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:** 19 May 2009

**Reviewer:** Julia Newton Bishop

**Reviewer’s report:**

This is a short report of a negative association study designed to determine if the EGF A61G polymorphism was associated with melanoma risk or with nevus number in Italian populations. In order to be brief the study details are sparse eg in terms of recruitment rates, ascertainment etc. These details may be more fully reported in other papers but I have been unable to corroborate.

The study used consecutive melanoma cases and the healthy controls were recruited to have low and high nevus counts but therefore represent an unusual control group whose validity is difficult to assess.

The authors appear to show clearly that the polymorphism is not of significance in their population. They make the argument for looking at a polymorphism already shown in a series of other studies not to be associated with melanoma (following earlier small but positive study) on the basis that as there is variable prevalence of the polymorphism in different populations. The likelihood however was that in this study a negative result would result as in the others.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests