Reviewer’s report

Title: The MLH1 2101C>A (Q701K) variation is related to risk of gastric cancer in Chinese males

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Reviewer: TL Chan

Reviewer’s report:

Current manuscript described the mutation spectrum of MLH1 in the cohort of Chinese patients developed gastric cancer. The authors identified six mutations including 2 in the promoter region and 4 in the coding region. However, none of them shows direct evidence of pathogenic mutation. The association of MLH1 2101C>A and gastric cancer has been proposed although the authors did not provide explanation for MLH1 2101 C>A that only affect a specific age group.

Specific comments:

1) The authors did not state clearly why MLH1 gene is selected and examined. Even MLH1 was selected, it is not clear immunohistochemistry/MSI test, which are effective screening step in colorectal cancer associated with MMR genes defect, was not adopted as a preliminary screening strategy.

2) The background of MLH1 methylation should be addressed and it is, in fact, one of the publication of Yap.

3) The correlation of mutation and family history of gastric cancer of the patient should be provided.

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