Okamoto et al present a study where they address the phenomenon of allele specific expression (ASE) from the MDM2 proto-oncogene and end up identifying a functional SNP in the MDM2 promoter P2. Although the study partly shifts focus from ASE to functional characterization of the SNP55, the study is well conducted, and importantly it provides novel and interesting insights into the intricate regulation of MDM2 expression, including the interplay between multiple promoter SNPs. As such, I would like see these data published. However, there are some points that should be addressed:

Major Points

1. The title of the manuscript is somewhat off target. One of the main points the authors make, is the influence SNP55 has on ASE. This should also be reflected in the title.
2. The choice of COS-1 cells for cell line experiments seems very strange. Why has the authors not used a human cell line? This must be clarified.
3. The authors found no difference in the distribution of SNP55 genotypes between cancer-free endometria and endometrial cancer samples, and concluded that “This result has shown that SNP55 polymorphism was not associated with endometrial cancer risk”. Given the very low number of cases and controls analyzed (n=45+45), this is a very premature conclusion. This point should either be removed from the manuscript or the authors should include a comment on the low number of individuals included.

Minor points:

1. It should be clarified whether the p-values given are one- or two-sided.
2. Figure 3 should have some additional information making it more accessible to the reader (E.g. “rs1690916” on the side of panels a and b / “rs937283” on the side of panels c and d. Also “Non-cancer” above panels a and c / “Endometrial” cancer above panels b and d).
3. “AED” in Figure 7 should be explained (do the authors mean “ASE”?)

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
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