Reviewer's report

Title: The association of HLA-DQB1, -DQA1 and -DPB1 alleles with anti-GBM disease in Chinese patients

Version: 1 Date: 26 January 2011

Reviewer: marialuisa spoletini

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Major Compulsory Revisions:
1) The Authors should clarify the aim of the study.
2) How did the onset of anti-GBM is defined? This information should be reported in Material and Methods section.
3) In this study were typed: 11 HLA-DQB1 alleles, 9 HLA-DQA1 alleles and 38 HLA-DPB1 alleles. Why did the Authors choose these alleles?
4) The Authors reported: “no significant difference of gender, age, level of anti-GBM autoantibodies, serum creatinine, other clinical manifestations and pathological parameters were found between anti-GBM patients with and without HLA-DPB1*0401”. In Table 2, they reported that hemoptysis is statistically different between DPB1* 0401 positive and DPB1*0401 negative (p=0.042). Could they explain this incongruity?
5) Are data normally distributed?
6) The Authors reported: “the association of anti-GBM disease and other HLA class II genes, including HLA-DQB1, -DQA1,-DPB1 alleles, has rarely been investigated in Asian, especially Chinese patients”. They should introduce in the text the references of these articles as if they are “rare” and the results should be discussed, in “Discussion” section.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1) The last sentence of the “Introduction” section seems to be incomplete.
2) In the title “anti-GBM” should be written “anti-glomerular basement membrane (GBM)”
3) In the “Background” of Abstract section the Authors should add “genes” to the end of last sentence.
4) In the “Results” of Abstract section the Authors should complete the sentence.
5) In “Results” section, the Authors reported that the mean age of diagnosis in patients was 27, but they should add the standard deviation.
6) In Table 2 the standard deviation ± standard deviation of the parameters should be reported.
7) They should specify Scr in Table 2.
8) The numbers at the beginning of the sentence should be written in letters.
9) In the “Introduction” section the following sentence should be deleted: “HLA class I molecules present peptides to CD8-positive cytotoxic T cells, while HLA class II molecules are responsible for presentation of antigenic peptides to CD4-positive T-cells”.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.