Reviewer’s report

Title: THE RS4939827 POLYMORPHISM IN THE SMAD7 GENE AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH MEDITERRANEAN DIET IN COLORECTAL CARCINOGENESIS.

Version: 0 Date: 11 May 2017

Reviewer: Gerd Bobe

Reviewer’s report:

Dear authors,

With great interest I have read your paper!

When revising the paper, please double-check for proper English grammar, as my review focuses on the content of the manuscript.

Major Suggestions/Comments:

1) Please provide more detailed information in the statistical methods section. Specifically, please provide information how you classified the independent factors in the model for age, socioeconomic background total energy intake, first degree family history, etc. I saw in Table 1 of the appendix that these factors are described in more detail. Please refer to Table 1 in the Statistical methods section. In Table 1 of the appendix, please include a column with P-values for the comparisons between cases and controls using t-test or chi-square tests. In addition, please switch the cases and controls columns (usually the Control column comes before the Cases column).

2) Appendix Table 2: Please add quantitative cut-offs for low, moderate, and high intake for each food group. For example, how much legume consumption per day is considered low, medium, and high? Please specify if low, moderate, and high refers to population tertiles or are these absolute cut-offs based on score criteria for Mediterranean diet pattern? For example, it is difficult to understand that all participants have high fruit intake. The same goes for adherence to the Mediterranean Diet Pattern: please specify in the manuscript some quantitative scores that define low, medium, and high adherence. If you have not sufficient space in the manuscript, please define the Mediterranean Diet scoring and scores in a Table in the Appendix and refer to it in the manuscript. The lack of any quantitative description makes it impossible for the reader to compare these results with those of other studies that examine the association between diet and colorectal cancer. Since you examine Mediterranean diet pattern, I propose to provide a comparison in Appendix Table 2 for low, medium, and high fiber intake and their cut-off values.

Minor Suggestions/Comments:
1) Introduction: second page, first paragraph. Please add a sentence after the first sentence to clarify the relation between SMAD7 and SMAD3.

2) Lifestyle: Please provide the % in line 9, how many FFQs were returned by mail and how many by face to face and whether it differed between cases and controls. In line 21, please provide some estimate for the validity of the FFQ to estimate food intake. In line 26, please specify which vegetables you included in legume intake.

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

No

**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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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