Reviewer's report

Title: CT60 genotype does not affect CTLA-4 isoform expression despite association to autoimmune disease in northern Sweden

Version: 2 Date: 2 October 2006

Reviewer: Bobby Koeleman

Reviewer's report:

General
This well written paper describes interesting information on CTLA4 association in Northern Sweden, and importantly, add shows important data on the presumed functionality of the CT60 variant. I have only minor comments

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

No major compulsory revisions needed.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Abstract: please specify the number of AITD and T1D cases for clarity what type of autoimmune disease this study uses.

-add the fact that mRNA was measured in CD4+ cells.

Results section: "The Analysis of serum sCTLA-4 protein levels". I know from experience that the kits available for measuring serum levels are at the least questionable. This is illustrated by the figure 3, in which only one healthy subject shows measurable serum level. Is this expected? Or is this a sign that the kit doesnot detect serum CTLA4? The kit detects no doubt the CTLA4-Ig protein, but we and others have failed to detect any positive subject with a variety of kits.
I suggest that the authors discuss the probability that the kits fails to detect any serum level CTLA4.

Discussion:
I would appreciate some more (immunological) discussion of the consequences of using different cell-types for the mRNA analysis.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

None

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.