Reviewer's report

Title: High Prevalence of Celiac Disease among Saudi Children with Type 1 Diabetes

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Reviewer: SANTIAGO VIVAS

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Al-Hussaini et al report a very interesting study regarding the prevalence of Celiac Disease in Type 1 Diabetes. Their objective was not only to evaluate the prevalence but also to determine the diagnostic efficacy of the commonly used anti-tissue transglutaminase IgA antibodies to predict CD in a children population with T1 Diabetes. The study design and methods are appropriate and well described in the children population analyzed.

This approach to CD screening detected a two fold prevalence than a previous study in the same country which employed antigliadine antibodies. High anti-TTG antibodies titres predicts duodenal mucosa atrophy as previous reports have described. Furthermore, T1D children with iron deficiency are associated with the presence of CD.

More studies are needed to evaluate the screening value of high anti-TTG antibodies and to support these findings in the adults with T1 diabetes.

Some discretionary suggestions to improve the manuscript would be:
1. Area under the ROC curve may be more clear with a thicker line in the figure 2.
2. There is no comment about de HLA –DQ genotype in the population studied. Would be of interest to include the HLA-DQ risk for the CD screening the T1D children?
3. Is neccesary to follow-up with serological test patients with T1D to detect CD?

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