Reviewer’s report

Title: Association between KIF1B rs17401966 genetic polymorphism and hepatocellular carcinoma susceptibility: an updated meta-analysis

Version: 0 Date: 23 Mar 2018

Reviewer: letaief aef

Reviewer's report:

1- In the abstract: HBV ? : not indicated in letter
Key words: you have to write liver cancer but this term is not mentioned in the abstract text

2- In the background: you indicated that "HCC is a complex process, associated with many factors and co-factors, including genetic predisposition, environmental factors, and viruses” then in the results you mentioned two groups of hepatitis B virus (HBV). Therefore it is necessary to explain more how HBV intervenes in HCC?

3- Characteristics of included studies should be in the methods and not in the results

4- In the Inclusion and exclusion criteria: indicate in addition to solid evidence for HCC, HBV as an HCC subgroup criterion.

5- In the results: 1- Meta-analysis

"As shown in Figure 1, a significant allelic association was recorded under a random-effect allelic model, with OR=0.85 (95% CI 0.76-0.94, P=0.003)” but in figure 1: P=0,000
"Similar results were found under the co-dominant genotype models GG vs AA (OR=0.72, 95% CI 0.52-0.99, P=0.044) (Figure 2)” but in figure 2: P=0,000

"and AG vs AA (OR=0.81, 95% CI 0.75-0.87, P<0.001) (Figure 3).” but in Figure 3 : p= 0,016

2- In addition, in the figure 1-5 you did not indicate the test used

3- I do not understand the total case-control of G allele vs A, GG vs AA, AG vs AA and GG vs AG in table 3, 4 and 5 which say that in total, 18,893 participants were selected (8427 HCC boxes and 10,466 controls).
4- you mentioned in the results that "Finally, 10 studies [7-16], containing 18 independent case-control studies, based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria, were included." but in the figures 2,3 and 5 containing 15 independent case-control studies.

In additional statistical: you can add a comparison by gender

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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