Reviewer's report

Title: Lymphotoxin-alpha polymorphisms and prevalence of whole cancer: a study in 1,536 consecutive autopsy cases

Version: 1 Date: 19 January 2008

Reviewer: Nobuyuki Hamajima

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions
1. In Table 1, the missing of smoking and alcohol is specified for "All subjects", but not for "Non-cancer" and "Cancer".
2. In Table 1, the number and % of "Cancer, n (%)" should be placed at the column of "Cancer". Similarly, the number of % of "Cancer, sites, n" should be placed at the column of "Cancer".

Discretionary revisions
1. The genotype frequency of C804A was similar to that from other Japanese studies, which indicates that there might be no selection bias and no genotyping errors. The description on the similar genotype frequency may be informative for readers who judge the validity of the study.

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, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.