Reviewer's report

Title: Factors associated with growth disturbance at celiac disease diagnosis in children: a retrospective cohort study

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Reviewer: Cristina Meazza

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In this study Nurminen et al. investigated the association of impaired growth with celiac disease (CD) in children. They showed that growth failure in CD children is associated with young age and severe presentation at diagnosis. Furthermore, they demonstrated that CD children who present with sole poor growth are clinically different from children with other symptoms. The study is interesting for paediatricians who usually face with short statured children and the design is commendable.

Specific comments:

• There are many studies about the association of CD and growth hormone deficiency which sometimes is the cause of short stature in these children. Therefore, when a catch-up growth is not shown after at least one year of gluten free diet, an endocrinological evaluation is mandatory. The authors should discuss this issue in the discussion.

• In table 1, patients are grouped according the presence or absence of growth failure at diagnosis. Growth failure patients are 182, but in only 45 data about height are available. How were the authors able to classify patients with growth failure without having height data?

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests