Comments:

1. Suggested abstract revision (based on Reviewer 1's suggestion): **"More than 50% of congenital hearing loss is hereditary, in which the majority form is non-syndromic.** In the present study, ... the Republic of North Ossetia–Alania **(RNO–Alania)** were assessed. ....These estimates correspond to the literature data on the fraction of recessive genetic forms of hearing loss within the affected population. **The importance of this study consists not only in the estimation of the most prevalent pathogenic genetic changes in the Ossetian cohort of patients which could be useful for the public health but also in the genetic counselling of the affected families with regard to the high allele frequencies of revealed pathogenic variants as well as to the assortative mating in community of people with hearing loss.**
2. Please be consistent whether the authors are using NSNHL (Abstract, Introduction, Result, Discussion) or HSNHL (Material & Methods, Discussion, Tables) to describe their patient group.
3. Introduction, page 2 line 64-65: "The timeliness of taking measures to rehabilitate children with hearing impairment determines the success..."
4. Introduction, page 2 line 74: "...and ~~counts~~ **account** for 5.6% **of the cases**..."
5. Introduction, page 3 line 90: "...,the frequency of carrying variant c.245G>A was 1:44 ~~Chuvash~~,..."
6. Introduction, page 3 line 99-100: "...and allelic genetic heterogeneity of hereditary ~~nonsyndromic hearing loss~~ NSNHL in the ~~Republic of North Ossetia–Alania~~ ~~(~~RNO-Alania~~)~~ and..."
7. Material & Methods: "Written informed consent **was** obtained..."
8. Result, page 5 line 180: "... according **to** the All-Russia Census,..."
9. Result, page 5 line 192: "...it should be noted that all patients **carrying** that genotype were..."
10. Discussion, page 7 line 252-253: "**Comparison of** the *GJB2*:c.35delG and *GJB2*:c.358_360delGAG variants frequencies ~~we~~ revealed no statistically significant difference..."