Reviewer's report

Title: Genetic polymorphisms of MDM2 and P53 genes are associated with risk of nasopharyngeal carcinoma in a Chinese population

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Reviewer: Pavol Zubor

Reviewer's report:

Zhang et al. investigated the role of the tumor suppressor P53 and its negative regulator MDM2 SNPs in risk assessment for NPC in general Han Chinese population.

They reported an increased NPC risk associated with the MDM2 GG (OR=2.83) and TG (OR=1.49) genotypes. Furthermore, the increased risk was also associated with the P53 Pro/Pro genotype compared to the Arg/Arg. The gene-gene interaction of MDM2 and P53 polymorphisms confirmed the results from the single gene analyses. Thus, they concluded that both polymorphisms (MDM2 and P53) may be genetic modifier for developing NPC.

The clinical issue presented in this paper is topical and surely might be of interest to many. However, despite this I have some minor comments to be addressed prior publication in BMC Cancer.

Reviewer's comments:

1. This is well written and technically prepared paper. Aims were clearly defined and fulfilled. The methods used are sufficient and technically relevant to confirm statistical significance of the data. References are adequate. Presented legends, tables, figures are pertinent and of good quality.

2. Minor Essential Revisions

   a) I should be good to present some figures from PCR and direct sequencing analyses with appropriate legends and fragments, nucleotides description.

   b) It is not necessary to show the TNM, EBV and MTS data in Table 1. The data are not directly linked to the aims, as the paper does not inform (was not aimed) to NPC biologic variability and aggressively. Furthermore, these data are mentioned in the results paragraph in the main text.

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.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.