Reviewer's report

Title: Association of presence/absence and on/off patterns of Helicobacter pylori oipA gene with peptic ulcer disease and gastric cancer risks: a meta-analysis

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Reviewer: Rumyana Markovska

Reviewer's report:

The authors have performed meta analysis on the basis of already published studies whether a specific oipA gene status is linked with peptic ulcer disease (PUD) and/or gastric cancer (GC) risks and which pattern (i.e. presence/absence or on/off) of oipA is more reliable to predict disease risk. They found null association of oipA positive with the risks of PUD, DU, GU, GC. For oipA on/off status they found that the “on” status showed significant associations with increased risks of PUD, DU, GC, but not with GU.

This meta analysis study has been performed with clear methods, the aims were well defined and the results have been explained well, but the investigation of the presence/absence of oipA does not sound scientific.

Major comments:

1. It is well documented that only oipA functional status is predictive for the clinical outcome, so in my opinion it is better to delete the whole part about the presence/absence of oipA.

2. The authors found that there is null association between oipA status “on” and GU, but as the cases for GU are not enough, it can be better to remove this data from the abstract. It should be discussed only in the discussion section.

Minor comments:

3. Please include reference in the first paragraph of the discussion section.

   “Since the discovery of H. pylori’s OipA in 2000, there are increasing studies examining the relationship between the status of oipA gene and clinical outcomes but the conclusions turn out to be controversial.”

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests