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: Dipti Chourasia

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The article is precisely written and presents a few novel findings and hence adds knowledge to the present information available.

However, there are some queries, which need to be addressed:

1. Abstract: Fine

2. Introduction: Sufficient

3. Material and Methods:

Study participants: Authors mentioned the year of inclusion of patients for this study as 1997-2000. However, in their previous study reported (Hsing AW et al., 2008, Cancer Research), they mentioned the same year interval for inclusion of patients. They reported the total no. of patients with biliary tract cancer as 411, whereas in this study it is 456. This indicates a selection bias. Further, in their previous study, authors reported 1037 biliary stone cases. Whereas they mentioned just 982 such cases in this study. Is this sample variation due to lack of sufficient sample left for this study and hence authors had to remove those cases. If this is the case, authors have to mention this clearly in this material and methods section (Discretionary Revision).

4. Results: Precise

5. Discussion: To the point