

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**Manuscript NO:** 91102

**Title:** Melanocortin 3,5 receptors immunohistochemical expression in colonic mucosa of inflammatory bowel disease patients: A matter of disease activity?

**Provenance and peer review:** Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 00189260

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Czech Republic

**Author's Country/Territory:** Italy

**Manuscript submission date:** 2023-12-21

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-12-28 08:16

**Reviewer performed review:** 2024-01-05 16:55

**Review time:** 8 Days and 8 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 Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation

<b>Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
<b>Language quality</b>	<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
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	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

Minor language polishing needed (...Patients with conditions that, in the investigators' judgment, might have led to bias in the study (e.g., patients with decompensated comorbidities or ongoing severe acute conditions such as decompensated diabetes or severe cardiovascular disease)...this sentence doesn't make sense Methods ...in the case of suspected UC (continuous inflammatory involvement without skip lesions and with rectal involvement)...So CD patients L2 (Montreal classification) were considered as UC? - were samples taken from the same site in colon (ascendens/descendens...) in Crohn's and UC (were any samples in CD taken from the left colon (in UC they were all from the left colon/rectum))? - in multisegmental involvement and in pancolitis, were samples taken from the most affected area? Results ...Like the CD, MC3R labelling in UC samples was significantly higher in inflamed mucosa (fold: +12,  $p < 0.01$  vs normal mucosa)...there is a difference in results in the text and in the abstract (+12 and +5,6) - has a correlation been made between the endoscopic scoring system and the number of receptors? Discussion -... in the segments of the intestine most affected by histological damage...- samples were always taken from the most affected site (not clear in



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methodology)? -I understand the therapeutic potential of MC3,5R agonists in UC since the colon is involved, but what the about the patients with CD and ileocolonic or jejuno-ileal involvement? This could be very briefly discussed in the last paragraph before the strengths and limitations. Limitations -in CD patients only colon was tested for MC3,5R. Is there an evidence in the literature of the presence of those receptors also in small bowel? Fig. 4 a 5 - Data are expressed as %  $\pm$  S.E.M. of MC3R positive cells / total cells counted...Shouldn't be MC5R instead of MC3R?

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**Reviewer's code:** 04163041

**Position:** Editorial Board

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**Professional title:** Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** India

**Author's Country/Territory:** Italy

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Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
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	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

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File attached.