Reviewer's report

Title: Four novel mutations in the lactase gene (LCT) underlying congenital lactase deficiency (CLD)

Version: 2 Date: 30 September 2008

Reviewer: Dallas M Swallow

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions

1 Most of the errors in the English of the original text have been corrected, though new ones have been introduced in the altered text (see below).

Abstract. ‘Found from one/another ’ should read ‘found in one/another’
Living on Continental Europe should read ‘in Continental Europe’—but would ‘outside Finland’ be more precise?

All four novel mutations were predicted—(page 14)—should read ‘All four novel mutations were examined by—
Line 4 of that paragraph should read ‘of occurring’—not ‘to occur’
Later in that paragraph –were considered to be pathogenic

Page 6 ‘based on the disappeared symptoms’—should read ‘based on the disappearance of symptoms’

2 Some sentences are still unclear and I suggest wordings below—if this is what is meant;

• Since the original reports by Holzel et al (1,9), there has been a lack of published data about CLD countries other than Finland.
• The Blosum62 score for substitution from serine to proline etc –showed that there is a low probability of either substitution occurring in a functional protein.

3 I am still not happy with the following sentence which is potentially very confusing to the reader

‘It is noteworthy, that in these two conditions the values of lactase activity are partially overlapping in spite of their having different underlying molecular mechanism.[2, 5-8, 10] Therefore, further studies are needed to explain the phenotype-genotype-correlation in human lactase deficiencies.-‘

I suggest that you should say:

‘It is noteworthy that the values of lactase activity are partially overlapping with those found in adults with hypolactasia, but the major difference is that as children these people had high lactase activity like lactase persistent people
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