Reviewer's report

Title: Association between novel PLCE1 variants identified in published esophageal cancer genome-wide association studies and risk of squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck

Version: 2 Date: 2 May 2011

Reviewer: Balraj Mittal

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Major Compulsory Revisions
None

Minor compulsory revision
1) In Material and Method section, author should mention the cut off value of P value.

2) P value of most of the association observed are either marginally significant or did not remain significant after Bonferroni’s correction in subgroup analysis except the association of rs11599672 with non-oropharyngeal SCCHN and association of rs2274223 with alcohol habits at non-orpharyngeal sites. Considering the high significance observed at genome wide levels, the findings of present manuscript are interesting. Author should discuss this discrepancy in the text.

3) The frequency of smokers and alcohol users were significantly higher on patients compared to controls. The possibility is that association of genetic variants with these environmental factors observed in present study may also be due to this difference rather being due to effect of genetic factors alone.

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 interes'