Reviewer's report

Title: Polymorphism in the oxytocin promoter region in patients with lactose intolerance is not related to symptomatology

Version: 1 Date: 22 August 2009

Reviewer: Michele Di Stefano

Reviewer's report:

This paper evaluates a putative effect on lactose intolerance symptoms of the polymorphism in the oxytocin promoter region. The Authors conclude that the polymorphism does not play a pathophysiological role in this condition. The paper is an interesting one, as the link between oxytocin and GI motility was reported. Accordingly, the results of this paper may add something to our understanding of the pathophysiology of functional GI symptoms.

Major compulsory revisions
1. The Authors should explain why they chose to study patients with lactose malabsorption.
2. Moreover, they should indicate the final diagnosis of lactose tolerant patients and, in the portion of this group suffering from functional GI disorders, they should indicate whether the prevalence of the SNPs showed any differences.
3. Given the relationship between estrogen and oxytocin, female results should be presented according to age and differences between males and females should also be searched for.

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

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'