Reviewer's report

Title: Associations of genetic variation in CASP3 gene with noise-induced hearing loss in a Chinese population: a case-control study

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Reviewer: Baoli Zhu

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript by Wu et al. explored associations between CASP polymorphisms and noise-induced hearing loss in a Chinese population, and found some positive results. It may be the first study to investigate CASP polymorphisms and NIHL. The reviewer had some questions.

1. The author should induce which people were defined as "noise exposure workers"? Noise exposure level of 8h/day or 40h/week no less than 80 dB(A) and so on.

2. Whether the noise exposure workers exposed to other occupational hazards such as heat, CO…, the author should add these information.

3. Whether these subjects enrolled had a normal hearing in the pre occupational health surveillance?

4. The cases in this study were defined as hearing threshold worse than 25 dB at high frequency, however, whether the hearing threshold at low frequency (500, 1000, 2000Hz) worse than 25dB? Or whether these hearing loss workers were all induced by noise?

5. In table 2, the noise intensity exposure of the cases was "83.65(80.00-87.40)", there may be many cases exposed to the noise intensity exposure below 80 dB(A). However, the noise exposure environment was defined as the noise intensity exposure more than 80 dB(A) (GBZ/T224-2010).

6. The unit of the hearing threshold is dB, not dB(A). The author should revised these units in the manuscript.
Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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