Reviewer's report

Title: Association study of two inflammation related polymorphisms with susceptibility to hepatocellular carcinoma: a meta-analysis

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Reviewer: Wenlei Zhuo

Reviewer's report:

The authors conducted a meta-analysis assessing the association of rs3746444 and rs2910164 polymorphism with HCC risk and found a positive correlation between these two variations and HCC risk among Chinese population. Here, I have several comments as follows.

First, after searching the internet and Pubmed website, I found that in addition to the published meta-analysis by Wang et al, another two meta-analyses have been focused on this issue and found similar results.


Why did the authors ignore these two recently published meta-analyses and have a discussion?

Second, can the authors combine Chinese with Korean as Asians for analysis? Does significant genetic difference exist between Chinese and Korean?

Third, in the sensitivity analysis section, one study by Zhao et al. contributes to the significant between-study heterogeneity. Hence, this study should be deleted from the overall analysis; otherwise, the overall data might be incredible.

Fourth, in the discussion section, lengthy analysis about other diseases such as SLE is unnecessary.

Fifth, in table 4, the results between the subgroups about genotyping methods are different from each other. Can the authors have a discussion on this subject?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
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