Reviewer’s report

Title: Rare variant of HSPG2 is not involved in the development of adolescent idiopathic scoliosis: evidence from a large-scale replication study

Version: 0 Date: 23 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Henry Atkinson

Reviewer's report:

Rare variants of HSPG2 are reported to function as a potential contributor to the susceptibility of adolescent idiopathic scoliosis in the Caucasians.

This study examined whether there is an association between HSPG2 and Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis in Chinese patients and investigated its influence on the phenotype of the patients.

The mRNA expression of HSPG2 in the paraspinal muscles was quantified for 90 Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis patients and 26 controls. The study found that the HSPG2 gene was not actually associated with susceptibility or the phenotypes of Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis in this Chinese population.

This is a good study with a clear message. I am pleased that a study with negative results is also being published. This is quite refreshing.

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

Yes

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

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I am able to assess the statistics

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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