Reviewer's report

Title: Relationship between Cyclooxygenase 8473T>C Polymorphism and Risk of Lung Cancer: a case-control study

Version: 1 Date: 5 December 2005

Reviewer: hongbing shen

Reviewer's report:

General
The manuscript by Jung Min Park et al. described a case-control study on the role of one polymorphism in the 3'-untranslated region of COX-2 and risk of lung cancer in a Korean population. The authors reported that the 8473 T>C variant was associated with altered risk of adenocarcinoma but not the total primary lung cancer. In general, this is a confirmatory study of a previous report in a Chinese population (Hu et al. Lung Cancer 2005), and provided further evidence in relation to genetic variant in COX-2 and lung cancer susceptibility.

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

In the text (page 5) and in Table 1, some cases (85) and controls (147) were defined as former smokers, however, in Table 4 in adenocarcinoma, the authors did not categorize the smoking as current, former, and never smokers, instead, just ever and never smokers. Because the total number is equal to the other subgroups in Table 4, where is the former smokers in the cases and controls?

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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)

1. Table 1, the total number of the cases and controls divided by sex (males + females) are not equal to 582. Please check!
2. Table 2 and Table 3 can be combined to one table.
3. In the results, the author stated that the distribution of the genotypes among the controls was in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. But what is the P value?
4. The sequence of PCR primers was the same as a previous study (Hu et al. Lung Cancer 2005). Please make it more clear in the text (page 6) that this is a PCR-based primer-introduced restriction analysis (PIRA) assay.
5. The language needs some corrections by a native English speaker.

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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: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

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