Reviewer’s report

Title: APOB codon 4311 polymorphism is associated with hepatitis C virus infection through altered lipid metabolism

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Reviewer: Bhavana Bhagya Rao

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting study with some noteworthy findings. The authors enrolled patients at a Japanese center over multiple years and compared lipid profiles and SNP patterns in specific lipid regulator genes among HCV positive vs. negative patients.

Major comments:

- Further details regarding the HCV infection status of the cohort need to be provided. Duration of HCV infection, degree of viremia, underlying genotype and any possible influence on lipid profile and SNP pattern is relevant to improve our interpretation of these results.

- Were patients with lipid metabolism disorders excluded?

- Had any of the HCV positive patients received prior or ongoing anti-viral therapy

- What was the mode of enrollment of patients? Was sample size calculation performed prior to study initiation?

- Since these lipid and SNP patterns represent a one time measurement, it is challenging to make any conclusions regarding their association with HCV infection.

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

Yes

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

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

Yes  

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?  
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I am able to assess the statistics  

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

Acceptable  

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