Reviewer's report

Title: Assessment of the Toll-like receptor 4 Asp299gly, thr399Ile and Interleukin-8 -251 polymorphisms in the risk for the development of distal gastric cancer

Version: 1 Date: 2 December 2006

Reviewer: Richard Peek

Reviewer's report:

General

This is a very interesting manuscript that defined the risk of gastric cancer in persons with TLR4 or IL-8 polymorphisms in an understudied population in Mexico. The findings indicate that IL-8 alleles, but not TLR4 polymorphisms, that are associated with increased IL-8 production confer a significantly increased risk for gastric cancer. These results are important as only a fraction of persons infected with H. pylori ever develop gastric cancer; thus, there is a need to identify high-risk populations at greatly increased risk.

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

What was the prevalence of H. pylori infection among the cancer patients? What is the risk for gastric cancer if only H. pylori-infected cancer and infected control patients are studied?

Were all the gastric cancers intestinal-type or diffuse type as well? Were there differences in risk based on histologic subtypes?

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

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests.