Reviewer's report

Title: Evidence for association between the HLA-DQA locus and abdominal aortic aneurysms in the Belgian population: a case control study

Version: 2 Date: 18 July 2006

Reviewer: Janet T Powell

Reviewer's report:

General

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Power calculations should be listed in the methods data-analysis section, not the results. No succinct power calculation is reported, rather there is a discussion of what power each component study carries.

1 Please report how many patients would have been needed for 80% power in the methods, then remove the discussion of how underpowered the different sub-studies are to the discussion section.

2 Since you have now adjusted for multiple testing, remove the weakness of not allowing for this in the discussion section.

3 Remove from the discussion the mention of further analyses of the current data... all will be underpowered.

Remember you have identified the potential for a weak association only.

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests