

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

April 7, 2016

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in word format (file name: ESPS Manuscript NO: 24519-edited.doc).

Title: Skin disease and thyroid autoimmunity in atopic South Italian children

Authors: Marcella Pedullà, Vincenzo Fierro, Pierluigi Marzuillo, Francesco Capuano, Emanuele Miraglia del Giudice, Eleonora Ruocco.

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Clinical Pediatrics*

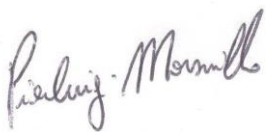
ESPS Manuscript NO: 24519

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

- (1) We accepted all the suggestion of the Reviewers. They are highlighted in the text
- (2) We critically revised the written English to improve the fluidity of the text
- (3) We divided the Table 1 in two tables to make them more easy to understand.

We hope that our manuscript will be of interest for the readers of the *World Journal of Clinical Pediatrics*.

Sincerely yours,



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Reviewed by 02446483

This is a very interesting manuscript with the aim to verify the prevalence of thyroid autoimmunity and the possible association with atopy in a restricted population showing skin disease. I agree that

this may be the first report showing a significant prevalence of TA in a population of atopic children affected by skin disease However, a few aspects need to be tackled.

1) The bias of selecting population should be emphasized and cannot be marginalized at the end.

Answer: We emphasized the possible selection bias (se lines 203-205 of the new version of the manuscript).

2) It needs more discussion and comparison with other studies with atopy and other diseases.

Answer: Thank you for asking. As we know this is the first report showing a significant prevalence of TA in a population of atopic children affected by skin disease. The biological mechanisms that may lead to these phenomena are not clear, for this reason it is difficult to compare the incidence of atopy with that we have described in other diseases.

3) IgA deficiency and celiac disease screening as well as a pediatric GI nutritional status should be added.

Answer: We added the required information in the new version of the manuscript (see lines 114-115 of the new version of the manuscript).

4) Moreover, it may be important to cite works in PubMed between atopy and cancer, not only thyroid cancer. This may be important for the surveillance of these patients.

Answer: We cited the required works (see lines 185-192 of the new version of the manuscript).

5) Some misspellings and Grammar errors are present, but overall the manuscript is readable.

Answer: Thank you for your comment, we further revised the written English.

Reviewed by 00646569

The manuscript is interesting and enhancing your previous research results. There are many minor English language errors that needs to be edited by a native English speaker.

Answer: Thank you for your comment, we revised the written English.

Please provide specialties of the authors, are all they surgeons as the name of the department is "surgery".

Answer: All the authors are Pediatricians belonging to the Department of Woman, Child and General and Specialized Surgery.

Additionally please provide the criteria for definition of atopy. The reader could get confused without knowing the criteria of atopy you used in your study.

Answer: Thank you for your comment, we better defined atopy in the material and methods section (see lines 124-126 and 139-141 of the new version of the manuscript).

Reviewed by 00646519

It is an interesting paper about Thyroid Autoimmunity in Atopic South Italian Children. These are my comments. Before mentioning an abbreviation it should be defined (TA in abstract)

Answer: Thank you for your comment, we carefully revised all the abbreviations.

Demographical data should be included (some allergies, onset of symptoms or disease, evolution time, etc.)

Answer: Thank you for your interesting comment. Our aim was to describe the prevalence of TA in children affected by atopy independently from the specific allergic disease, however your observation could be considered as a starting point for a new future observation.

Some phrases are ambiguous and must be rewritten i.e. "In a recent study conducted in a Mediterranean area (Almeria, Spain), the prevalence of TA was higher and reached 3.7% in children and adolescents": in what kind of patients it was performed?.

Answer: thank you for your comment; we revised the ambiguous phrases all over the manuscript. We also rewrote the phrase you suggested to revise (see lines 207-209 of the new version of the manuscript).

A comparative analysis between the data of the present paper with the literature must be done.

Answer: Thank you for your comment. To the best of our knowledge this is the first report showing a significant prevalence of TA in a population of atopic children affected by skin disease, so it's impossible to compare our data with the literature.

The conclusion of AA and TA is difficult to support due to small number of patient (n=2).

Answer: Thank you for your comment. We are completely agreed with the referee, we added this comment in the discussion section (see lines 213-215 of the new version of the manuscript).

Please, add a final phrase indicating the specifically findings in the population analysed.

Answer: Thank you for your comment. We added two final sentences as required (see lines 234-239 of the new version of the manuscript).

English needs to be polished.

Answer: Thank you, the written English was revised.