Reviewer's report

Title: Association between HIF-1alpha C1772T/G1790A polymorphisms and cancer susceptibility: An updated systematic review and meta-analysis based on 41 case-control studies

Version: 2 Date: 11 November 2013

Reviewer: Sonja Berndt

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed many of the comments raised by the reviewers. A few items still need to be addressed:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The number of studies included is still not clear. The author state their analysis is based on 41 studies, but there are only 40 studies for the first polymorphism and 30 for the second SNP and the 30 studies appears to be a subset of the 40 studies.

2. The authors state that they cannot calculate the LD for the two SNPs, because they don't have the raw data. The authors should be able to look up the pairwise in LD in a publically available source, such as HAPMAP.

3. The authors should provide the number of cases and controls with each genotype in Table 2 and Table 3.

4. The authors need to address why their results differ from published GWAS in the discussion.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. There are a couple typos in that statistical methods section: “mode” should be “model” on line 6 of the paragraph and “AA” should be “GG” for the heterozygote comparison on line 10 (I think).

2. In the introduction, the author state that there are 35 SNPs in the region, the authors should clarify this by saying “35 common SNPs” and indicate the population.

Discretionary Revisions

1. The manuscript would benefit from having a native English speaker review the text.

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: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

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