

## Online supplementary material

### Results

#### Sociodemographic data and treatment outcome

Neither pre-treatment fear levels nor treatment outcome (pre- to post or pre- to follow up fear reduction) were correlated with age or years of education (high school + college/university), all (all  $r < .19$ ). Female participants expressed higher pre-treatment fear levels compared to men ( $F(1,216) = 24.04, p < 0.001$ ). However, there were no sex-related effects in regard with treatment effects (pre to post:  $F(1, 209) = 0.50$ ; pre to follow up:  $F(2, 196) = 0.67$ ).

#### Completer vs. drop-outer analyses

Individuals who dropped out did not differ in regard with any personality variables (all NEO-FFI scales, STAI-Trait, all  $F < 1.43$ ) from therapy completers. The same was true regarding their pre- to post fear reduction ( $F = 0.64$ ). However, completers ( $M = 8.64, SD = 1.68$ ) expressed higher pre-treatment fear-levels compared to dropouts ( $M = 7.69, SD = 2.33$ ), ( $F(1, 218) = 11.79, p = 0.001$ ).

#### Within cohort comparisons

Congruently to the results of our comprehensive analyses, in regard with pre- to post- fear reductions we did not observe significant genotype x treatment effects in none of the three fear cohorts [spider fear: ( $F(2, 93) = 0.31, p = 0.69, \eta^2 = .01$ ); BII: ( $F(2, 72) = 1.61, p = 0.21, \eta^2 = .04$ ); dental: ( $F(2, 33) = 0.42, p = 0.66, \eta^2 = .03$ )]. However, concerning the completer analyses that include follow-up assessment there were significant GxT-effects within the spider fear cohort (LL = 7 / LS = 15 / SS = 5;  $F(4,52) = 2.76, p = .04, \eta^2 = .18$ ) and BII-cohort (LL = 15 / LS = 24 / SS = 10;  $F(4,92) = 2.46, p = .05, \eta^2 = .10$ ). Only within the dental fear cohort as the smallest (LL = 7 / LS = 13 / SS = 3), repeated measures ANOVA showed no GxT effect ( $F(4,40) = 0.91, p = .47, \eta^2 = .08$ ). Post-hoc within-group comparisons of follow-

up fear levels yielded SS-allele carriers differed compared to LS- ( $p = 0.012$ ) and LL-allele carriers ( $p = 0.015$ ) in the BII-cohort. Within the spider fear cohort this post-hoc analysis yielded no significant result ( $p = 0.15$ ).

## Figures

Figure 1:

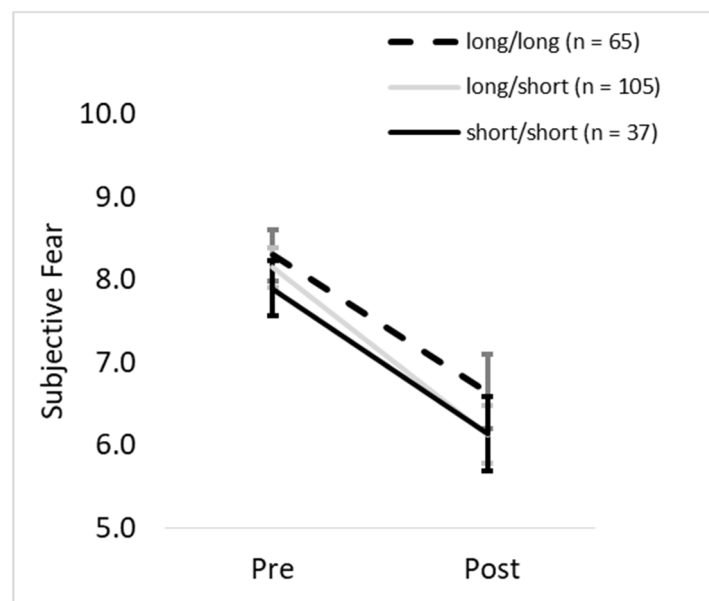


Figure 2:

