Reviewer's report

Title: Association between epidermal growth factor gene +61A/G polymorphism and the risk of hepatocellular carcinoma: a meta-analysis based on 16 studies

Version: 2 Date: 23 January 2015

Reviewer: Ping-Chin Lee

Reviewer's report:

Recommendation: Minor Essential Revisions

This study described a meta-analysis study to clarify the association between EGF gene +61 A/G polymorphism and the risk of hepatocellular carcinoma.

1) The authors have followed clear guidelines in performing the meta-analysis and also included a clear inclusion and exclusion criteria for the studies selection.

2) Sufficient subgroup analyses were also performed.

Further clarification needed:

1) How reliable is the overall findings in this study as there was a significant bias (p<0.05) in the overall populations?

2) Address the suitability to include patients with chronic liver diseases as controls because the risk to HCC in patients with chronic liver diseases was higher to healthy controls in all genetic models.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests