Reviewer's report

Title: The -271 G>A polymorphism of kinase insert domain-containing receptor gene regulate the gene's transcriptional level in the patients with non-small cell lung cancer

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Reviewer: Heidi Greulich

Reviewer's report:

The authors of this manuscript have identified a polymorphism in the 5' UTR of the receptor tyrosine kinase gene KDR and claim to have found a correlation with mRNA expression. The discovery and frequency assessment of the polymorphism seems sound. Conclusion of association with lung adenocarcinoma in Asian patients seems warranted, based on their reported frequency of the AA genotype in this population from dbSNP. Is it possible to get a P-value for this association (Fisher Exact, perhaps)? This correlation should be emphasized more, whereas the reported "marginal significant" associations with age and smoking status seems unnecessary.

The mRNA expression analysis also seems sound. It should be clarified as to whether these are real-time PCR results (not clear from the manuscript). However, it is hard to imagine many scenarios in which an increase in mRNA levels that does not affect protein levels is physiologically relevant. Also, the positive and negative IHC photos supplied as examples do not look so different to my eyes. They also appear to be presented at different magnifications. Would it be possible to supply a series of photos for each category taken at the same magnification?

These revisions should be considered major compulsory.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.