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1 CANDIDATE GENE INVESTIGATION OF SPINAL DEGENERATIVE OSTEOARTHRITIS IN
2 GREEK POPULATION

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29
30 Abstract

31 Background context

32 Few data exist concerning the natural history of degenerative osteoarthritis of the spine and
33 its associated gene investigation. Degenerative osteoarthritis of the spine demonstrates an
34 international prevalence of 15% in the general population and over 50% in people aged over
35 60 years.

36 Purpose

37 The aim of this Greek case-control study is to examine gene polymorphisms that have been
38 previously shown or hypothesized to be correlated to degenerative osteoarthritis of the
39 spine. Gene polymorphisms, especially for osteoarthritis of the spine, have never been
40 previously studied in the Greek population.

41 Study design/Setting

42 The study was conducted from May 2009 to December 2012. Eligible subjects who agreed to
43 take part in the study were Greek adults from all of Greece, referred for consultation to the
44 Palliative Care and Pain Relief Unit, of Aretaieion University Hospital, in Athens, Greece.

45 Patient sample: a total of 601 matched pairs(cases and controls) were recruited and
46 participated in the study, consisted of 258 patients (188 female and 70 male) with clinically

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