Reviewer's report

Title: Association of plasma endotoxin, inflammatory cytokines and risk of colorectal adenomas.

Version: 4 Date: 1 January 2013

Reviewer: Ahmed Abdulamir

Reviewer's report:

The authors have improved dramatically this manuscript and responded well to the comments raised by the reviewers. They included the histopathology of adenomas as a factor of comparison. And this yielded new results not mentioned in the previous version of the paper. Moreover, the statistical analysis was rewritten more clearly now. For the methods section, authors added the 'must to be' details of real time qPCR efficiency and also clarified the methodology of ELISA done and mentioned the minimal detection levels of ELISA. In addition, they responded well to the concerns on the limitations of the studies....etc

However, depending on rectal mucosa from anal verge is still a weakness point in this study. Authors justified this by the field effect and presented many studies which did the same. Anyhow, although I see it is still a weakness point, the study overall has a genuine science could contribute to the field. Therefore, I think that this study deserves to be considered for publishing as I found few studies conducted previously investigating the association of endotoxin and colonic adenomas. I recommend the authors' team to extend efforts to do another study investigating the association of endotoxin blood cytokines with that in adenoma and near-adenoma tissues taking into account the effect of other bacteria in bowel as cofactors for the overall transformation process in mucosa of large intestine.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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' below