Reviewer's report

Title: Role of the EGF A61G polymorphism in melanoma pathogenesis: an experience on a large series of Italian cases and controls.

Version: 1 Date: 6 May 2009

Reviewer: Balraj Mittal

Reviewer's report:

The article “Role of the EGF A61G polymorphism in melanoma pathogenesis: an experience on a large series of Italian cases and controls” by Casula et al, shows no association of EGF +61A>G polymorphism with developments of nevi or coetaneous melanoma and the authors also report a heterogeneous distribution of EGF +61A>G genotypes between north/south Italy.

Major comments:

[1] Authors show effect of ethnicity in genotypic frequency distribution but haven’t explored this variability worldwide, which would have presented clearer image of ethnic differences.

[2] Authors did not explain Nevus and its type. How these nevi clinically diagnosed? Have all subjects with nevus undergone dermatoscopy? How the nevi distinguished among benign nevus, dysplastic nevus and melanoma?

[3] Authors have taken in to consideration the “Clark level of invasion” but in results they did not mentioned the values.

[4] Does any other report also show variability in risk of coetaneous melanoma due to genetic factors between north and south Italy?

Minor comments:

[1] In abstract the conclusion is a very much generalized statement (“impact of genetic factors in predisposition and/or pathogenesis of melanoma may vary in different populations”). Authors should state only about role of EGF genetic variation here.

[2] Throughout the manuscript representation of EGF +61A>G polymorphism is not according to recent nomenclature system and at many places gene name is not italicized.

[3] Rs Number of EGF +61A>G polymorphism should be incorporated in manuscript.

[4] The language and grammatical errors need corrections throughout the manuscript.

[5] Abstract, genetic change of A>G has shown as G>A.

[6] p-values should also be provided with 95%Cls.
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

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

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'