Reviewer's report

Title: The carrier rate and mutation spectrum of genes associated with hearing loss in South China hearing female population of childbearing age

Version: 2  Date: 18 February 2013

Reviewer: Pu Dai

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It is a very nice study to investigate the frequency of deaf related mutations in a big population. Among the 7,263 normal hearing pregnant women enrolled in this study, 303 subjects carried pathogenic mutations included in the screening chip, which made the carrier rate 4.17% in the population under investigate. Further genetic testing for spouses of women carrying GJB2 or SLC26A4 pathogenic mutations could provide accurate genetic counseling and prediction. The results of this study would provide valuable information to health planners and policy makers in planning strategy and programs of deaf prevention and intervention.

Minor revision needed:
1. First word in P6 (homozygous) should be change to Homoplasmy
2. P6, line 14. in the sentence of “DNA sequencing to the analyze the mutated gene of the wife”, “the” should be deleted
3. P7, line 19, the sentence of “919–2 A>G being the most prevalent mutant form” should be changed to “919–2 A>G being the most prevalent mutant form in SLC26A4”.
4. Table 2 can be removed as supplemental materials.
5. In table 3, pay attention to spelling error of severe.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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