**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** A retrospective case-control study of hepatitis C virus infection and oral lichen planus in Japan: association with mutations in the core and NS5A region of hepatitis C virus

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 5 January 2012

**Reviewer:** Takafumi Saito

**Reviewer's report:**

The authors reported the risk factors for the development of oral lichen planus in Japanese patients with HCV infection. The findings of this paper are important to understand one of the major complications associated with HCV.

**Major revisions:**

1. The association of lichen planus with HCV mutations they examined has not been detected. The title of paper may mislead the readers, and thus replace it with an appropriate one.

2. The p values of many factors to assess a potential association with the development of lichen planus are significant in univariate analysis shown in Table 1. Which factors were included in a multiple logistic regression model to identify factors for the development of lichen planus associated with HCV? How about the thyroid disease as a factor?

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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.