Reviewer's report

**Title:** Polymorphisms in gene encoding TRPV1-receptor involved in pain perception are unrelated to chronic pancreatitis in a Dutch population.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 5 October 2009

**Reviewer:** Fred S Gorelick

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This study examines the potential contribution by TRPV1 to chronic pancreatitis. The hypothesis appears to be that these mutations cause disease. In a mixed etiology population of patients with chronic pancreatitis the authors found no such association.

**Comments**

1) Most studies of chronic pancreatitis that have examined TRPV1 have linked it to pain perception and not pancreatitis inflammation. The one study (15) linking it to inflammation was as study of acute and not chronic inflammation. Also, these were studies in knockouts and compensation by other receptors could not be excluded. These issues need to be discussed.

2) The study appears to be organized to address the issue "are polymorphisms in TRV1 associated with chronic pancreatitis" in a broad sense, but an equally important issue (suggested by most studies) would be "is is associated with pain? This is a much more difficult study to do than the one undertaken by these authors-they would have to find patients with other manifestations of chronic pancreatitis (calcification, insufficiency, similar duration and etiology) and ask whether the levels of pain differs. At a minimum this issue needs to be discussed. Although their population is small, it might be worthwhile assessing whether pancreatitis pain differed in accordance with TRPV1 polymorphisms.

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

**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'