Reviewer's report

Title: Association of the MMP-9 polymorphism and ischemic stroke risk in southern Chinese Han population

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Reviewer: deren wang

Reviewer's report:

The authors explored the association of MMP9 polymorphism and ischemic stroke risk in southern Chinese Han population and found that rs3787268 in MMP-9 was significantly associated with ischemic stroke. The results seem interesting and positive. However, the manuscript seems poorly organized. Specific comments include the following.

1. The introduction section should be rewritten due to poor organization. Reading through the introduction, I could not understand why the authors choose the four SNPs of the MMP9 genes to study. That was also not stated clearly in the method section. In addition, the authors should be cautious to summarize the stroke ranking in China or the whole world. Please don't referencing data only from the report in upper Egypt (desert area), while this paper focused on data from China.

2. The inclusion and exclusion criteria should be refined and stated very clearly. Do the participants have some comorbidities such as hypertension, diabetes, etc.? The table 1 should also give other information such as clinical characteristics of the participants.

3. The authors should also state clearly in the method section that the procedures of blood sampling. For example, what time point the blood was taken from the patients after stroke onset? How the blood was stored and transferred?

4. The language of the whole manuscript is indeed poor and needs to be improved! For example, the first sentence in methods section of the abstract "this study was including", the last sentence in that part "calculated for unconditional logistic-regression analysis", the first paragraph of the introduction "ischemic stroke is the most common accounted for", the second paragraph of the study participants "patients with ischemic stroke excluded those with". There are many other similar problems. Please check carefully through all the manuscript.
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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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