Reviewer’s report

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

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 28 Aug 2017

**Reviewer:** Abolfazl Fateh

**Reviewer's report:**

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Comments to the Author:

Thanks for inviting me to review the review article entitled "Polymorphisms in the Th17 cell-related RORC gene are associated with spontaneous clearance of HCV in Chinese women". This topic is interesting but there are a couple of major issues that need to be addressed.

1) Page 5, line 13: the authors mentioned 190 patients, but in abstract section the number of patients mentioned 137. Which is true? 190 or 137?

2) Inclusion and exclusion criteria are missing and are better to be added or rewritten in more plausible form.

3) Page 6, line 2: why have the authors omitted HIVpos women with chronic HCV infections (n=53)? Please explain more. Because the number of samples seems to be enough, I recommended the author examine the relationship between RORC polymorphisms and HIV-positive patients.

4) Are the treatment responses clear? If yes, the authors should be evaluate the correlation between these SNPs and treatment responses such as RVR, EVR and SVR. I recommended the author examine the relationship between RORC polymorphisms and treatment responses.
5) Details of SOC therapy has to be mentioned in term of dose and schedule.

6) The results of HWE and LD should be mentioned in the text.

7) The relationship between RORC SNPs and levels of viral load and type of HCV genotype should be provided.

8) In contrast to other parts of the manuscript the discussion has been poorly written. I would like suggest that the authors revise it.

9) Table 2 and 3: The fact that the 95% CI includes 1 meaning one cannot reject the null hypothesis that OR equals 1. The authors must check the interpretation of those 95% CIs. For example 8.25 (0.96-70.78), 0.57 (0.32-1.03) and 0.52 (0.25-1.08) p=0.040, Please clarify

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

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Acceptable

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