Author's response to reviews

Title: Plasma Prolyl Endopeptide Activity in Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders

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'Plasma Prolyl Endopeptidase Activity in Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders'

Iratxe Puebla, Assistant Editor

We have according to the reviewers' comments done the following changes of the original manuscript:
Reviewer Zweigenbaum
1. The title has been changed: 'Altered levels of prolyl endopeptidase activity in the plasma of children with autistic spectrum disorders'
2. The abstract and the manuscript body have been labelled according to Instructions for BMC Psychiatry authors.
3. Major changes:
a. A hypothesis has been stated.
b. Details regarding sample selection have been extended.
c. We have tried to clarify aspects of reliability and validity of crucial aspects.
d. The Discussion has been extended with a plausible explanation for how increased variability in PEP might be involved in the development of ASD.
4. All minor essential revisions proposed have been changed

Reviewer Singh
1. Major changes:
a. The manuscript has been revised according to the recommendations.
b. In the Discussion we have stated the difficulty to relate our findings to other biomedical research on ASD. However, we have added one relevant reference.
c. We have clarified the funding sources of the study.
2. Minor changes:
a. The new title reflects the finding of the study.
b. The Background section has been revised with a hypothesis and an extended background of ASD and PEP in relation to neuropsychiatric disorders.
c. We now use the term "subjects", not participants.
d. We have commented on that the knowledge of the effect of GA on PEP activity is so far unknown.
e. The n value has been added to the Figures.

Lund, 11/19/04

Bengt Sivberg