Reviewer’s report

Title: The Int7G24A variant of transforming growth factor-beta receptor type I is a risk factor for colorectal cancer in the male Spanish population: a case-control study

Version: 1 Date: 20 July 2009

Reviewer: Yongquan Shi

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Castillejo et al examined the SNP Int7G24A of transforming growth factor-beta receptor type I (TGFBR1) in patients with colorectal cancer and the matched controls. They described a correlation of Int7G24A with colorectal cancer and established Int7G24A as a risk factor for colorectal cancer in the male Spanish population. Their works provided additional evidence for TGFBR1 in carcinogenesis.

- Major Compulsory Revisions
  1. There were totally 504 cases and 504 controls enrolled in this work. But in the section of stratification analysis according to age and sex, the total number in each group is less than 504 (See Table1). Why?
  2. As described in “Methods” part, the DNA samples from patients were extracted from the non-cancerous colorectal tissues. Were these samples fresh, frozen or paraffin-embedded tissues? Were they confirmed as “non-cancerous” by pathologists?

- Minor Essential Revisions
  1. Did the controls have history of chronic intestinal diseases, such as inflammatory bowel diseases?
  2. Please provide the sequence of primers used in real-time PCR.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.