Reviewer’s report

Title: Repeat polymorphisms in ESR2 and AR and colorectal cancer risk and prognosis: results from a German population-based case-control study

Version: 1 Date: 9 September 2014

Reviewer: Susanta Roychoudhury

Reviewer’s report:

Major comments
The paper reports case-control study to evaluate the association of two repeat polymorphisms in ESR2 and AR genes, respectively and colorectal cancer from a German population. The authors found only a moderate risk for colorectal cancer with average number of ESR2 CA repeats but without significant heterogeneity with respect to gender. No association also found with AR CAG repeats and colorectal cancer in this population. They also did not observe any association of these two polymorphisms with any prognostic factors and survival. Thus, basically it is a report of negative results. However, this is important in the background that couple of earlier study found association in other populations. The present study design is robust in respect of sample size and statistical analysis. The authors have carefully accounted for all variables in their analysis.

Minor comments:
1. Write full form of SHBG in its first mention.
2. Correct the model name of the instrument in which genotyping was performed.
3. What “heterogeneous genotype” is as mentioned in result section (line 238)?

Discretionary: None

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

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