Author’s response to reviews

Title: Evaluation of 6 candidate genes on chromosome 11q23 for coeliac disease susceptibility: a case control study.

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Attached is the third revised version of the article (MS: 9070282802862730) entitled “Evaluation of 6 candidate genes on chromosome 11q23 for coeliac disease susceptibility: a case control study” by Brophy et al., recently reviewed for BMC Medical Genetics.

Reviewer 3 requested clarification regarding whether coeliac patients were treated at the time of biopsy. Standard diagnostic procedure requires that patients be untreated (i.e. by the removal of dietary gluten) in order to establish a diagnosis; to do otherwise would render the test meaningless. Therefore, we feel that any comment on treatment at the time of diagnosis would be superfluous – by definition they are untreated.

In addition to the above consideration, in the interests of consistency, the description of the coeliac cohort has been moved from the Discussion to the Methods section, and three additional contributors have been acknowledged as authors.

It is our hope that the article will now be considered suitable for publication in BMC Medical Genetics.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Ryan