Reviewer's report

Title: Excretion of urinary histamine and N-tele methylhistamine in gastrointestinal food allergy

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Reviewer: Yuichi Adachi

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The authors evaluated urine histamine and methyl histamine levels in patients with gastrointestinal food allergy and found urine methyl histamine could be a marker for patients whose symptoms associated with over-excretion of histamine including gastrointestinal food allergy. Although these findings seem straightforward, there are still several points to be cleared.

Major Compulsory Revisions

First of all, the authors classified gastrointestinal food allergy into 4 subtypes according to the Coombs’ criteria. It is well known that histamine plays a main role in type 1 allergy, but not involved in the mechanisms of type 3 and 4 allergy. The data which compared urine histamine excretion levels between type 1 and other types should be shown. Next, it is not clear what is the not-restricted food. These patients must have been told the results of the previously performed food challenge test. It is natural that the patients with food allergy avoid the offending food(s), even when they are told that it is OK to eat any foods. It should be shown what kinds of food the patients had during the non-restricted food intake period. Food challenge test would be more straightforward.

Minor Essential Revisions

The authors mentioned that only samples with pH less than 3 were used for analysis. It should be shown that how many samples were excluded for this reason and that how many samples were below the measurable limit. How did the authors calculate the histamine and methylhistamine levels in two samples in each condition?

The reason why the symptom scores did not related with histamine levels could be explain by the fact that this study was open-labeled.

Typo: “fluor” could be “flour” in Table 1. “Seborrheic dermatitis” could be better than “milk crust” in the medical journal.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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