Reviewer's report

Title: Association between Insertion/Deletion Polymorphism in Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Gene and Acute Lung Injury/Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome: A Meta-Analysis

Version: 2 Date: 4 June 2012

Reviewer: Carlos Flores

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed most points raised in my previous revision. However, there are a few issues that remain to be answered.

Minor essential revisions:
1. The authors have addressed one of the comments by including the following sentence in pages 5 and 15: “Since the genome-wide association study (GWAS) analysis of ALI/ARDS has never been performed, GWAS-accepted significance level of P value remained unknown.” However, this is not correct (see Christie et al. PLoS One 2012 for a recent GWAS of Trauma-derived ALI) and does not substitute the necessity of estimating the power of the study. In addition, current threshold for GWAS studies in complex diseases suggest threshold p-values in the range of 1.0E-08 (Pe’er et al. Genet Epidemiol 2008, 32: 381-5; Li et al. Hum Genet 2012, 131: 747–756).

2. The authors have switched to a Bonferroni correction in this new version. While I am satisfied with their choice, I suggest the authors to control type-I error not only for the inheritance models and the two (three: all combined) populations, but also for the two traits (ALI susceptibility and mortality).

Discretionary revisions:
1. Please, substitute “electric” by “electronic” throughout the main text.

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

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

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