Reviewer’s report

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

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Reviewer: Monika Buraczynska

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Major Compulsory Revisions:
None.

Minor Essential Revisions:
None.

Discretionary Revisions:
1. In the Methods section: The part concerning the number of patients with DR still needs to be clarified. Since in the study population out of 1,018 patients with T2DM 618 (61%) had diabetic retinopathy, this number is much higher than the prevalence of DR reported for Chinese population. The Authors’ explanation suggests that their subjects were not consecutive patients from the Shanghai Diabetes Database, but intentionally selected for affected or not affected with DR (especially that all those without DR had diabetes for over 10 years). This should be clearly stated in the Participants subsection of Methods, to avoid confusion.

2. As for the information on macrovascular complications in the study subjects, is it really that hard to obtain these data? Cardiovascular disease is a very common comorbidity in patients with diabetes so this information is certainly included in the Shanghai Diabetes Database.

3. The Authors state that they genotyped 438 non-diabetic subjects with rs2808629 and compared the results with three other studies of Asian populations. These information should be mentioned either in the Results or Discussion section.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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 related to this article.