**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** The TERT rs2736100 Polymorphism and Cancer Risk: A Meta-analysis Based on 24 Case-Control Studies

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 8 November 2011

**Reviewer:** Kshitij Srivastava

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Activation of telomerase, observed in up to 90% of all human tumors, is a major alteration required for the formation of tumorigenic cells. The present manuscript analyzes the potential role of telomerase reverse transcriptase (TERT) rs2736100 polymorphism in cancer susceptibility by using a meta-analytic approach. Although the posed questions in the manuscript are adequate, there are a few major concerns which need to be addressed:

**Discretionary Revisions**

1. In the results section, P=0.00 should be replaced with exact value or written as <0.001 (page 7).
2. The authors can include “Supplementary” before Table 1 on page 7.

**Minor Essential Revisions**

1. Provide full name of CLPTM1L gene (page 4).
2. The authors have included detailed description of lung cancer subtypes and references in results section. The paragraph should be placed in introduction or discussion part of manuscript (page 8 and 9).
3. The authors can include recent articles (after June 2011) on TERT rs2736100 polymorphism in their analysis.
4. TERT gene has a lot of polymorphisms. Why authors have specifically adhered to rs2736100 polymorphism is not clear throughout the manuscript.

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

1. Functional studies on TERT rs2736100 polymorphism should be included and discussed in the manuscript.
2. The manuscript is written in a very abrupt manner. The manuscript should be edited by a native English speaker or otherwise by a professional editing agency.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests