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Reviewer's code: 00071702

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors have not conducted any kind of transcriptomic analysis in the current study. Therefore, the title is nor befitting with the article text and should be changed. The authors have not provided the likely implication of the work. Does this study have any translational value? If yes, this should be included.

We thank the reviewer for his useful clarification. Accordingly, the title was modified. The results of the present paper do not seem to have a clear translational value. Indeed, as we stated, markers to help the diagnosis of gluten sensitivity are needed, since the diagnosis of GS is only clinical. However, even if the molecules investigated in the present report did not demonstrate an adequate diagnostic performance, we found a cut-off value of tissue transglutaminase and interferon gamma able to differentiate coeliac disease from gluten sensitivity with a good specificity despite an expected low sensitivity.

Reviewer's code: 00003692

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Interesting manuscript. References should be reviewed and reference numbers in text modified as some references appear to have been inadvertently duplicated.

We thank the reviewer for the kind appreciation. We revised the bibliography and corrected any inaccuracy.

Reviewer's code: 00002649

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This report seeks to distinguish among 4 causes of duodenal lymphocytosis (celiac disease, non-celiac gluten sensitivity, wheat allergy and irritable bowel syndrome) by retrospectively comparing the mRNA expression of tissue transglutaminase 2 (tTG2), interferon gamma (IFN￥), toll-like receptor 2 (TLR2) and myeloid differentiation factor 88 (MyD88) in duodenal biopsies from 89 patients obtained up to two years previously. Their findings are that: 1) measurement of a single marker is unable to discriminate among these underlying conditions or between celiac disease and non-celiac gluten sensitivity, 2) high levels of tTG2 and IFN￥ are more likely to predict development of celiac disease than non-celiac gluten sensitivity, 3) TLR2 does not predict celiac disease from non-celiac gluten sensitivity, and 4) MyD88 predicts increased intestinal permeability nonspecifically as a consequence of severe intestinal damage common to all of these conditions. The data support the conclusions and present information that may be useful in studying the pathogenesis of these disorders, but their use in clinical diagnosis is probably remote. I suggest that "can" be substituted for "may" since the

subject is the ability to predict…rather than permission to do so. Other suggestions:1) page 5, paragraph 2 line6 "connective tissue diseases". 2) page 5 paragraph 2, line 14 "…despite the report that GS…".3) page 1, paragraph1, line 8 "drive the production…" 4) paragraph 1, line 8,"through" not "trough".5) paragraph 2, line 1" The aim…" 6) page 6, paragraph 2 line 2 "the Bucharest…". 7) page 6, paragraph 3, line 10 "included" rather than "enclosed" 8) page 7, paragraph 3, line 4" RNA was extracted from at least 5, 10 um sections of paraffin block"9) page 8, paragraph3, line 4 "…characteristics are summarized…" not resumed.10) page 8, paragraph 3, line 5 "…agreement among…" not between.

We found the comments and the suggestion very useful to improve the manuscript quality. Therefore we modified the text accordingly.