Reviewer’s report

Title: Association between HIF-1alpha C1772T/G1790A polymorphisms and cancer susceptibility: An updated systematic review and meta-analysis based on 40 case-control studies

Version: 3  Date: 5 April 2014

Reviewer: Jue-Yu Zhou

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. As I previously mentioned that a new systematic review and meta-analysis with the same topic was published in Tumor Biology (Hu et al. The association between HIF-1# polymorphism and cancer risk: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Tumor Biol. 2013 Sep 18.). And Hu et al. conducted an estimation of the relationship between four polymorphisms in this gene (C1772T, G1790A, C111A and rs2057482) and cancer risk, and obtained the similar conclusion with this study. Therefore, it lost its characteristic of novelty from this point of view. However, in the revised manuscript, the author neglected this important paper, why? I think the authors should discuss the difference and show the advantage or importance of their study in detail when compared with the meta-analysis by Hu et al.

2. In Supplemental File 1 author shown the influence of individual studies on the summary odds ratio (OR) for the HIF-1#C1772T polymorphism. Actually, i found that overall significance of the pooled ORs was altered by certain studies (eg. Kuo. 2012, Alves. 2012, Naidu. 2009). Please provide the data for the corresponding results of OR and 95% CI.

3. The quality of the written English was not improved greatly, so please copyedit the paper to improve it indeed.

4. Please explain why the author “Ailin Lu” was deleted and the author “Ning Liu” was added in the revised manuscript arbitrarily?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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