Reviewer’s report

Title: A procedure for the detection of linkage with high density SNP arrays in a large pedigree with colorectal cancer

Version: 1 Date: 4 October 2006

Reviewer: sally john

Reviewer’s report:

General
On the whole this a well written and clear manuscript. The issue addressed by the authors is of importance to the field where there remains some controversy around the utility of using SNPs for linkage in large pedigrees. The authors have demonstrated this is possible and present the results. The introduction is relevant and makes clear the need for the presented investigation.

My only concern is that a number of possible methods of analysis are described in the introduction and methods. They suggest in the methods that both affected only and parametric analysis with liability classes would be performed, however the results all refer to analysis with all family members with liability classes - were the results identical regardless of the analyses performed? if not then all results should be presented.

Also did the authors attempt any non-parametric analysis?

I am assuming that the authors had access to fairly standard computing facilities it may be of interest to comment on the time taken for this analysis

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

None

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

Provide more clarity around the analyses actually performed and the results presented, e.g. a table with LOD scores and time taken for affected only versus all family members with liability classes. If both analyses gave identical results then that should be made clear.

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 I have no competing interests