Reviewer’s report

Title: CD209 in inflammatory bowel disease: a case-control study in the Spanish population

Version: 1 Date: 18 September 2007

Reviewer: Hitoshi Asakura

Reviewer’s report:

General

Dendritic cells in the intestinal mucosa play an important role of pathophysiology of Crohn disease and ulcerative colitis. CD209(DC-SIGM) is a dendritic cell-specific grabbing nonintegrin and becomes a receptor for Neisseria, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Dengue virus, Herpes virus, Candida and so on. C-type lectin of DC-SIGM is an antigen-uptake receptor for many pathogens.

This paper described an association of CD209 mutations with Crohn disease and ulcerative colitis in the Spanish population. In the conclusions, a functional variant in the CD209 gene, rs4804803, does not seem to be influencing Crohn disease susceptibility. However, it could be involved in the etiology or pathology of ulcerative colitis in HLA-DR3-positive individuals.

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

1. Sample number of this study is enough.
2. Ethnic groups for susceptibility genes are Spaniards.
3. The study methods were used in the their previous paper and are reasonable.
4. Authors made stratification of CD and UC patients by CARD15 mutations and carrying HLA-DR3 positivity. More informations are needed. They had better to make more stratification by clinical courses(chronic continuous type, relapse-remitting type), age at onset(less than 20 or 24 years old)in UC and by disease locations, disease behaviors and age at onset(less than 20 or 24 years old) in CD. If these stratifications are negative, please comment these results in the discussion.

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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)

In table 1, classification of CD should be described in foot notes; Vienna or Montreal.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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.