Reviewer’s report

Title: Genome-wide rare copy number variation screening in ulcerative colitis identifies potential susceptibility loci

Version: 0 Date: 18 Dec 2015

Reviewer: Shafqat Ahmad

Reviewer's report:

The authors have analyzed the differences of rare CNVs in the patients of ulcerative colitis (CV) and in healthy controls. The authors used 902 German UC patients and 1564 healthy controls by employing SNP-array data as a discovery sample. Four case-control cohorts of UC from Norway, UK, Lithuania and Germany were used as a validation sample. The analyses are thoroughly conducted and manuscript is well written. I have the following comments,

1. I did not understand the reason why you did not study the common CNVs and Ulcerative colitis (UC) considering that there is no published study of common CNVs and UC in the literature.

2. It would be great if you can mention clearly the difference in terms of genomic region (kb) between common CNVs and rare CNVs.

3. I would like to have the reference of this statement in the Introduction on page 5 "However, the disease is mainly triggered in genetically susceptible individuals by environmental risk factors”

4. On page 11, Figure 2 is mentioned but I am unable to find that figure.

5. Reference 33 don't have any journal or other information

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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