Reviewer’s report

Title: IkappaBalpha polymorphism at promoter region (rs2233408) influences the susceptibility of gastric cancer in Chinese

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Reviewer: Mauro Magnani

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

In this study, the authors investigate the association of a genetic variant at promoter region of IkB-alpha gene and the susceptibility of gastric cancer. In addition, association with patient outcome was also evaluated.

Since several polymorphisms of NFKBIA gene have been mentioned in the introduction, the authors should explain more clearly why the rs2233408 variant in the promoter region has been chosen among the others.

Minor Essential Revisions

The results suggest that heterozygotes and homozygotes for T allele were associated to reduced gastric cancer risk compared to homozygotes CC, at least for the intestinal-type. However, given the very small number of cases that were taken into consideration for both the diffuse and the mix gastric cancer types, the authors should not exclude the same association. In my opinion the authors should include additional cases in this analysis.

Finally, the T heterozygotes were associated to non-cardiac gastric cancer compared to cardiac gastric cancer. In addition, the authors could not establish any association between rs2233408 polymorphism and patient outcome.

Discretionary Revisions

On the whole the article is clear and well structured but I suggest a language revision.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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'