Reviewer’s report

Title: NBS1 rs2735383 polymorphism is associated with an increased risk of laryngeal carcinoma

Version: 0 Date: 06 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Gustavo Jacob Lourenço

Reviewer's report:

The study conducted by Hu & Liao et al. is addressed to assess whether NBS1 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) (rs2735383 and rs1805794) of DNA repair of double-strand DNA breaks affect the risk of larynx carcinoma. Although the merits of study are worth to be stressed, several limitations compromised the final conclusions. In addition, a short manuscript type it seems to be more adequate for these results.

The authors should describe the type of cell (e.g. squamous cells) cancer started in. Moreover, the abbreviation words should be described in the manuscript, independent of presented in the "Abstract" section.

The nomenclature of SNPs should following recommendations for the description of sequence variants of Human Genome Variation Society.

The roles of SNPs in gene and protein expression should be presented in "Introduction" section and discussed individually in the manuscript with the observed results.

All previous results described in scientific literature about referred SNPs and laryngeal carcinoma should be presented in "Introduction" section and better discussed.

In "Materials and Methods", diagnosis, clinical and pathological information methods; and tobacco and alcohol classification should be included and referenced. The tumors were classified by TNM stages? The positive and negative controls were used in the experiments? The method of quantitative PCR should be better described, including dye description and threshold method. The authors didn't present in the "Statistical analysis" section the gene expression and study power statistical tests. It's not necessary include the variables that were not significant between groups in the regression models.

The combined SNPs analysis could be performed and predicted microRNAs could be presented, including in silico analysis.

It's recommended that the authors should add functional study to enhance the validity of the research, such as luciferase assay. In addition, the role of the studied SNPs in the patient's survival could be important.
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.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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