Author's response to reviews

Title: Association between anti-Porphyromonas gingivalis or anti-alpha-enolase antibody and severity of periodontitis or rheumatoid arthritis (RA) disease activity in RA

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Version: 4 Date: 21 July 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor:

I’m sending the revised manuscript. The reviewer’s comments helped for improvement of the manuscript.

Enclosed is a manuscript "Association between anti-\textit{Porphyromonas gingivalis} or anti-\alpha-enolase antibody and severity of periodontitis or rheumatoid arthritis (RA) disease activity in RA" by JY Lee et al. We measured serum antibody against \textit{P. gingivalis} and human ENO1 in patients with RA and investigated their association with the severity of PD or disease activity of RA. Anti-\textit{P. gingivalis} and anti-ENO1 antibody titers were correlated with the severity of PD in RA. Anti-ENO1 antibody titers, but not anti-\textit{P. gingivalis} antibody titers, were further associated with RA disease activity.

The paper is submitted to be considered for publication as an original article in your journal. The manuscript has been seen and approved by all the authors and they have given necessary attention to ensure the integrity of the work. Neither the entire paper nor any part of its content has been published or has been accepted by another journal. The paper is not being submitted to any other journal. Thank you for your attention to our paper.

Yours sincerely,

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Dear Ms Lee,

Your manuscript has now been considered by a member of the Editorial Board and we feel that your manuscript is suitable for publication in the journal. However, before we proceed with acceptance there are some further editorial revisions which we require you to make. Please note that your manuscript cannot be accepted for publication until these revisions have been satisfactorily addressed.

1) Please provide the name of the ethics committee

reply) We have added the sentences to the ‘Methods’ as follows.

This study was approved by the ethics committee of Seoul National University Hospital. (page 7, line 3-4)

2) Authors' contributions - Please include an 'Authors' contributions' section before the Acknowledgements and Reference list.

reply) We have added ‘Authors’ contributions’ section before the Acknowledgements and Reference list as follows.

Authors’ contributions
JYL performed all operations and prepared manuscript. IAC collected the data of clinical assessment and examined the RA patients. JHK and YML performed dental exam. KHK provided *P. gingivalis*. EYL and EBL participated in the design of the study. YWS conceived of the study design and decided the direction of discussion. All authors read and approved final manuscript. (page 17, line 21 – page 18, line 2)
For the Authors’ contributions we suggest the following format (please use initials to refer to each author’s contribution): “AB carried out the molecular genetic studies, participated in the sequence alignment and drafted the manuscript. JY carried out the immunoassays. MT participated in the sequence alignment. ES participated in the design of the study and performed the statistical analysis. FG conceived of the study, and participated in its design and coordination. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.”

An “author” is generally considered to be someone who has made substantive intellectual contributions to a published study. To qualify as an author one should 1) have made substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) have been involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and 3) have given final approval of the version to be published. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content. Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of the research group, alone, does not justify authorship.

All contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed in an acknowledgments section. Examples of those who might be acknowledged include a person who provided purely technical help, writing assistance, or a department chair who provided only general support.

3) Abstract: please remove the ‘Objective’ heading. Perhaps use ‘In the present study, we....’ instead

Reply) We removed the ‘Objective’ heading and added the sentences ‘ In the present study, we..’ (page 3, line 9)

4) Page 5, line 1: please change ‘Introduction’ to ‘Background’

Reply) we changed ‘Introduction’ to ‘Background’ (page 5, line 1)

5) Page 7, line 1: please change ‘Materials and Methods’ to ‘Methods’

reply) We changed ‘Materials and Methods’ to ‘Methods’
We added a ‘conclusion’ section before Competing interest as follow

Conclusion

Anti-\( P. \) gingivalis antibodies and anti-ENO1 antibodies were higher in RA patients than in controls. Anti-\( P. \) gingivalis antibodies correlated with PD parameters in RA patients, but not with RA disease activity. Anti-ENO1 antibodies correlated not only the periodontal indices but also RA disease activity in RA patients. (page 17, line 12-16)