Reviewer's report

Title: Patient-centered barriers impede serologic screening for celiac disease in clinically high prevalence populations

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Reviewer: Francesco Valitutti

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The manuscript by Barbero et al. pictures for the first time patient-centered barriers in the diagnosis of celiac disease (CD). Among 119 adults of San Diego County theoretically at risk for CD and recruited in the study, they found that two significant obstacles in getting tested for patients are “not knowing they were at risk” and “not knowing where to get tested”. The paper also underscores that difficult access to healthcare due to low annual income and lack of health insurance represents another barrier which hinders the policy of case-finding with regards to CD.

Increased medical and social awareness on CD can definitely improve CD diagnostic rates. Papers strengthening this issue still deserve the attention of the largest medical community (primary care physicians, internal medicine doctors, gastroenterologists, pediatricians).

The manuscript is well written. Statistical analysis is flawless. Limitations due to sampled population have been already disclosed in the discussion part.

I invite the authors to stress also, both in the abstract conclusion and in the discussion, that raising awareness among patients should always be coupled to raising awareness among primary care physicians: in fact, it is hardly acceptable an health care scenario in which patients completely bypass their general practitioners for diagnosing any medical condition.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests