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

Version: 2 Date: 25 June 2013

Reviewer: Rumyana Markovska

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

The authors have improved the manuscript. However, it still leaves out some important points.

The investigation with some significance in this meta analysis is in my opinion whether OipA is associated with peptic ulcer diseases and gastric cancer. There are publications that don’t show association between oipA functional status “on” and ulcer diseases and gastric cancer. So, the conclusion that oipA functional status “on” is associated with ulcer diseases and gastric cancer will be of interest.

But only the problem with link between oipA functional status “on” and ulcer diseases and gastric cancer can be controversial, not the choice between the presence/absence and functional status of oipA. The investigations on the “presence/absence” of oipA are pointless after the discovery of the possibility for this gene to have a “switch off” status. Normally, all the investigators have to sequence the oipA. The publications that investigate the presence/absence of oipA show a mistake on the side of the investigators, who maybe cannot sequence the gene.

Authors can reorganize the text in this light. There is no need to change all the data, but the abstract, the part of results and discussion should be changed.

Minor comments:

Please include the appropriate references in the text – for example page 6, second paragraph.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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