Reviewer's report

Title: C-reactive protein genetic variant is associated with diabetic retinopathy in Chinese type 2 diabetic patients

Version: 1 Date: 25 April 2014

Reviewer: Parimala Narne

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

The paper needs editing as there are grammatical errors and inaccurate tense.

Introduction:
• The allelic composition of the proposed SNP loci needs to be elaborated.
• The documented pathological relevance of CRP in DR has to be specified.
• The possible complicity of the respective genetic variants in development/progression of DR needs to be specified.
• It is necessary to elucidate the biological plausibility of the investigated genetic variants.

Materials and methods:
• The characteristic symptoms of different groups of DR in terms of varying degree of severity viz., NPDR, PDR etc., have not been precisely enumerated. Further, the term 'worse eye' is ambiguous.
• There is no mention about usage of a standard questionnaire for collection of detailed information regarding anthropometric measurements.
• The standard definition of BMI and the cut off values of SBP and DBP for deeming the patients hypertensive have not been provided.
• The distinctive number of the T2DM subjects allocated to the respective categories of DR severity has not been mentioned.
• It needs to be made clear as to whether binary/multiple logistic regression analysis has been employed for statistical analysis of genotypic and epidemiological data.

Tables
• The proportion of the T2DM subjects with/without hypertension has not been indicated.
• Despite it being mentioned that the DR cases have been categorized in terms of varying degree of severity, there is no mention of the frequency distribution of alleles and genotypes in the respective categories.

Discussion
• It would be more convincing to concentrate on the relationship between CRP
and DR, in lieu of the microvascular complications in general.

• It would be more reasonable to provide a cogent explanation for the observed association between CRP variant and DR.
• It is very much required to comment on the power of the study.
• It would be ideal to discuss the significance of the study and provide future perspectives as part of conclusions as it appears abrupt in its current form.

Minor Essential Revisions
• Line 137: ‘Microalbuminuria’ has been misspelt.

Discretionary revisions
• Further, what were the risk factors that emerged as significant ones in determining the risk for DR in the logistic regression analysis?

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
'I declare that I have no competing interests'