Reviewer's report

**Title:** Short rare hTERT-VNTR 2-2nd alleles are associated with prostate cancer susceptibility and influence gene expression

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 12 April 2010

**Reviewer:** Ju-Seog Lee

**Reviewer's report:**

The manuscript is on an association study between one of hTERT alleles (hTERT-VNTR 2-2) and tumor susceptibility in Korean population. In addition to 4 previously known alleles, authors identified 3 rare alleles during screening in large population.

This study is of interest, as genetic association was discovered and confirmed in large size of study population. Authors discovered that shorter repeat alleles are significantly associated with risk of developing prostate cancer, especially with younger patients (<65yrs). Using reporter gene assay, author also demonstrated that expression of hTERT is significantly associated with presence of hTERT-VNTR 2-2 only in prostate cancer.

Particular Suggestions regarding the manuscript (Minor comments)

1. Please describe how volunteers who were selected as control subjects were recruited.
2. It is interesting to see expression of reporter genes with promoter containing tandem repeat is significantly higher in prostate cancer cell line, supporting author’s hypothesis. But it might also useful for readers if authors include some alternative possibility in discussion.
3. no major concerns on statistical analysis

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests