Reviewer's report

Title: the effect of tobacco, XPC, XPD and XPG genetic variants in bladder cancer development

Version: 1 Date: 30 November 2010

Reviewer: SAUMYA PANDEY

Reviewer's report:

The study question posed by the authors is well-defined. The methodology and data are appropriate. The discussion appears relevant and is considerably supported by the data. Overall, the writing and references cited are appropriate and the authors have done appreciable work in the present study.

Discretionary Revisions:

The authors have classified the study subjects into non-smokers and light smokers (1-19 PY); what was the basis for including 1-19 PY and not 1-10 PY or 1-15 PY as the criteria for light smokers.

In the Discussion, the authors have stated that the allele frequencies for XPC*C, XPD*C and XPG*C in the control group were estimated at 0.352, 0.331 and 0.326 respectively, and these frequencies were similar to that previously reported for Caucasians populations; the authors may specify the minor allele frequencies that have been previously demonstrated in Caucasians.

Data presentation in Tables may be improved so as to make the presentation more impressive. The authors may consider indicating PCR product sizes in Table 1. Tables 3, 4 and 5 could be made precise and only relevant values upto 2 decimal places be indicated.

What next?

Based on my assessment of the validity of the manuscript, the next step should be to accept the article after discretionary revisions (which the authors can choose to ignore).

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.