Reviewer’s report

Title: Microscopic features of small bowel mucosa of patients with Crohn’s disease

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Reviewer: Arvind Ahuja

Reviewer's report:

Yun et al have evaluated 22 microscopic features of Crohn’s disease in 137 patients of CD, 20 patients of suspected Crohn’s disease and 96 patients of Non Crohn’s disease. Although most of the microscopic studied by them are classical features; however they have also studied granulomatous lymphangitis and lymphangiectasia. They have concluded that specificity and sensitivity, granulomatous lymphangitis is superior to non-caseating epithelioid granuloma. They have tried to validate the hypothesis proposed by Van Kruiningen's that granulomatous lymphangitis plays important role in the pathogenesis of Crohn’s disease.

The manuscript is quite interesting. I have following comments/queries for authors-

1. Van Kruiningen's have shown granulomatous lymphangitis in 53% of resection specimens out of 34 cases studied. In the present study granulomatous lymphangitis was present in approx 24% of biopsies with Crohn’s disease. However, further large studies on resection specimens are required to validate this finding.

2. Granulomatous lymphangitis may be a non specific finding and it is likely to be present in infection related ileitis; however again it needs to be studied in large cohort.

3. In a review by Kedia et al concluded that micogranuloma are important histological features in CD but in tuberculosis endemic regions the diagnosis of Crohn’s disease is always clinic-pathological, endoscopic and radiological.

4. The IHC pictures are not clear and I am not able to see the positive reaction (Fig 2D,E).

5. Authors should include important clinical and endoscopic findings based on which they diagnosed CD in 137 patients.

6. It will be interesting to know in how many patients lymphadenopathy was seen out of 24 patients with granuloma.

Wish you all the best!
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.
Yes

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

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