Reviewer’s report

Title: TRAIL gene 1595C/T polymorphisms contribute to the susceptibility and severity of intervertebral disc degeneration: a data synthesis

Version: 0 Date: 24 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Emily Camilleri

Reviewer's report:

The authors performed a meta-analysis to evaluate the role of the TRAIL 1595C/T polymorphism and susceptibility to intervertebral disc degeneration. They demonstrated that controls were within HWE and identified a moderate increase in IDD susceptibility in patients with a CC genotype. What was the statistical power of the meta-analysis to identify differences?

Additionally, what is the significance of the 1595C/T polymorphism in modulating TRAIL gene function? Further laboratory studies would be required to establish the functional relevance of this polymorphism.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

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?
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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:

Acceptable

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