Reviewer’s report

Title: The PstI/RsaI and DraI polymorphisms of CYP2E1 and head & neck cancer risk: a meta-analysis based on 21 case-control studies

Version: 1 Date: 19 February 2010

Reviewer: Devendra Parmar

Reviewer’s report:

Comments

This is a meta-analysis involving different populations. However, differences amongst different populations particularly with respect to the genotypes present in controls needs to be addressed.

Authors appear to take Asians as one unit which may not be the case. This is the major drawback of the study basically because it fails to stratify the data based on ethnicity. Indians are very different than Chinese and Japanese. SNPs in CYP1A1 and 1B1 follow a different pattern when compared to the oriental populations. This needs to be addressed in detail.

Stratification with respect to risk factors appears to be weak link though it can be strengthened. This should be addressed with caution as the exposure to environmental risk factors is to very different levels in Asians when compared to the Caucasians.

The manuscript needs to be revised on these lines.