

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 66144

Title: Serologic diagnosis of Celiac Disease: may it be suitable for adults?

Reviewer's code: 02444986

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Academic Research, Doctor, Professor, Research Scientist

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Turkey

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2021-03-21

Reviewer chosen by: Ya-Juan Ma

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-03-29 02:34

Reviewer performed review: 2021-03-30 13:28

Review time: 1 Day and 10 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Author's concisely reviewed the issue of diagnosing celiac disease (CD) without duodenal biopsy in adult patients based on most recent literature. I agree with their conclusion on the necessity for the biopsy supporting the clinical and serological finding. This paper is a valuable overview on the differences in CD diagnosis between children and adults.

We thank the reviewer for the kind appreciation of our article

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 66144

Title: Serologic diagnosis of Celiac Disease: may it be suitable for adults?

Reviewer's code: 03742189

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree:

Professional title:

Reviewer's Country/Territory: South Korea

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2021-03-21

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-03-23 00:27

Reviewer performed review: 2021-04-01 09:55

Review time: 9 Days and 9 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<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
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	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

Your study is focused on the possibility of no biopsy approach to celiac disease diagnosis in adults. Your articles seem to be a kind of metaanalysis. Therefore, please suggest the forest plot of metaanalysis of all related articles.

The aim of our article was to write a narrative review about the possibility that anti-transglutaminase levels, when reaching a certain threshold in adult patients with suspicion of celiac disease, could be suitable to avoid histology. We did not perform a meta-analysis because of the lack of adequate data for this purpose. We clarified this aspect in the revised version of our manuscript.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 66144

Title: Serologic diagnosis of Celiac Disease: may it be suitable for adults?

Reviewer's code: 05458182

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Deputy Director

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Russia

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2021-03-21

Reviewer chosen by: Ya-Juan Ma

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-03-29 05:06

Reviewer performed review: 2021-04-04 11:53

Review time: 6 Days and 6 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The title reflects the main subject of the manuscript. The abstract summarizes and reflects the work described in the manuscript. The key words reflect the focus of the manuscript. The manuscript adequately describes the background, present status and significance of the study. The manuscript describes methods, experiments and data analysis in adequate detail. The manuscript interprets the findings adequately and appropriately, highlighting the key points concisely, clearly and logically. The table has a good quality. The manuscript meets the requirements of use of SI units. The manuscript cites appropriately the latest, important and authoritative references. The manuscript is well organized and presented. The style, language and grammar are accurate and appropriate. The author prepares the manuscript according to the appropriate research (PRISMA 2009 Checklist) methods and reporting. The manuscript met the requirements of ethics. As we know, the diagnosis of celiac disease based on a combination of the assessment of clinical symptoms, positive serological markers and histological picture of villous atrophy of the small intestine. At the same time, histological examination is not always required to establish a diagnosis of celiac disease in children. This is due to the correlation between the degree of villous atrophy and the level of the antibodies to tissue transglutaminase IgA (TGA) which is observed in children. According to a decision of the European Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (EPSGHAN), the sufficient criteria for the diagnosis of celiac disease in children without biopsy of the small intestine are the following: an increased level of TGA value with the cut-off of x10 upper limit of normal (ULN) and the presence of a positive value of anti-endomysial antibodies. The manuscript is a review of the literature which discusses the possibility of diagnosing of celiac disease without histological examination in adults. Several studies have confirmed the high sensitivity and specificity of TGA for predicting villous atrophy in adults. Some researchers suggest using threshold values for TGA



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value even below the cut-off of $\times 10$ ULN. The review also points out that the difficulty of diagnosing celiac disease without a biopsy among adults lies in the presence of patients with seronegative celiac disease, as well as patients with villous atrophy without celiac disease. Such conditions in adults are more common and should be considered during the diagnostic process. This review is based on several retrospective studies, so the real possibility of avoiding endoscopic examination for diagnosing celiac disease in adults is still a matter of debate and requires further research. In general, the article is of undoubted interest and allows us to expand our understanding of the difficulties of diagnosing celiac disease.

We thank the reviewer for the kind appreciation of our article. According to the comments, in the revised manuscript we underlined that, since most of studies are retrospective, the real possibility of avoiding endoscopic examination for diagnosing celiac disease in adults is still a matter of debate and requires further research.