Reviewer's report

Title: The Alu-insertion progesterone receptor gene polymorphism is not associated with breast cancer: a meta-analysis

Version: 0 Date: 03 Jan 2018

Reviewer: Yanina Natanzon

Reviewer's report:
The authors performed a trans-ethnic meta-analysis to access the effect of the Alu insertion in the PGR gene with risk of breast cancer. This is an important approach to evaluate whether, with the currently available data, there an association between the Alu variant in a gene that has been implicated in breast cancer etiology. One of the main assumptions of a trans-ethnic meta-analysis is that a particular signal shared between distantly related populations. The authors have a strong a priori hypothesis regarding Alu insertion in PGR and its potential role in breast cancer etiology. I have several minor concerns regarding the author's methodology:

1) The selection criterion needs clarification. Is "controlled study design" referred to a case/control study designed? Did the authors include cohort studies also?

2) It is important to know how many studies, from those that fit the literature search criteria, were excluded and for what reasons. Please provide a table with this information.

In general, this is a well-designed study, with solid methodology and well derived conclusions. I am recommending publication.

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

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