Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of Celiac Disease in Multiple Sclerosis

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Reviewer: Bianca Weinstock-Guttman

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The study by Rodrigo and colleagues provides notable information on an increased association between MS and Celiac Disease, evaluated within a Spanish cohort of RR MS patients. The consideration of gluten allergy as a cause for MS was often raised without significant scientific proves.

This study includes 72 MS patients that were evaluated extensively; assessments included neuro evaluation, MRI's, duodenal biopsies as well as serological and genetic testing.

Comments:

Major:

1. Would be helpful to obtain more specific data on the 8 patients identified as carrying a diagnosis of CD:
   a. Did they have specific bowel symptoms, weight loss?
   b. What was their clinical presentation? Spinal cord involvement, ataxia?; Any specifics on their MRI’s vs. the rest of the patients? Less or better response to therapy?
   c. Were they on IFN beta 1-b more (associated with more autoimmune disturbances).
   d. Did they also have other abnormal auto-reactive antibodies, or these antibodies were identified in the rest of the MS group.
   e. There is indication that the patients were followed prospectively. Did the 8 patients improved, changed in their status after a gluten free diet was instituted?

2. The family members with CD were they relatives of the specific 8 or not?

3. The “other autoimmune diseases” group is very unclear: osteoporosis and UTI are with no doubt not autoimmune diseases while the iron deficiency anemia and abnormal LFT’s have multiple other causes.

4. Was any evaluation done for the presence of H Pylori, knowing the high correlation between H Pylori and CD but also more recently also with MS?

5. The tables on the MS characteristics are of limited value unless provided as previously mentioned the characteristics of the group with CD vs. the rest.

Minor:

Multiple typos that have to be fixed along the manuscript.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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