Reviewer's report

Title: Methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase C677T polymorphism in patients with gastric and colorectal cancer in a Korean population

Version: 1 Date: 3 March 2010

Reviewer: Maria Piazuelo

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions:

Page 3: Abstract. In the “Results” section, the second sentence: “The MTHFR 677TT genotype showed a weak positive association with colorectal cancer…” is confusing. I think the authors meant the opposite. Please review it.

Page 4. Background: In the 1st paragraph: Please use italics for H. pylori. In the 3rd paragraph: I suggest changing the beginning of the sentence: “Methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase (MTHFR) is a circulating form of folate that plays…” for the following: “Methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase (MTHFR) [no italics] is an enzyme that plays…”

Page 6: Methods: Please describe in this section the characteristics of the subjects of the “control” group and how they were selected (or provide a reference, if possible, about the Thyroid Disease Prevalence Study mentioned). Somewhere else in the manuscript is stated that they were “healthy” individuals from the general population, but the criteria for selection are not clear.

Page 8: The last sentence of the “Genotyping” section seems to be truncated.

Page 14: 2nd paragraph: I would suggest modifying the first sentence. Alcohol consumption is not “recognized as a major risk factor” for gastric cancer.

Table 1: Include the word “mean” in the variable Age. Also, I would suggest including additional rows for the information of Tumor site for Colorectal cancer (separated from Gastric cancer).

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.