Reviewer’s report

Title: PTPRC (CD45) is not associated with multiple sclerosis in a large cohort of German patients

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Reviewer: Dr Koen Vandenbroeck

Level of interest: A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

Advice on publication: Accept without revision

This is an interesting manuscript, generally well-written, dealing with genetic aspects of MS. The authors present the results of their analysis of the association of an SNP in the CD45 gene with MS in a German case-control study. This polymorphism received recently considerably attention as it was found to be associated with MS in another German study, and this study was published in the high-impact journal Nature Genetics. The work of Miterski et al. now demonstrates that this polymorphism is of only limited relevance in the genetic susceptibility context of MS, herewith confirming similar negative results found in an American study.

Over the past years attempts to identify susceptibility genes in MS have been hampered by lack of reproducibility in distinct populations. With the work of Miterski et al. it seems that the CD45 gene can now be definitively excluded as a major susceptibility gene in MS.

I recommend publication of the manuscript in its current form.

Competing interests:

None declared.