**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** The Interaction Effects between TLR4 and MMP9 Gene Polymorphisms Contribute to Aortic Aneurysm Risk in a Chinese Han Population

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 12 Oct 2018

**Reviewer:** Reviewer 2

**Reviewer’s report:**

**PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:**

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

No - there are major issues

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

No - there are major issues

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

No - there are major issues

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Could an appropriately REVISED version of this work represent a technically sound contribution?

Maybe - with major revisions

**PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:**
GENERAL COMMENTS: The paper is clear and well written, and the methods are carefully explained; my major concern is the lack of a multiple testing correction. Statistical analysis was performed with a lot of comparisons, so it may happen that a comparison appears to be statistically significant by chance and not because it is true. Furthermore, in my opinion, a candidate gene approach is not appropriate in order to investigate the objective of this study.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

Please perform a multiple test correction and test additional SNPs.

Note: This reviewer report can be downloaded - see attached pdf file.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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