Reviewer's report

**Title:** Prevalence of Genetic Polymorphisms in the Promoter Region of the Alpha-1 Antitrypsin (SERPINA1) Gene in Chronic Liver Disease: a Case Control Study

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 20 November 2009

**Reviewer:** Ahmad Settin

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This study concerning the prevalence of c.-1973T>C, Z allele and S allele in a cohort of patients with liver disease of various aetiologies compared with healthy controls sounds an interesting study. Generally it is well written, well presented and well organized with statistically validated data. The main weakness, however, is the relatively non homogeneous sample of cases with liver disease, if authors would have focused on one disorder e.g HCV and enriched their sample of same affected cases, I think will be far more better, In spite of this we still can speculate that at minimum these genetic polymorphisms did not appear to be a risk factor for chronicity of liver affection by these disorder.

These include more informative tables about the distribution of all genotypes and alleles pertaining to A1AT gene significance of difference related to Allele frequencies in both studied groups and also about the analysis of frequencies related to the haplotypes analysis of the 3 alleles together e.g C/S/Z, C/S/M, C/Z/M, T/S/Z, T/S/M, T/Z/M etc. I think figures can be omitted as well, My final decision is to accept but after minor revision.