Reviewer's report

Title: The association between Toll-like receptor 2 single-nucleotide polymorphisms and hepatocellular carcinoma susceptibility

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Reviewer: Zheyi Han

Reviewer's report:

This study was a well designed analysis for associations of SNPs in TLR2/TLR9 with HCC susceptibility. SNPs were scientifically selected and the statistic methods were appropriate used and well described. Data sounds reasonable with statistically significant which might need temper conclusions for the relative low sample size. The manuscript was well written and adhered to the relevant standards for reporting.

However, there were some details might replenish for Minor Essential revisions:

1. The patient inclusion criteria were not described in details: since TLR might play roles variable in different liver diseases, except HCC with HBV carrier, were there any HCC result from other etiological factors that were included in this study?

2. The author gave a good statistic association analysis between SNPs in TIR2/TLR9 and HCC susceptibility, would please consider performing other analyses on such clinical characteristics as AFP level, HCC stage that mentioned in the article?

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests' below.