Reviewer’s report

Title: An association between hOGG1Ser326Cys polymorphism and the risk of bladder cancer in non-smokers: a meta-analysis

Version: 2 Date: 17 April 2012

Reviewer: Matthew B Schabath

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The authors performed a meta-analysis on a single functional SNP for risk of bladder cancer. A total of 7 case-control studies were identified which included 2474 patients and 2408 controls. There was no overall association with bladder cancer risk. However, when the data were stratified by smoking, the 326Cys allele significantly increased the risk for bladder cancer and the ORs in the additive model, homozygote contrast, and recessive genetic models. There are no substantial concerns regarding this manuscript. Although the authors have improved the writing, the grammar and English still needs to be polished a bit more. Below are some comments that need to be addressed

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Page 6. What do the authors mean by “relatively nearer”?

2. Page 6. The authors state, “Thus, a total of 7 published studies met the inclusion criteria, haveing case–control designs and being available genotype frequencies.” “Having” is misspelled. Moreover, the sentence is poorly written. Here is a suggestion: “Thus, a total of 7 published studies met the inclusion criteria which included a case–control study design and published genotype frequencies.”

3. The authors use “non-smokers” which is an ambiguous definition since it could include never smokers and former smokers. Please clarify the definition. If the authors are defining “non-smokers” as never smokers, be sure to define “smokers” as ever smokers (current smokers and former smokers combined).

4. In Tables 4 and 5 please include either in a footnote or modify the table to indicate which genotype(s) is (are) the referent group(s) so the reader knows which group is associated with an increased risk.

5. Figures 1 and 2. It’s unclear what is represented in the “Total” group.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.