

Author's response to reviews

Title: Self-reported dietary adherence, disease-specific symptoms, and quality of life are associated with healthcare provider follow-up in celiac disease

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Version: 1 Date: 06 Sep 2017

Author's response to reviews:

Editor and reviewer comments are reproduced below. Our responses are preceded by ">>>".

Technical comments:

- Please include the email addresses of all co-authors on the title page.

>>> Done.

- Please include the "ethics approval and consent to participate" and "consent for publication" statements in your Declarations. More detail is at the bottom of this email.

>>> Done.

Reviewer reports:

Patrizia Zentilin (Reviewer 1): The Authors conducted a survey of members of Beyond Celiac, a national patient advocacy groups in USA, collecting responses from a large number of adults who reported having celiac disease, evaluating dietary adherence, disease-specific symptoms, and quality of life and association with healthcare provider follow-up in celiac disease. The research original, novel and the Authors have done a good job, especially for the number of respondents. Methodology is accurate. General logic and justification of interpretations and conclusions are obvious.

>>> Thank you for the positive comments.

The same authors suggest the limitations of the study. It could suffer from self-selection bias based on who received notification of the survey; the information are reported by patients and there is no documentation for controlling the veracity of the data; the study is cross-sectional and observational, so it is not possible to determine causality in the associations observed. These are essential limitations, but it cannot be left out of the large number of participants.

Supplementary material

Figure S4: It is amazing that autoimmune thyroiditis does not appear in autoimmune diseases related with celiac disease, because the presence of CD could favor the appearance of autoimmune thyroiditis (Naiyer AJ et al. Tissue transglutaminase antibodies in individuals with celiac disease bind to thyroid follicles and extracellular matrix and may contribute to thyroid dysfunction. *Thyroid* 2008; 18:1171-8; Leerner A et al. Gut-thyroid axis and celiac disease. *Endocrine Connections* 2017; 6:R52-8).

>>> Thank you for catching this omission. In fact, the survey did ask about “hypo/hyperthyroidism”, but a typo in our data was preventing it from appearing in Figure S4. We have fixed the typo, so Figure S4 now shows that about 25% of respondents report having hypo- or hyperthyroidism.

Page 11, line 29: ... associated with improvement (?) of...

>>> We have clarified this sentence as follows: “For example, involvement in support groups has been associated with less severe CeD-related symptoms [14] and involvement in face-to-face social support networks has been associated with higher CeD-related quality of life [31].”

Figure 1 legend: explain more clearly "Pr (visited HCP)".

>>> We have clarified this figure. The y-axis label is now “Fraction who visited HCP,” which indicates the predicted probability, based on multiple logistic regression, that a respondent has visited an HCP in the last 5 years, given the respondent’s scores for all three instruments.

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Version: 2 Date: 15 Nov 2017

Author's response to reviews:

We have revised the manuscript as requested.

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Version: 3 **Date:** 17 Nov 2017

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We have further revised the Declarations section.

All the survey questions were already available at the figshare link we provided. The actual questionnaire was a series of webpages. It no longer exists. Nonetheless, we have now compiled a word document that includes all the questions in a similar format to how they were organized in the survey. The document is available at the figshare link along with the rest of the data.