Reviewer's report

Title: Small intestinal bacterial overgrowth mimicking acute flare as a pitfall in patients with Crohn's Disease

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Reviewer: Mark Pimentel

Reviewer's report:

In this manuscript entitled "Small intestinal bacterial overgrowth mimicking acute flare as a pitfall in patients with Crohn's disease", the authors describe that in some circumstances, symptoms in Crohn's may be related to bacterial overgrowth as opposed to a flare of Crohn's. This is a very important paper and is well written.

The only major concern that I feel has not been adequately addressed is the relationship between the abnormal breath test and the issue of intestinal resection. The authors state that resection was a predictor of positive test. Is this because resection leads to lack of ileocecal valve and overgrowth or is it due to rapid transit from the resection and not overgrowth at all. I think this should at least be discussed.

Did the authors exclude patients with adhesions or bowel obstruction? This could also lead to mechanical issues leading to bacterial overgrowth.

In the results section (page 7) there is an extensive defense for using the glucose breath test. This is too long. If the authors want to defend the use of glucose breath test, they should do so in the discussion section of the paper. This is not appropriate for the methods.

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 declare that I have no competing interests