

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 59574

**Title:** Apolipoprotein E variants correlate with the clinical presentation of paediatric inflammatory bowel disease: A cross-sectional study

**Reviewer's code:** 01588784

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Assistant Professor, Senior Lecturer, Surgeon

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Japan

**Author's Country/Territory:** Poland

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-09-18

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jia-Ping Yan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-10-06 21:52

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-10-11 08:01

**Review time:** 4 Days and 10 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

**Brief summary** This paper investigated the correlation with polymorphisms in APOE genotype expression and clinical severity of inflammatory bowel diseases. The main findings are the lowest CRP value in UC patients with APOE e4 allele, and the youngest at first surgery but lowest PCDAI score in CD patients with APOE e2 allele. Although the clinical relevance may be modest, this paper firstly elucidated the genetic distribution of APOE polymorphism among the patients with inflammatory bowel diseases in young patients (aged 3-18). **General comments** Results were described in categorical variable-based orders starting with genotyping, followed by inflammation, disease localisation and behaviour, nutritional status, disease activity scales, treatment, disease severity estimates, and extraintestinal manifestations and concomitant diseases. However, going through multiple tables with different subset of patients in each section may be demanding and complicated for readers: for example, in Inflammation, serum CRP was associated with... APOEe3/e3 homozygotes (Table 3, 4, 6). Moreover, Table 3-5 compared the variables among APOE e2/e3, e3/e3 and e3/e4 whereas Table 6 compared the variables among APOE e3/e3, e2-positive, and e4-positive. The solution for the complexity may be just simply, for instance, "Table 3 shows..., Table 4 shows, or Table 6 summarised the data.... etc, so that readers can interpret the data in a step-wised manner. **Specific comments** 1. RESULTS, Genotyping: The authors compared the APOE genotypes with previous reports using Ref. 40-42, however inclusion of data from Ref. 52 was missing that showed similar distribution of APOE genotypes (e3/e3 = 63.0%)] 2. Table1, 3, 4, 5 and 6: The authors are advised to indicate the number of patients included the analysis at the top of the column, so that readers can estimate the number of patients in each analysis.

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**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 59574

**Title:** Apolipoprotein E variants correlate with the clinical presentation of paediatric inflammatory bowel disease: A cross-sectional study

**Reviewer's code:** 00033034

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Greece

**Author's Country/Territory:** Poland

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-09-18

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jia-Ping Yan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-10-12 13:58

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-10-12 14:46

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

It is a very interesting manuscript on the hot topic of IBD epidemiology. The authors try to overcome the problem of approaching disease severity using various parameters of disease activity on their pick value. I think that it would be interesting if they could use one of the approved scales of disease severity. Otherwise, I think it would be simpler if they refer to the pick values on disease worse attack and avoid complex tables including disease presentation. Need for surgery is definitely a measure of disease severity but follow up is too short to refer to disease severity. Minor genotypes should be omitted. I am not sure that grouping of CD and UC is useful and apart from an initial comparison, separate presentation should be obligatory. Apart from hospitalisation, a comparison of number of admissions is useful. Albumin levels are not the only meter of nutritional status. Discussion should be rewritten. It should be clear if the suggestion is that apoE affects inflammation and microbiome or lipid metabolism and nutritional status. From the results, I can infer that the first suggestion is right.

## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 59574

**Title:** Apolipoprotein E variants correlate with the clinical presentation of paediatric inflammatory bowel disease: A cross-sectional study

**Reviewer's code:** 01588784

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Assistant Professor, Senior Lecturer, Surgeon

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Japan

**Author's Country/Territory:** Poland

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-09-18

**Reviewer chosen by:** Han Zhang (Part-Time Editor)

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-11-19 05:31

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-11-21 09:40

**Review time:** 2 Days and 4 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	[ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Grade A: Excellent [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade B: Very good [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade C: Good [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade D: Fair [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	[ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Grade A: Priority publishing [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	[ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Accept (High priority) [ <input type="radio"/> ] Accept (General priority) [ <input type="radio"/> ] Minor revision [ <input type="radio"/> ] Major revision [ <input type="radio"/> ] Rejection
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="radio"/> ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="radio"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors have sufficiently revised the manuscript in accordance with the reviewers' suggestions. This is a scientifically valuable research.