

Responses to the reviewers



May 15, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format

(file name: ESPPS Manuscript NO:10466-edited_15.04.14.doc).

Title: Increased density of tolerogenic dendritic cells in the small bowel mucosa of celiac patients.

Authors: Tamara Vorobjova, Oivi Uibo, Kaire Heilman, Raivo Uibo

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO:10466

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

1. The format has been updated.

2. Revisions have been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers.

(1) Thank you very much for your critical remarks and valuable advice concerning our paper. We are glad to answer your questions and specific comments:

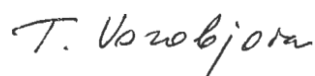
1. Because healthy persons could not be included in the control group due to the ethical constraints (gastroduodenoscopy), we selected thirty-nine patients (mean age 12.8 ± 4.9 years) with other diagnoses (mainly functional dyspepsia, duodenal ulcer and erosive gastritis) for the control group. We added this explanation to the Material and Methods section in the "Study population" paragraph on p. 7, lines 7-10.
2. The definition of "sampling place" is a small bowel biopsy from the distal duodenum performed by gastroduodenoscopy. We added this explanation to the Material and Methods section in the "Study population" paragraph on p. 7, lines 13-14 and on p.7 in the Material, in the first paragraph.
3. Another limitation of our study is that we did not know the microbiota status in the small intestines of the studied persons. We agree that the microbiota can strongly influence and regulate the

homeostasis of effector immune cells, including the distribution of different subtypes of DCs and Treg cells, along with other immunoregulatory events in the small bowel mucosa (Bollrath and Powrie 2013; Goto and Ivanov 2013). However, this factor is known to be one of the major limitations of other similar studies, unless the intestinal microbiota is studied specifically (Sjoberg *et al.* 2013). Even in cases where it is studied, interpretation of the results is difficult because the intestinal microbiota is dependent on different nutritional factors (Visser *et al.* 2009, Sorini and Falcone 2013). We added this paragraph and two references (No 54 and 55) to the Discussion section on p. 17, second paragraph.

3. References and typesetting were corrected.

Thank you again for considering our manuscript for publication in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "T. Vorobjova". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter 'T' being large and prominent. The signature is centered horizontally below the "Sincerely yours," text.

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