Reviewer's report

Title: Is perceived intolerance to milk and wheat associated with the corresponding IgG and IgA food antibodies? A cross sectional study in subjects with morbid obesity and gastrointestinal symptoms

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Reviewer: Stephan C. Bischoff

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The paper addresses an interesting topic, that is the clinical relevance of IgG levels in patients suffering from different types of adverse reactions to food. While most experts and societies expressed their doubts on it, some papers provided evidence for a rationale for IgG-guided elimination diets that improved symptoms in patients with IBS and other symptoms. However, the paper does not add very much to the field, mainly because several relevant questions remain unanswered.

1. What is the rationale to include subjects with morbid obesity? If it is because of GI permeability changes, this needs to be shown. Did the patients have increased GI permeability? Did GI permeability correlate with the symptoms?

2. How was „perceived food intolerance" objectified? If "gastrointestinal complaints" cannot be specified on an objective level, no differences in food-specific immunoglobuline levels can be expected. This questions the whole study project. What is the rationale of the project finally?

3. What is the justification of antigen selection?

4. What is the justification of cut-offs of serum IgG and IgA levels?

5. What is the justification of numbers of participants?

6. Was lactose intolerance excluded? "Foods often perceived as triggers includes milk and dairy products" is only true if lactose intolerance is included. This is supposed to be not related to changes in specific immunoglobulin levels. Immune-mediated adverse reactions to milk are rare in adults.

7. What is the control group?
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

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