Reviewer's report

Title: Protective variant associated with alcohol dependence in a Mexican American cohort

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Reviewer: Victor Jin

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In this paper, the authors evaluated a cohort of 427 Mexican American men (n=171) and women (n=256). Information on alcohol dependence was obtained through interview using the Semi-Structured Assessment for the Genetics of Alcoholism (SSAGA). They found a protective variant (rs991316) located downstream from the ADH7 gene showed suggestive significance in association with alcohol dependence symptom counts as well as to clustered alcohol dependence symptoms. Additional linkage analysis suggested that nearby variants in linkage disequilibrium with rs991316 were not responsible for the observed association with the alcohol dependence phenotypes in this study. The work is well designed. The manuscript is well written. I am wondering if the health conditions of people in the cohort would affect the results. Is this rs991316 found to be associated with any risk of other diseases?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests