Reviewer's report

Title: Inflammatory Gene Variants and the Risk of Biliary Tract Cancers and Stones: A Population-Based Study in China

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Reviewer: Kshitij Srivastava

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Minor Essential Revisions

In the present study, Castro et al. investigated the putative association of inflammatory gene polymorphisms with biliary stones and biliary tract cancer risk. A total of 35 polymorphisms in 5 genes were evaluated. The study provides further support to previous reports for the importance of inflammatory pathway in cholelithiasis and biliary tract carcinogenesis. The authors found significant associations with SNPs in VEGFA with biliary stones, IL8 with gallbladder and ampulla of Vater cancers, and RNASEL with ampulla of Vater cancer. Although larger studies are still needed to provide a more comprehensive view, the major weakness of the present study is the lack of information on the functional effect of the associated SNPs. Although the authors have stated for IL8 rs10805066 SNP that no functional information has been reported, the functional effects for significant SNPs in RNASEL and VEGFA have not been mentioned/discussed. It will be useful to add the relevant information.

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