Reviewer's report

Title: Single nucleotide polymorphisms in thymic stromal lymphopoietin gene are not associated with allergic rhinitis susceptibility in Chinese subjects

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Reviewer: Mayumi Tamari

Reviewer's report:

Zhang and colleagues reported lack of association between TSLP genetic variants and allergic rhinitis (AR). It is important to clarify genetic factors responsible for AR due to its increasing prevalence. However, there are major problems with this study that need further consideration.

Major comments
Sample size is a critical factor for a successful disease gene search. As authors mentioned in the discussion section, the results could have arisen from a Type I statistical error and appear to be inconclusive. It is necessary to conduct further study in large sample sizes or replication study in an independent population in order to provide reassurance that the findings are not false-negative associations.

Minor comments
Because the finding is based on a small sample size, authors should conduct power analyses for rational statistical decisions.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

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