Reviewer’s report

Title: TNFSF15 promoter polymorphisms increase the susceptibility to small cell lung cancer: a case-control study

Version: 0 Date: 20 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Angela Alleyne

Reviewer’s report:

The authors provide a well written population study on the relationship between between rs7848647 and rs6478109 of TNFS15 and small lung cell carcinoma (SCLC) and non-small lung cell carcinoma (NSCLC) in a Chinese population. The theoretical and methodological approaches are acceptable and soundly analysed. I would suggest that the authors include a sample size calculation to show that the sample size is appropriate for their conclusions. In a large population such as the China how significant is a sample of 549 cases and 460 controls to conclude that there is a statistically significant risk of SCLC and the rs7848647 GG polymorphism among males and rs 478109 CC polymorphism among females?

There are also a few minor grammatical errors outlined below. Please accept with minor corrections.

Minor corrections:

1. The correct use of abbreviations should be checked throughout the manuscript. Page 4, line 25. The first mention of the term TNF needs to be properly abbreviated. It needs to be written out fully here, abbreviated and then the abbreviation used throughout the manuscript.

2. The use of italics for gene name symbols to distinguish these from protein symbols is not consistent throughout the manuscript. For example, page 5 line 31; TNFSF15 should be in italics, so too on page 6 lines 40. Please check the entire manuscript carefully and correct this oversight.

3. Also, please check your use of punctuation throughout. See line 35 page 4, there is an extra square bracket around eth reference for example and page 8 line 9, and extra full stop is seen before the citation.

4. Page 5, line 44, replace "premier" with primer.

5. Include a sample size calculation to show the statistically significant nature of the study.

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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