Reviewer's report

Title: Chlamydia trachomatis antigens in enteroendocrine cells of the small bowel in patients with irritable bowel syndrome

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Reviewer: Lena Öhman

Reviewer's report:

Review comments on
Chlamydia trachomatis antigens in enteroendocrine cells of the small bowel in patients with irritable bowel syndrome.

The authors have investigated the presence of Chlamydia trachomatis in the small bowel in patients with irritable bowel syndrome. They have performed staining of jejunal biopsies, but also examined the presence of Chlamydia trachomatis proteins using western blot and Chlamydia trachomatis DNA using PCR analysis.

The authors report convincing data of Chlamydia trachomatis antigen presence in the intestinal mucosa of IBS patients, whereas most healthy controls are negative for the same antigen.

The study is design in sound, the number of patients is sufficient and data is well presented. The paper is well written and the findings are clearly stated.

Discretionary revisions
I would prefer a table or figure demonstrating the main finding of the article (number of C. trachomatis positive patients and controls, and statistics), which is well described in the first section of “results”. This may very well be complemented by the current figure 1, showing examples of specific stainings.

It is very difficult to see the arrows described in the figure legend (are there really any?) in figure 1.

The word macrophages might perhaps be included in the title of the paper?

The word “MOMP” needs an explanation in the abstract.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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'