Author’s response to reviews

Title: Histological, immunohistochemical and mRNA gene expression responses in coeliac disease patients challenged with gluten using PAXgene fixed paraffin-embedded duodenal biopsies

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the possibility to do a second revision of our manuscript entitled: “Histological, immunohistochemical and mRNA gene expression responses in coeliac disease patients challenged with gluten using PAXgene fixed paraffin-embedded duodenal biopsies” (BMGE-D-19-00352).

We are grateful for the valuable comments of the reviewers and have now made changes to the manuscript accordingly. Based on the reviewer’s suggestions the manuscript was revised. Responses to reviewer’s comments are shown item by item below. We hope that the revised manuscript would be acceptable for publication in the BMC Gastroenterology.
Sincerely yours,
Jorma Isola, corresponding author

Reviewer: 1

1. The authors address my concerns, but the response to my 1st point is not satisfactory: "In our experience the yield of RNA extracted from FFPE blocks is much lower than from Paxgene fixed blocks". They should show data to support their statement. The reason I think is important is that FFPE is so commonly used in clinical laboratories. Until you have compelling data to show FFPE is not a good choice, readers would always ask how you know FFPE does not work.

Response: We have now added data and a reference of RNA analyses in FFPE blocks to page 11, paragraph 3. The methods have also been corrected accordingly in page 8, paragraph 2, sentence 1 and in additional file 1, page 2, paragraph 2.

Reviewer: 2

1. Thank you for clarifying the points that I raised and congratulations on a well written paper.

Response: Thank you.