Reviewer's report

Title: Fibroblast growth factor 23 contributes to diminished bone mineral density in childhood inflammatory bowel disease

Version: 1 Date: 15 March 2012

Reviewer: Federica Nuti

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Major Compulsory Revisions
In the DISCUSSION:
could you please explain more extensively the importance of unraveling the defects in bone metabolism in IBD patients, especially children,
and are you then able to hypothize a clinical implication deriving from your findings?

Another important variable when assessing improvements in bone metabolism is evaluation of physical activity, do you have the chance to evaluate this variable when assessing the BMD improvements in your children?

In the discussion there is a sentence that, to me, appears not to clear as its reference number 39 doesn't appear correlated to the sentence, could you please check and explain?

Did you note any difference in the flare values of BMD, FGF 23 and the other biochemical markers, in patients with a new diagnosis compared to patients with a previous diagnosis (and so with a past history of therapy!)?

Minor essential revisions

In the PTH paragraph, in the first sentence "high" should be changed in "higher".

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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