

Dear reviewers:

*This study of polymorphisms in HIF-1 α gene and diabetic retinopathy are very interesting. Most diabetic patients develop diabetic retinopathy, which remains the major cause of new-onset blindness among adults with diabetes. HIF-1 is a transcription factor that is found in mammalian cells cultured under reduced oxygen tension, and plays an essential role in cellular and systemic homeostatic responses to hypoxia. Although HIF-1 α is ubiquitously expressed and maintained at constant cellular levels, the HIF-1 α protein level and transcriptional activity are tightly regulated in response to oxygen levels. In this study, the whether there was an association of HIF-1 α polymorphisms in type 2 diabetes mellitus are studied. The study is very well designed, and the results are very interesting. The reviewer recommends to accept this manuscript after a minor revision. **Comments: 1. Some minor language polishing should be corrected. 2. Some unusual abbreviations should be spelled out. 3. The P values of significant difference should be noted in the tables.***

Thank you for your valuable opinions. The article has been revised in accordance with your opinions.

Yours sincerely, Qiang Li