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 have already described the inclusion and exclusion criteria section in more detail. The point is that they excluded all patients with some complications including hypertension and diabetes. This means they excluded all patients with hypertension or diabetes, so how is it possible? We know most of the stroke patients in daily practice will have some risk factors, such as hypertension or diabetes. If the authors stated correctly, how many years or months did it cost to enroll 250 stroke patients from the hospital? Please clarify!

I think "Controls were recruited at the same time as IS patients" is impossible. It should be stated precisely.

The current meaning of the running title could be misunderstand as studying the association of serum MMP9 level with ischemic stroke. It's better to be revised accordingly, such as "Association between MMP-9 SNPs and Ischemic stroke risk".

I still think the language of the whole manuscript is a problem.

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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