Reviewer's report

**Title:** The TGFBR1*6A allele is not associated with susceptibility to colorectal cancer in a Spanish population: a case-control study

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 10 May 2009

**Reviewer:** Seyed Vahid V Hosseini

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This manuscript is potentially worthy of publication because it addresses an important question about colorectal cancer in a country and culture where data are few regarding genetic aspects of the cancer. However, the authors need to fill some of the gaps in data and where that is not possible acknowledge/discuss the limitations.

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

1. **Material**
   
   This is a hospital-based case-control study with 800 subjects. The controls have been selected from the same hospital but without history of cancer. It is obvious that hospitalized controls are different from normal population and had other diseases. A question is which diseases they had and is there any association between the exposure of interest and those diseases.

2. **Methods**
   
   I have a major concern with sample size calculation. It has been mentioned that matching has been done for age, sex and race/ethnicity. However, it is not clear whether the sample size was calculated for matched or unmatched study, and with what frequency of exposure among controls.

**Minor revision.**

**Comments:**

1- We cannot find MSI status just by one marker, it isn't sufficient.

2- please determine Chi square, p value if genotype distribution in case, control populations did not deviate from the Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium.

3- The p-value = 0.024 shows the distribution of genotypes between proximal, distal and rectal not colon and rectal alone.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable
I declare that I have no competing interests.

Seyed Vahid Hosseini MD

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.