Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of polymorphisms in ERCC1, ASE-1 and RAI on the risk of colorectal carcinomas and adenomas: a case control study

Version: 2 Date: 30 May 2006

Reviewer: Gregory Tranah

Reviewer's report:

General

Effects of polymorphisms in ERCC1, ASE-1 and RAI on the risk of colorectal carcinomas and adenomas: a case control study. Skjelbred et al.

The authors have responded sufficiently to my comments and have interpreted their results with appropriate caution. I have indicated some additional information provided in their response to reviewers that would be helpful to include in the manuscript.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Please include the power calculations for the CRC analyses in the manuscript. In the colorectal cancer analyses (156 cases/399 controls) Skjelbred et al. indicate that there is sufficient power to detect an OR of 2.0 (α = 0.05) for alleles with frequencies of ~0.2 and ~0.4. The calculations for the ~0.2 frequency alleles (92% power) are correct but the authors may want to confirm their results for the ~0.4 frequency alleles (74% power). Why is the power lower for a higher frequency allele? (It looks like you may have 80% power (α = 0.05) to detect an OR of ~1.6 for the 0.41 frequency allele).

Please also mention in the manuscript that you adjusted for smoking dose and alcohol intake in multivariate analyses and that the results did not differ so you are only reporting the age and gender adjusted results. You have added that there were no gene-alcohol and gene-smoking interactions but it would also be helpful to know that adjusting for smoking and alcohol in the model did not alter the results.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.