Reviewer's report

Title: Genetic risk factors for intestinal metaplasia in a high risk Singapore-Chinese population: a cohort study

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Reviewer: Nobuyuki Hamajima

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This study provides useful information on genetic traits for intestinal metaplasia (IM) among Singapore-Chinese. To record full information, the below points are recommended.

Major compulsory revisions

1. Since genotype/allele frequencies themselves are useful information for other studies, the genotype frequencies should be listed in the three categories (major homo, hetero, and minor homo), not two categories listed in Table 3.

Minor essential revisions

2. HWE should be examined for all subjects, but not necessary for the HP- group and HP+ group, because the condition may be associated with the genotypes. It is not clear whether the sentence "All polymorphisms were in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE), except .." means that the examination was done for all subjects. The p-value from HWE tests should be described in text or in Table 3.

3. Even if HP-, those with IM are regarded as being infected in the past. Since those with IM were relatively common in the study subjects, the subgroup analysis for IM among the infected subjects (HP+ or IM) would be informative. If IM develops without HP infection among Singapore-Chinese as described in "However, its association with increased risk of IM in HP negative individuals suggests it may play a role independently of this factor" in the last sentence of Discussion, the subgroup analysis is not needed.

4. The authors showed the percentages of those aged more than 60 years in Table 2. The description of age distribution according to 5 or 10 year age-group would be more informative.

5. "PTPN11 rs2301756 GA/AA" would be better than "PTPN11 SNP" in the first line of page 7.

6. Reference 21 reported that the reduced risk of gastric atrophy was observed only for AA genotype, not for GA/AA. The report on the OR for AA will be recommended.

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.