Reviewer's report

Title: Periodontal conditions, oral Candida albicans and salivary proteins in type 2 diabetic subjects with emphasis on gender.

Version: 4 Date: 9 March 2009

Reviewer: Yutaka Seino

Reviewer's report:

Major Criticism; The authors responded to consider the patients situations from the point of diabetic vascular complications. Also they have changed the main body of the manuscript to be understood the aims and the significance of this work easily.

The main point of this manuscript is gender differences in the Candida albicans colonization in patients with type 2 diabetes. They insist the periodontal inflammation in the subjects with type 2 diabetes is more severe in females than in males. However, it is difficult to declare that the number of teeth that present is very different between male and female at the study point. Survival of teeth is strongly influenced by many factors, life style, age, the population character, race, ethnicity and social income. The authors should describe the results observed in this study just in these circumstances.

Although other reviewers pointed out already the inconsistency of the data from the patients with type 2 diabetes, there are still many discrepancies in the data presented in the results section and in the figures. The authors seriously consider these differences in the data presented, and check the correctness of each data respectively.

p value in p10 line 13 should be written in lower case.

IgG (ug)/mg protein should be written throughout the paper including figure legends, not written as IgG/mg protein.

In the Fig 2(a), at the T2D with C alb panel the column of salivary IgG(ug)/mg has no sign of p value, however in the results section the author describe p<0.001. Further the column of salivary IgA(ug)/mg has # which means p <0.001. The authors should indicate the subject to be compared versus #.

P10 line 20 In the results section the authors describe “ IgA/mg protein levels were 463.9 ug/mg (range 155-1489 ug/mg) and 319.8 ug/mg...”, however, in the figure male have around 370 ug/mg and female have around 390 ug/mg. Great discrepancy exists there.

P10 line21-22; “Salivary total protein concentrations, in these individuals, were 2181 ug/mg (range 879.5-3812.3 ug/mg) and 3569.4 ug/mg (range 7-107.7 ug/mg) respectively.” The unit is different in the figure 2(b), it indicate mg/L instead of ug/mg. Which one is correct? Also the number 3569.4 is correct? The figure indicates around 2500.
15.6 teeth (range 9-16) 15.6 is true mean?

These results are shown in Figure 3. How did you calculate the percentage of teeth present? Authors should describe it.

Minor Essential Revisions
Accept after minor essential revisions (which the authors can be trusted to make)

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English—acceptable

No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests--no to all of the above, I declare that I have no competing interests

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.