Reviewer’s report

Title: Polymorphism +17 C/G in Matrix Metalloprotease MMP8 decreases lung cancer risk

Version: 1 Date: 5 September 2008

Reviewer: Xuemei Zhang

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Specific Comments:

1. It would be better to do stratification analysis with smoking rather than taking smoking as a confounding factor for adjustment of ORs.

2. Because the results in Table 5 and Figures 1-3 are basically negative, so it is not necessary to be included in the manuscript.

3. Table 1 and Table 2 can be combined as one.

4. Page 5, line 4, the authors state that MMP1 polymorphism creates an Ets binding site and the 2G allele has significantly higher transcriptional activity than the 1G allele. The authors need to cite references to support this.

5. Page 10, lines 13 to 15, “the MMP1 2G/2G genotype potetially tends to increase the risk of developing small cell lung cancer”. Page 11, top sentence about histological types. Please show the results of stratification analysis with subtypes of lung cancer in a table and make explanation and discussion on this result.

6. Page 11, second paragraph, what are the ORs for females and non-smokers? According to the authors, the ORs for male and ever smokers are not significantly different from the overall OR. It is inadequate to use the words “especially” and “even”.

7. Page 12, the first paragraph, the authors’s statements are not consistent with the results from the Kaplan-Meier survival analysis and multivariate analysis showing in Figure 1 and Table 5, because the results in the Figure and the Table are actually negative.

8. Page 27, the figure legends of Figures 2 and 3 are wrong.

9. Page 15, in the middle (ref. 53), Su et al. showed that the -1607 2G allele of MMP-1 is associated with higher risk of lung cancer in never-smokers and in males.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.