Reviewer's report

Title: Validation study of villous atrophy and small intestinal inflammation in Swedish biopsy registers

Version: 2 Date: 9 October 2008

Reviewer: Vincenzo Villanacci

Reviewer's report:

The paper is well written and worthy of publication in particular compliments for the extensions of the work and the data presented exhaustive and complete.

I think that only minor revisions or suggestions are necessary.

I have no observations on the architecture of the paper the introduction, materials and methods and results are perfect. I think that in the discussion is necessary to spend some words about the definition of inflammation used in Sweden that correspond to both Marsh 1 and Marsh 2 and Grade A of the new proposed classification.

In this sense I think useful to cite also in the bibliography the paper of Brown and coll: Brown I, Mino-Kenudson M, Deshpande V, Lauwers GY intraepithelial lymphocytosis in architecturally preserved proximal small intestinal mucosa: an increasing diagnostic problem with a wide differential diagnosis. Arch Pathol Lab Med 2006 (130): 1020-5. It is important to remember that also in this situation there is the possibility of coeliac disease with clinical symptoms and laboratory and genetical test positive.

In table 1 it is important also to introduce the new proposed classification cited in the discussion and relative bibliography: Corazza GR, Villanacci V Coeliac Disease. Some considerations on the histological classification. Journal of Clinical Pathol. 2005; 58, 573-574

No other observations

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’ below.