Reviewer's report

Title: Association study of genetic variants of pro-inflammatory chemokine and cytokine genes in systemic lupus erythematosus

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Reviewer: JING-LONG HUANG

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The manuscript by Sánchez et al. attempts to examine the relevance of genetic variants of RANTES, IL-8, IL-1α, and MCP-1 for systemic lupus erythematosus in a Spanish population. They genotyped 500 SLE patients and 481 ethnically matched healthy controls. No association of these polymorphisms with SLE. In addition, no evidence for association with clinical features of SLE was found. Thus, the authors conclude that these genetic variants do not confer a relevant role in the susceptibility or severity of SLE in the Spanish population.

Comments:
The question posed by the authors is not new, although it is still important to test whether the associations between aforementioned polymorphisms and SLE in other populations could be confirmed in the Spanish population. However, in the current study by Sánchez et al., each mentioned genotyping of these genes was not performed (or failed?) in 10 to 20% of study subjects, and the results may be biased. Therefore, the authors failed to replicate reported associations may be caused by a type II error. In addition, sufficient details were not provided regarding the roles of these polymorphisms in clinical manifestations of SLE.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests' below.