

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 90522

**Title:** Effect of AN-PEP protease in patients with celiac disease on a long-term gluten-free diet.

**Provenance and peer review:** Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 07393181

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2023-12-08

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-12-11 18:50

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-12-20 04:46

**Review time:** 8 Days and 9 Hours

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|---|--|
| Scientific quality                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good<br><input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish |
| Novelty of this manuscript                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair<br><input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty   |
| Creativity or innovation of this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair<br><input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation                                |

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| <b>Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair<br><input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance   |
| <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)<br><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

This study investigates the role of *Aspergillus niger* endopeptidase as an adjuvant in the treatment of celiac disease. The text is written clearly, with no difficulties for readers from non-English-speaking countries. The methodology was executed and described very well. I emphasize the inclusion criteria, which not only utilized clinical and laboratory data from patients, already sufficient for diagnosis, but also incorporated defining data such as biopsy results, convincingly demonstrating that the tested patients were unequivocally diagnosed with celiac disease. The results were well-presented, with solid and objective discussions. The conclusion and summary complement the overall readability of this manuscript. The references are up-to-date and adhere to a consistent format according to the journal's guidelines. I also commend the group's maturity in acknowledging the weaknesses of the study. However, I believe the major limitation of this work lies in the study duration, only 4 months. Some studies indicate that the reduction of antibodies in celiac disease occurs quite slowly when undergoing a gluten-free diet (doi: 10.1016/j.dld.2010.05.009). This leads me to believe that you might only observe the beginning of positive results between 6 to 12 months after treatment



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initiation, potentially achieving even better outcomes over a longer period. I congratulate the group for their excellent work in developing this manuscript. However, I kindly request, if possible, an extension of the evaluation period to determine whether the additive truly plays a role in the treatment of celiac disease.