Reviewer's report

Title: The E670G SNP in the PCSK9 gene is associated with polygenic hypercholesterolemia in men but not in women

Version: 2 Date: 20 June 2006

Reviewer: Arthur L Beaudet

Reviewer's report:

General
This is useful report that extends the information regarding the potential role of the E670G variant in the PCSK9 gene in hypercholesterolemia. Although statistical significance was found in male subjects, this would appear to be a modest factor at best in the general population, and further studies will be required to determine if the sex-specific effect observed here is confirmed.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
1. There should be a footnote to the tables specifying the meaning of the numbers in parentheses.
2. Information is missing for the citation in ref. 5.
3. The authors should comment on the potential significance of the fact that Chen et al. analyzed the significance of a haplotype encompassing the E670G variant while these authors analyzed only the variant.
3. In the following sentence, then should be than. In men the frequency of the G allele in patients with LDL below the 50th percentile is significantly lower than in patients with LDL above the 95th percentile, 0.03 vs. 0.09, p = 0.05.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

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