Reviewer’s report

Title: Development of functional gastrointestinal disorders after Giardia lamblia infection

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Reviewer: Giovanni Barbara

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Post-infectious functional gastrointestinal syndromes, and particularly irritable bowel syndrome have been mainly investigated following acute bacterial gastroenteritis. The present study is of interest since it addresses the possibility that the non-invasive protozoan Giardia lamblia is involved in the development of long-lasting post-infectious functional symptoms after eradication.

The method used to identify successful eradication has some limitations since microscopy of fecal samples has a sensitivity around 85%. This should be acknowledged in the manuscript.

Although this is a prospective study the presence/absence of symptoms before the infection was assessed retrospectively. This is a limitation since it appears that many patients were asked about their previous symptoms a long time after the diagnosis of Giardia infection. This may generate a recall bias.

The study is uncontrolled and this may overestimate the prevalence of symptoms. What is the prevalence of FGID in age, gender and region matched controls?

Could be the authors more precise on the tests they did on the patients to exclude other diseases? Did they exclude celiac disease or major food allergies?