Reviewer’s report

Title: ARLTS1 polymorphism is associated with an increased risk of familial cancer: evidence from a meta-analysis

Version: 1 Date: 27 Mar 2017

Reviewer: Muhammad Rashid

Reviewer's report:

The article entitled "ARLTS1 polymorphism is associated with risk of familial cancer: evidence from a meta-analysis" by Jiang and colleagues is a meta-analysis for association of 5 different ARLTS1 variants with cancer risk. The manuscript needs substantial grammatical corrections; overall this article would be of interest to the readership of the Hereditary Cancers in Clinical Practice. However, following comments need to be addressed:

1. The symbol of the gene "ARLTS1" should be italicized as "ARLTS1" throughout the manuscript.

2. "Por131Leu" should be corrected to "Pro131Leu" throughout the manuscript.

3. Introduction, paragraph 1 and line 3: please provide the full name of "ARF" as it appeared first, followed by the abbreviation.

4. Introduction, paragraph 2, and line 2-3: There is no need to write the name of journal in the text, as the corresponding reference will appear in the bibliography.

5. Introduction, 2nd last line: "more precise estimation the relationship between…." please correct as "more precise estimation of the relationship between….""

6. Table 1: Columns headings "Variants" and "SNP" should be changed to "Nucleotide variants" and "Amino acid change" respectively. Nucleotide variants should be written in standard HGVS nomenclature i.e T442C should be written as c.442T>C and other nucleotide variants should also be written like this.

7. Materials and Methods, Data Extraction and Quality Assessment sections: There is no need to mention the names of the authors here for their contribution, just remove the names written in brackets. It should be mentioned in "Authors Contribution" section.

8. Numbering of the tables should be corrected in the text e.g quality assessment scale Tab 1 is actually a Table 2 etc.
9. Results section, paragraph 1, line 5: "one studies contained" should be corrected to "one study contained". The authors should carefully audit the manuscript for such type of grammatical mistakes.

10. The authors should adopt uniformity for mentioning the genotypes e. g CC vs. TT, "vs." is written in capital as "VS." in some places. It should be uniform as "vs." throughout the text and the tables.

11. Discussion section is poorly written e.g., paragraph 1, line 4: "The our suppositional mechanism..." Please correct this sentence.

12. Discussion section, paragraph 2, line 3: "studies with which information was available" please correct as "the informative studies".

13. Abstract: The conclusion needs to be realistic and based on the provided data. There is little evidence to recommend this gene (only one SNP or the whole gene??) as an important target for personalized medicine in cancer treatment. The study is about associated cancer risks. It is confusing that how authors have recommended it in cancer treatment and cancer type(s)???

**Level of interest**

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Declaration of competing interests**

Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

'I declare that I have no competing interests'

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal