Reviewer’s report

Title: Polymorphisms in the Th17 cell-related RORC gene are associated with spontaneous clearance of HCV in Chinese women

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Reviewer: Marcelo SOARES

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript by Xie et al. is a descriptive study that characterize two novel SNPs of the RORC gene that are related to HCV spontaneous cure. The authors conducted the genotyping of 111 SNPs from 23 different genes correlated with HCV infection from a female cohort (n = 117) divided in two groups: resolved HCV infection and HCV carriers. The contribution of work is the characterization of two polymorphisms in RORC gene related with HCV spontaneous clearance, with an independent effect of the IFLN3 classically-known SNPs.

Major comments:

The authors performed the frequency of allele frequencies of RORC and IFLN3 SNPs in different populations from the 1000 genomes database. However, the possible correlation of these SNPs was not discussed in other global populations (with exception of the Han Chinese population). Is the frequency of rs1521177 T allele correlated with the frequency of rs12979860 C allele? I suggest a correlation analysis to corroborate the results and a topic in the Discussion about this issue.

The Supplemental Figure 1 is more informative than Figure 1. The information in the text is enough to understand the favorable IFLN3 sub-cohort.

Minor comments:

Page 4, line 15: change the word "race" to ethnicity. Human races do not exist.
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.

No

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?  
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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