

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 24793

Title: A Danish cohort of monozygotic IBD twins; clinical characteristics and inflammatory activity

Reviewer's code: 03473991

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Science editor: Yuan Qi

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CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Frederik et al. describe a novel, Danish cohort of monozygotic twins with IBD as a substrate for future translational studies. The aim of the article is to describe the cohort as it relates to concordance and discordance of IBD phenotype, treatment and inflammatory markers. Merging 2 databases in Denmark (the National Patient Register and Danish Twin Register), they identified 159 monozygotic twin pairs that met inclusion criteria (one twin had IBD) of which 62 pairs consented to participate. Clinical data from these prevalent cases were obtained from patient medical records and questionnaires (patient-reported outcomes). Inter-observer variation in classifying disease phenotype via the Montreal Schema was accounted for via double abstraction by a GI specialist and senior physician. Most importantly, biological specimens including blood, stool, sputum and oral swabs were collected via a mobile lab for future analyses. This is a generally descriptive paper describing concordant and discordant clinical characteristics amongst the included twins with IBD. While interesting, I find Tables 1 and 2 difficult to navigate. It took some time to realize that the respective numbers in each table referred to pair of twins and not single patients. This should be explicitly



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stated in a legend for both tables for clarification. Also, as these are prevalent cases at different phases of treatment and disease course with a wide range between diagnoses (94 days - 14 years, average 6 years), the clinical data and fecal calprotectin are difficult to interpret in a meaningful way. Correlating the calprotectin data with the patient-reported disease activity metrics (HBI and SCCI) at the time of sample collection would provide an added layer of clinical context and interest to these findings. As the authors realize, the real strength of this cohort is in the future translational studies, primarily as it relates to epigenetics. While they very briefly and superficially discuss these plans in the last paragraph of the conclusion, expanding on future plans for hypothesis-driven translational research would further strengthen the manuscript. Otherwise, this is a nice introduction to a novel cohort that hopes to generate fascinating future work.