Reviewer's report

Title: A comprehensive evaluation of the role of genetic variation in follicular lymphoma survival

Answers to major compulsory revision points 1, 2 and 4-10 were satisfying.

Minor Compulsory Revision

Point 3 (Was there any association of the promising candidate at 17q24 with established prognostic factors like performance status or lactate dehydrogenase levels?):

The authors should add to the discussion that the association of rs10491178 was independent of established prognostic risk factors as their aim was to explain variability in prognostic groups defined by established risk factors.

Major Compulsory Revision

Point 11 (...we found further support of a role for [...] and two SNPs in IL8 [...] in FL progression. -> In the original studies IL8 SNPs were associated with OS! The authors should not mix outcome variables.):

This data does not provide further support of a role of variation in IL8 in FL progression. An association of this variation with progression was only shown in this study. The outcome variable in the original studies was OS. The authors may write that they found an association that has to be confirmed.

Additional Major Compulsory Revision in revised text

1B: On page 17, line 8 the authors wrote that “...rs113464685...was the best candidate to explain the observed association...”. The HR for this SNP (3.10) was lower than the HR for rs10491178 (3.17). This difference might be due to uncertainties in imputation but if the imputed genotypes are 100% correct, rs10491178 is still a better candidate. A low RegulomeDB score does not mean that the functional basis of association has been found. Of note, according to ENSEMBL data rs10491178 causes a stop codon in transcript ABCA10-001.

Additional Minor Compulsory Revision in revised text

2B: The authors should delete “Bonferroni corrected prandom” (e.g. page 3, line
22). In case of standard GWAS the Bonferroni correction is $P_{value} \times 1,000,000$. That is why the rs10491178 association is not genome-wide significant ($P=0.0524$).

Additional Discretionary Revisions in revised text

3B: The authors may present the results of power calculations before the candidate SNP association results.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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.