

Answers to the reviewer N° 03260089

We are grateful to the referee for his useful suggestions

- 1) We added in the manuscript the following sentence: “although an overestimation of FC levels in comparison with Calprest® ELISA test was found.” (page 5, line 3 from the top).
- 2) We intentionally did not specify IBS-D as diarrhea is predominantly, but not constantly present, in case of intestinal inflammation, therefore FC assessment can be advisable also in selected patients with only abdominal pain.
- 3) We did not include active microscopic colitis because, although significantly higher than those found in inactive disease, absolute FC levels showed a slighting increase (usually less than 100 µg/g) due to a predominant lymphocytic infiltrate, therefore in a clinical setting unable to reliably differentiate microscopic colitis from functional disorders.