Reviewer's report

Title: Hyperamylasemia during acute gastroenteritis: incidence and clinical relevance

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Version: 1 Date: 10 Jul 2001

Reviewer: Dr Ignazio Castagliuolo

Level of interest: A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

Advice on publication: Other (see below)

This article addresses an interesting clinical problem: the reported association of acute gastroenteritis and pancreatitis. During this prospective study the authors enrolled a large number of patients (over 500) to evaluate the real incidence of pancreatitis during acute gastroenteritis. The methods are clearly described and the results are sintetically reported and analysed. The authors discuss extensively and in good detail the possible mechanisms responsible of the hyperamylasemia during acute gastroenteritis. However the last para dealing with the possible factors responsible of the low incidence of acute pancreatitis is not clear at all: are the authors speculating that during acute gastroenteritis are released factors (NO, IL-10) that can reduce the risk of pancreatitis? they should reformulate the last part of the discussion and make more clear their working hypothesis.

The writing is generally acceptable. However few sentences need consideration mainly in the result section (line 1-5 and 8-11): make the sentences shorter.

Advice on publication

Accept after revision, which I would like to see

Competing interests:
None declared.