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ESPS Peer-review Report

Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 9537

Title: APOC3 (-455T>C) Polymorphism Confers Susceptibility to Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease in a Han Chinese Population

Reviewer code: 00001097

Science editor: Ya-Juan Ma

Date sent for review: 2014-02-16 13:12

Date reviewed: 2014-03-02 23:02

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Minrui Li et al. investigated the relationship between APOC3(-455T>C) and NAFLD susceptibility in Han Chinese population. They performed a prospective, case-control study enrolling 600 unrelated individuals, including 300 NAFLD patients and 300 age- and gender-matched healthy controls. The results are that APOC3(-455T>C) genetic variation is involved in the susceptibility to develop NAFLD, IR, and metabolic syndrome disorders.

This is a well written paper of potential interest addressing a relevant topic. However, I have some concerns. The following issues should be considered.

<Major criticisms>

1.

The authors diagnosed NAFLD only by ultrasonography. For a diagnosis of NAFLD, they should mention alcoholic consumption and the result of liver biopsy. If they did not collect liver biopsy, they should consider scoring system, such as NAFLC score or FIB4 etc., to indicate how many NAFL and NASH exist in the subjects.

2.

In Table 1, they should show aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and alanine aminotransferase.

3.

In this study, the prevalence of NAFLD in C-carriers genotypes (TC or CC) and the wild-type

homozygote(TT) genotype was 55.4% and 41.2%. In study of the Asian Indian population the prevalence of NAFLD in C-carriers genotypes(TC or CC) and the wild-type homozygote(TT) genotype was 38.0% and 0%. Previous studies examined Asian Indian, African American, European American, Hispanic, and Finnish populations, but the association between APOC3 (455T>C) polymorphism and NAFLD susceptibility was found only in the Asian Indian population. I think there is different frequencies of the APOC3(455T>C) genotypes. I recommend presenting the frequencies of the APOC3(455T>C) genotypes in each ethnicity.

4.

In statistical analysis, which model did the authors calculate in additive model and dominant recessive model?

5 They should perform multiple logistic regression analysis of the factors associated with APOC3 (455T>C) polymorphism.

6.

In table 2, 3, 4 and 5, the authors should consider the correlation of APOC3(-455T>C) polymorphism in the control group as well as in NAFLD patients.

7. The serum concentration of APOC3 was not obtained in this manuscript. Apolipoprotein C3 is a major constituent of VLDL. I recommend measuring the serum concentration of VLDL.

<Minor criticisms>

1. In Figure 2, why is there two bands in the fragments of 194bp position.

2. In references, fonts are different.