Reviewer’s report

Title: Quality of life scores differs between genotypic groups of patients with suspected hereditary hemochromatosis

Version: 0 Date: 30 Aug 2017

Reviewer: John Waye

Reviewer’s report:

The primary goal of this research was to evaluate whether domains of QL are different according to genotype groups in patients suspected of hereditary hemochromatosis. QL differences were identified between the two groups, Group 1 being C282Y homozygotes and Group 2 being other HFE genotypes.

The results are as expected. The C282Y homozygotes had worse QL scores compared to other genotypes. The homozygous C282Y genotype has higher penetrance than the other genotypes and these patients are more likely to have physical symptoms of hemochromatosis, and consequently worse QL indicators. A second factor that might come into play is that the SF-36 questionnaire was administered after the participants were made aware of their genotypes. The participants were highly educated (>60% university educated) and would have no trouble finding out which genotype is most likely to be associated with severe health problems. For some presymptomatic individuals, this might be enough for C282Y homozygotes to feel "affected" and have worst QL scores.

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?
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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 recommend additional statistical review

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