PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 90522

Title: Effect of AN-PEP protease in patients with celiac disease on a long-term gluten-free diet.

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer’s code: 07393181

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer’s Country/Territory: Brazil

Author’s Country/Territory: Argentina

Manuscript submission date: 2023-12-08

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-12-11 18:50

Reviewer performed review: 2023-12-20 04:46

Review time: 8 Days and 9 Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific quality</th>
<th>[ ] Grade A: Excellent</th>
<th>[ Y] Grade B: Very good</th>
<th>[ ] Grade C: Good</th>
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<td>[ ] Grade D: Fair</td>
<td>[ ] Grade E: Do not publish</td>
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| Novelty of this manuscript | [ ] Grade A: Excellent | [ Y] Grade B: Good | [ ] Grade C: Fair |
|                            | [ ] Grade D: No novelty |

| Creativity or innovation of this manuscript | [ ] Grade A: Excellent | [ Y] Grade B: Good | [ ] Grade C: Fair |
|                                             | [ ] Grade D: No creativity or innovation |
SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS
This study investigates the role of Aspergillus niger endopeptidase as an adjuvant in the treatment of celiac disease. The text is written clearly, with no difficulties for readers from non-English-speaking countries. The methodology was executed and described very well. I emphasize the inclusion criteria, which not only utilized clinical and laboratory data from patients, already sufficient for diagnosis, but also incorporated defining data such as biopsy results, convincingly demonstrating that the tested patients were unequivocally diagnosed with celiac disease. The results were well-presented, with solid and objective discussions. The conclusion and summary complement the overall readability of this manuscript. The references are up-to-date and adhere to a consistent format according to the journal's guidelines. I also commend the group's maturity in acknowledging the weaknesses of the study. However, I believe the major limitation of this work lies in the study duration, only 4 months. Some studies indicate that the reduction of antibodies in celiac disease occurs quite slowly when undergoing a gluten-free diet (doi: 10.1016/j.dld.2010.05.009). This leads me to believe that you might only observe the beginning of positive results between 6 to 12 months after treatment.
initiation, potentially achieving even better outcomes over a longer period. I congratulate the group for their excellent work in developing this manuscript. However, I kindly request, if possible, an extension of the evaluation period to determine whether the additive truly plays a role in the treatment of celiac disease.