Reviewer's report

Title: Screening for Celiac Disease in Poorly Controlled Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus: Worth it or not?

Version: 0 Date: 14 Feb 2017

Reviewer: Stephanie Dubose

Reviewer's report:

The paper compares the prevalence of celiac disease in individuals with type 2 diabetes vs healthy controls and adds to the current literature. However, there are a few issues that need to be addressed.

Please see below for consideration of revisions.

Methods Section:

1. Please explain how the healthy controls were recruited from the diabetes clinic.

2. There is no mention of sample size or power calculations. How was sample size decided?

Results section:

1. Repetitive text—there are 2 statements that 2 pts in the DM group were diagnosed with celiac.

2. Text states: "The cut-off point of 0.6 was assumed." and then says normal c-peptide range was 0.51-2.7 ng/ml. The first group included those with c-peptide <0.51 so please clarify how the cut off of .6 was used.
1. It does not seem relevant to point out that the mean C-peptide differed by C-peptide group, considering that the groups were created based on C-peptide value.

2. For 2nd half of Results section, it's not clear what groups are being compared—DM vs healthy or c-peptide groups. Please clarify.

3. In last sentence of Results, text says C-peptide did not differ by groups, but previous text and Table 4 show that it did. This needs to be corrected (or removed since not relevant).

Discussion/Conclusion:

1. Much of the text is background information and could be moved to the Introduction section.

2. The authors state in both the Discussion and Conclusion that the prevalence of CD was slightly higher in their study than in the normal population. As you could argue that 1.45% and 1% are similar, please state the actual prevalences (1.45% vs 1% in general population).

3. The authors state: "Positive correlation of tTGA IgA with HsCRP and HbA1c might show the DM with worser prognosis could be associated with higher levels of tTGA IgA and possibly higher incidence of Celiac disease." The authors should add the caveat that while positive, the correlations were very weak (both \( r \leq 0.21 \)).

Tables:

1. Add Ns to tables 2-4

2. Specify that Table 4 is limited to DM group
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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.

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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