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: 12 June 2012

Reviewer: Andy Overall

Reviewer's report:

I have read the revised manuscript and the author’s comments. On the whole I am happy that the author’s have made a serious attempt at addressing the initial concerns raised. I have one Minor Essential Revision to request:

Under Statistical Analysis,

The employment of the Bonferonni correction needs to be clarified. Specifically, what significance level was used for each of the n analyses – alpha/n? The text does not make this clear.

Minor typographical issues:

Abstract
“In addition, we [firstly] conducted” Delete [firstly]

Background
“severe form[,] acute” Delete [,]

“It is [well] suggested that the type and severity” Delete [well].

“So far, several variations in genes have been” Consider revising as “several genetic variants”

“while its polymorphism is consisted of the presence (insertion; I) and absence (deletion; D) of 287bp Alu repeat sequence in intron” Consider revising as “with a polymorphism that consists of..”

“Recently, strong evidence [have] been” replace [have] with “has accumulated”.

“Therefore the studies on association [remained] controversial” consider replacing with “remain”.

Statistical Analysis
“As the mode of ALI/ARDS’ inheritance [are] unknown” Replace with “is”

Results
“Four studies were conducted in Caucasians” consider revising as subjects of Caucasian ethnicity. Similarly for subjects of Asian ethnicity.
Control: Healthy control subjects
“However, the pooled OR derived from five [included] studies” delete [included].
“The pooled OR derived from all three [included] studies” delete [included].

ACE I/D Polymorphism and the Mortality of ALI/ARDS
“When we searched [in] the HapMap database” delete [in]

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: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

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