Reviewer's report

Title: Partially Responsive Celiac Disease Resulting from Small Intestinal Bacterial Overgrowth and Lactose Intolerance

Version: 2 Date: 14 January 2004

Reviewer: carolina ciacci

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General
The paper reports two cases of celiac disease with overt malabsorption syndrome. It is important that in Countries where celiac disease is considered uncommon the report of clinical cases of celiac disease. However, I have some concern about the concept that celiac disease may be considered partially responsive after only 40 days of GFD. In adults celiac disease may take months to recover despite strict GFD. SIBO can be a consequence of malabsorption as undigested food is a great pabulum for colon bacteria that may colonize ileum. It is unclear to me why tetracyclin had no effect in fist instance and full effect after 40 days when amalbsorption is still present. Lactose malabsorption is described in the second case. Milk intolerance is common in celiac and general population. It is generally quite well tolerated. Beside the patient noticed even before diagnosis increase of watery stool after milk assumption. It is good practice to limit milk intake during first weeks/months of GFD in particular when overt malabsorption is present.

I would suggest the Authors to better describe the number od celiac disease patients they have seen, the diet the patients were on before diagnosis.
I do not see the utility of figures.

What next?: Reject because scientifically unsound

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

none