Reviewer's report

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

Version: 3 Date: 3 January 2015

Reviewer: Ivy Shiue

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the revision that has been improved its clarity a bit. However, there are still a few unclear description and statements. Please find them below and revise accordingly.

1) Introduction: In the first sentence, those clinical reactions are "complications" or "symptoms" but not "diagnostic problems (this is about diagnostic tools or skills)". It is also unclear whether the 56 patients were in the current study, in DBPCFC or other studies (citation would be needed). It does not make sense to only select some individuals to undergo the testing when it's needed to test food allergy. Is there any other alternative? If yes, how do they compare with each other?

2) Method: Suggest the authors using a few subheadings to guide the reading, such as "study design and study catchment", "case ascertainment", "control selection", "measurements", "statistical analysis", "ethics approval" and "funding source". Also suggest using a diagram to illustrate how cases and controls were recruited and selected including the inclusion and exclusion criteria. The numbers of cases and controls in the case group and controls are unclear. It's also confusing in the tables. Who were in the case group? Who were in the control group? Patients? Healthy people? Figure 1 does not correspond to tables in terms of number of patients and controls. There should be separate diagrams for selecting patients and controls.

3) Results: Please clarify tables and figures. Suggest Table 1 - demographics and clinical characteristics of patients and controls or by case and control groups, Table 2 - IgE and non-IgE initiated allergic reactions of patients, Table 3 - associations of diets and what? only in control group? What is to be compared?

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: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
None.