.07	0.15	0.76	0.09	3.51 [2.71-4.53]	Maghreb	0.27	0.72	0.02	0.10	0.87	0.03	5.46 [2.50-11.94]
United Kingdom	0.33	0.63	0.04	0.13	0.79	0.08	3.39 [3.14-3.67]	Sub-Saharan Africa	0.28	0.62	0.11	0.23	0.65	0.12	1.36 [0.91-2.03]
The Netherlands	0.42	0.55	0.03	0.19	0.73	0.07	2.67 [2.38-2.98]	Colombia	0.31	0.66	0.03	0.14	0.81	0.05	2.85 [1.97-4.13]
Belgium	0.31	0.64	0.05	0.13	0.79	0.08	3.50 [2.92-4.20]	Brazil	0.28	0.68	0.03	0.12	0.81	0.07	3.73 [2.44-5.69]
Germany	0.33	0.63	0.05	0.12	0.79	0.09	3.67 [3.28-4.11]	Argentina	0.27	0.70	0.03	0.11	0.84	0.05	2.40 [1.73-3.33]
Austria/Switzerland	0.19	0.74	0.07	0.10	0.82	0.08	2.11 [1.43-3.10]	Chile	0.29	0.70	0.01	0.10	0.86	0.04	3.64 [2.26-5.86]
Czech Republic	0.32	0.66	0.02	0.11	0.82	0.07	4.94 [2.22-10.99]	China	0.21	0.72	0.07	0.08	0.83	0.09	3.26 [2.49-4.26]
Bulgaria/Greece	0.23	0.74	0.03	0.09	0.85	0.06	2.17 [1.63-2.89]	Japan	0.31	0.67	0.02	0.09	0.87	0.05	4.83 [4.24-5.49]
France	0.30	0.66	0.04	0.10	0.82	0.07	3.65 [3.37-3.94]	South Korea	0.26	0.70	0.04	0.08	0.86	0.06	3.64 [3.02-4.38]
Italy	0.25	0.73	0.03	0.09	0.86	0.05	3.69 [3.13-4.36]	India	0.17	0.79	0.04	0.11	0.84	0.05	1.61 [1.08-2.39]
Spain	0.27	0.70	0.03	0.10	0.85	0.06	3.73 [3.21-4.33]	Australia	0.40	0.57	0.03	0.14	0.77	0.09	4.16 [3.43-5.04]
Portugal	0.30	0.66	0.04	0.18	0.77	0.05	2.20 [1.19-4.05]								

A**PGS^{ALZ}****B****PGS^{ALZ} (Adjusted on APOE)**