Reviewer's report

Title: Potential blood-based markers of celiac disease

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Reviewer: Maria Cristina Mazzilli

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In the present manuscript Hanna Bragde and colleagues identify three blood markers potentially useful in the diagnostic of celiac disease. Protein level of CXCL11 and mRNA levels of TNFRSF9 and TNFSF13B resulted significantly increased in cases with CD compared with controls. All three potential CD markers are involved in the regulation of the NF-κB complex.

A blood-based test that allows to skip the intestinal biopsy would be a valuable advance in the diagnostic procedure of CD. The data given here, in a relatively small number of patients, does not let any certainty on the diagnostic value of these markers but it gives a starting point for further investigations.

The study is well designed, written and performed. The results are interesting and important for the scientific community. It seems to be suitable for acceptance in this journal.

Minor revisions:
1. Genes, but not proteins, must be in italics. Eg DQ2 (DQA1*05/DQB1*02, without any spaces).
2. For the HLA risk gradient, in addition to ref 8, should be mentioned:

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 have no competing interests