From: Lebwohl, Benjamin
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2014 9:26 AM
To: Green, Peter H R.
Subject: RE: Co-author: Celiac disease among adults UAE

Dear Peter,

Thanks for showing me this interesting manuscript. As you know, in addition to my training as a gastroenterologist with specialization in celiac disease, I have a Master's degree in biostatistics from the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University.

I've attached some edits to the manuscript, and I've highlighted in yellow the statistical edits. Apart from the statistical comments, I would add that it should be pointed out/emphasized that none of the 14 seropositive patients had diarrhea.

My statistical review follows:

The main analysis consists of calculations of a point prevalence with 95% confidence intervals, comparisons of proportions via chi square and Fisher exact tests where indicated, and single and multiple logistic regression using odds ratios and corresponding 95% confidence intervals. The methods are appropriate for this study. My suggestions are as follows:

METHODS:
Would clarify the sample size calculation explanation as follows:

"Sample size calculation was calculated based on an estimated celiac disease prevalence of 1%, and a lower 95% confidence limit of 0.58%. The estimated..."

RESULTS
t test values and Chi square values are not necessary to report in the body of the manuscript; p values will suffice. As such, in Table 3, the chi square column can be removed.

The p value when comparing men to women with regard to CD serology (Table 3) is listed as "<0.0003." An exact p value should be given, or <0.0001 should be stated, depending on the journal's specifications. This calculation should be done using Fisher's exact test (since the expected number in the celiac disease cells is less than 10), and my calculated p value is 0.0006. This change should also be made in the body of the Results section (page 9)

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