Author's response to reviews

Title: Two patients with intestinal failure requiring home parenteral nutrition, a NOD2 mutation and tuberculous lymphadenitis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Submission of a manuscript to *BMC Gastroenterology*

**Two patients with intestinal failure requiring home parenteral nutrition, a NOD2 mutation and tuberculous lymphadenitis**

Dear Professor Trautwein,

Herewith I am submitting our manuscript:

**Two patients with intestinal failure requiring home parenteral nutrition, a NOD2 mutation and tuberculous lymphadenitis**

In a previous work we have tested a cohort of short bowel and intestinal failure patients for the presence of the three major NOD2 mutations that have been linked to Crohn’s disease and found that these specific NOD2 mutations were associated with intestinal failure in the absence of Crohn’s disease (Schäffler et al. NOD2 mutations are associated with the development of intestinal failure independent of Crohn’s disease. Clin Nutr 2013.).

In this specific cohort we found a rather unusual complication in two patients: Both of them were suffering from intestinal failure and developed tuberculous lymphadenitis. Interestingly, both of them were found to be positive for mutations in the NOD2 gene. However, both patients did not have Crohn’s disease.

In the following case series we give a clear clinical overview of these two patients (history, diagnostic procedures, treatment), describe the background of NOD2 mutations in the context of infectious diseases and discuss these unexpected results in the background of the literature.

We can assure that the manuscript has not been previously published and that the manuscript is not under consideration elsewhere. All of the authors have made contributions to this paper: G. Lamprecht and H. Schäffler gathered the information about the two patients. C-J. Hsieh performed the mutational analysis. M. Teufel and S. Fleischer collected the data from the FDG PET CT scans and analyzed them. G. Lamprecht and H. Schäffler wrote the manuscript.
If we may, we would like to suggest the following experts in the field as potential reviewer:

1. Prof. Guntram Grassl
   Forschungszentrum Borstel, Leibniz-Zentrum für Medizin und Biowissenschaften.
   grassl@fz-borstel.de
   Prof. Grassl is an expert for the interaction between innate immunity and infectious diseases, e.g. tuberculosis.

2. Dr. Palle Bekker Jeppesen Associate Professor.
   Department of Medical Gastroenterology Section, Rigshospitalet, University Hospital of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark.
   palle.bekker.jeppesen@rh.hosp.dk
   Prof. Jeppesen is one of the leading experts in the Management of Short Bowel Syndrome, Home Parenteral Nutrition and the use of hormonal growth factors in patients with SBS.

The following changes have been made in the manuscript:

** A Section “Acknowledgements” was included
** the eMail addresses of each co-author were listed on the title page
** the section “Consent” was changed: “Written informed consent was obtained from both patients for publication of this Case report and any accompanying images.”

We are looking forward to the comments of the reviewers.

Sincerely

Prof. Dr. Georg Lamprecht