Reviewer's report

Title: ACTN3 R577X polymorphism and long-term survival in patients with chronic heart failure

Version: 2 Date: 29 May 2014

Reviewer: Isabel Rodriguez

Reviewer's report:

The authors investigated the association of R577X polymorphism in the ACTN3 gene with mortality in a prospective cohort study of 463 chronic heart failure patients. The study has interest; however, the reviewer has several comments on the manuscript.

Minor essential revisions:

1. In the “Abstract” it is not correct to say that polymorphism “was detected by polymerase chain reaction”. The technique used was “high resolution melting” as it is stated in “Methods”.
2. The description of inclusion criteria for patients in “Methods” is not clear (second paragraph).
3. It is not appropriate to refer to the less-frequent allele (X) as "mutant" (“Genotyping” in “Methods” and second paragraph in “Results”).
4. Authors set statistical significance at P>0.05 when usually P=0.05 is not consider statistically significant.
5. Check typographic errors: "carries" in penultimate paragraph of “Discussion” should be “carriers”, “R577R” in “Conclusion” should be “R577X”, …

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.