Reviewer's report

Title: Delayed diagnosis of coeliac disease increases cancer risk

Version: 1 Date: 4 November 2006

Reviewer: Hugh Freeman

Reviewer's report:

General

This is an important and well done study again confirming the risk of specific neoplasms in celiac disease. The results convey observations from a large multicenter academic group in Italy. There are no serious deficiencies and this paper should be readily accepted for publication.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Minor grammatical errors in manuscript (eg, page 3, line 6...should be "life-long", not long-life.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Methods are appropriate and well described but the authors may wish to offer a comment in the text of their discussion on the criteria used in their study to originally diagnose celiac disease. Although diagnosis was based on the current NIH consensus guidelines, the diagnosis of celiac disease in reference #22 was based on biopsy, not only before, but also after a gluten-free diet to ensure that there was histological evidence of gluten-sensitivity.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.