Reviewer’s report

Title: Association of vitamin D receptor polymorphisms with the risk of prostate cancer in the Han population of Southern China

Version: 2 Date: 24 August 2009

Reviewer: Arslan Akhmedkhanov

Reviewer’s report:

The authors made the suggested revisions and clarified the questions from the previous version of the paper. The reviewer has couple of additional suggestions/questions prior to publication:

1. In the Methods section, please describe the eligibility and exclusion criteria for prostate cancer cases as well. Are these 122 prostate cancer cases represent all the cases seen in four hospitals during the recruitment period? Were there any exclusion of prostate cancer cases diagnosed in four hospitals in Southern China between March 2007 and August 2008? If yes, what criteria were used to select 122 cases for the study.

2. In their response to the reviewer, the authors state that:

“To match the age between cases and controls, we selected the elderly controls aged over 80 years, which are recruited from employees at the First Affiliated Hospital of Wenzhou Medical College.”

Is it a common practice in China to have the hospital employees older than 80 years old? Please explain.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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