Reviewer's report

Title: Association of cholesteryl ester transfer protein (CETP) gene polymorphism, high density lipoprotein cholesterol and risk of coronary artery disease: A meta-analysis using a Mendelian randomization approach

Version: 1 Date: 12 May 2014

Reviewer: Kuo Liu

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I wish to highlight a few issues, which I feel should be addressed:

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. In meta-regression analysis, the authors indicate the smoking status and HDL are the main confounding factors. It is hard to understand that “the TaqIB polymorphism with CAD is likely to be strengthened in populations having low smoking rates or low HDL-C levels”. A figure or a table may be helpful to explain the results of the meta-regression.

2. In Table S1, it is better to be consistent and to use the same number of decimal places when quoting age and other variables. Some data (e.g. the TaqIB genotype) in Table S1 was overlapped by Table 1.

3. In publication bias, you list Figure 3 as a Begg’s funnel plot but the results are not depicted. The result of publication bias-analysis of the ten Caucasian studies should be listed.

4. In discussion, whether increasing HDL levels through varied pharmacological interventions (such as CETP inhibitors), actually translate into some clinically beneficial outcome for the patient or not should be emphasized. I feel that it would be useful to contextualise this meta-analysis with some reference to outputs from AIM-High Trial or other important trials.

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.