Reviewer’s report

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

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 15 March 2009

**Reviewer:** Christel Neut

**Reviewer’s report:**

This is an interesting clinical paper on SIBO in CD patients. This complication is underdiagnosed in CD but can have important clinical consequences. It can be favored by surgery. Suppression of the ileocecal valve can favor entrance of colonic bacteria in the small bowel.

1-Minor essential revisions

The title should be changed and indicate that SIBO is a complication of CD associated to flare up of disease. In patients with a high CDAI it seems difficult to consider SIBO as a secondary event.

2-Minor essential revisions

The introduction should clearly state that the method used is indirect and will only detect hydrogen produced by some (not all) anaerobic bacteria. SIBO is possible without hydrogen formation. Glucose is used as external substrate for these bacteria. Lactulose would be a better substrate because not resorbed by the small intestine and only used by bacteria. In SIBO, lactulose can be used as a substrate. In absence of SIBO, it is used to establish orocecral transit time.

3-Minor essential revisions

The used HGBT method should be justified in the introduction section and not in the methodology section (page 7 and 8).

4-Minor essential revisions

Antibiotherapy is evoked in the introduction and discussion but not used for the studied population. It should be discussed that an antibiotic treatment will not show a long-lasting effect because the anatomic disorders remain present and will allow recurrence.

5-Minor essential revisions

The references cited need revisions to use always the same type of citations. Names of journals are sometimes complete and sometimes shortened. Ref 4 "Auflage" should be changed to "edition"

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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