



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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Title: Urotensin II levels in patients with inflammatory bowel disease

Reviewer's code: 03727521

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Assistant Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Brazil

Author's Country/Territory: Croatia

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Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-04-27 21:58

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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 Grade E: Do not publish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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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



**Baishideng
Publishing
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

First of all, thank you for the opportunity to review this innovative article. The subject is new in the literature and very interesting. In this cross-sectional study the authors aimed to determine serum UII levels in patients with IBD and to compare them to matched control. The study included 50 adult IBD patients (26 with Crohn's disease and 24 with ulcerative colitis) and 50 age and gender matched controls. Ulcerative colitis endoscopic index of severity (UCEIS) and Simple endoscopic score for Crohn's disease (SES-CD) were used for endoscopic evaluation. IBD patients have significantly higher concentrations of UII when compared to control subjects (7.57 ± 1.41 vs. 1.98 ± 0.69 ng/mL, $P < 0.001$). Serum UII levels had a significant positive correlation with UCEIS ($r = 0.425$, $P = 0.048$) and SES-CD ($r = 0.466$, $P = 0.028$) scores. I suggest to the authors to rewrite the aims of the study of Abstract and of Introduction section according to Core tip. The aim written in Core tip is more complete than in the abstract or in the Introduction sections (In current study, we investigated UII levels in IBD population and compared it to matched control subjects, as well as connection of UII with relevant clinical and biochemical parameters). Please define the endoscopic disease classification based on SES-CD score. Values of 2, 7 and 16 are repeated and it is not clear if the patient was classified as remission or mild for SES-CD = 2, mild or moderate for SES-CD = 7 and moderate or severe if the SES-CD = 16. In fact, the authors presented the disease activity classification based on these scores (UCEIS and SES-CD), but they don't use this classification in Results section. Data are provided in the continuous form. The authors could remove the classification. I suggest including the medications in use in both groups, IBD and control. Were subjects from the IBD and control group with risk factors for cardiovascular disease such as overweight and obesity, dyslipidemia, hypertension excluded from the study? Cite hsCRP (mg/L) and fecal calprotectin ($\mu\text{g/g}$) - biomarkers - in the Methods section when the authors discuss about "Disease



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severity assessment” Are there prospective studies relating UII with the development of cardiovascular disease in the general population or in auto-immune disease population?