Reviewer's report

Title: Limited utilization of serologic testing in patients undergoing duodenal biopsy for celiac disease

Version: 2 Date: 27 May 2013

Reviewer: Peter Green

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Major point that needs to be addressed is the failure to review and of the pathology slides.

The ABSTRACT is misleading as only pathology reports were reviewed

We need a CONSORT flow chart of the number of patients/biopsies selected and reviewed

Were any of the patients tested prior to being seen at the Cleveland Clinic. If this is not known then we need that as a limitation of the study.

Why were only 161 charts reviewed? We need a chart to demonstrate where patients were included/excluded in this study as requested above.

How was the celiac group different from the PVA-IEL group. Surely many of these patients had celiac disease? PVA-IEL would be a Marsh IIIa celiac classification.

How many biopsies were taken (biopsy pieces) in each group. Both according to whether serologies were performed and according to diagnoses.

How many subjects had duodenal bulb biopsies taken? In how many were the diagnosis made only in the bulb biopsies?

How many of the original biopsies were reviewed by the investigators?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests