OPEN PEER REVIEW

Open Peer Review (OPR)

As a new feature for progressing towards transparency, we decided to open a new window for all of our editors as well as authors titled "**Open Peer Review**". We hope by this new facility, our reviewers will be more motivated and authors will be more satisfied with the review process. We believe that publishing our peer review reports could make a transparent and clear environment for all our efforts within a journal, but not all reviewers tend to publish their comments.

What is "Open Peer Review" process?

An "Open Peer Review" process is making the details of all review process (including reviewers, associate editors, and EICs comments) as "Public" as it is agreed by EIC, Authors, and reviewers.

Advantages of "Open Peer Review" process

- More transparency, constructiveness and tactful comments of the peer review process: leads to an increase in the quality of reviews
- More motivations for all involved roles in the review process
- Authors' satisfactions from the review process: Increases honesty between authors and reviewers
- Education of both authors and new students
- Prevents reviewers from following their individual agendas and leading to the detection of reviewers' conflicts of interests

You can find out more at:
https://brieflands.com/briefland/knowledgebase/category/tree.html#opr.html

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Peer Review Report for "Association of the Glucocorticoid Receptor Gene Polymorphisms with TGF-β1 mRNA Expression in Childhood Asthma"

Author(s): Chenglin Pan, Yanjie Chen, Zewu Dong, Hongli Liu

Review Timeline:

Submit Date: 28 Feb 2021
Revised Date: 8 Oct 2021
Accepted Date: 18 Oct 2021

Revision (0)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

REFEREE: Reviewer | Revision (0)

8 May 2021

Dear AE,
This is an interesting study on the impact of polymorphic forms (TthIII1, BclI, ER22/23EK, N363S) of the NR3C1 glucocorticoid receptor gene on TGF-β1 mRNA expression in childhood asthmatic patients.
Thanks.

REFEREE: Reviewer | Revision (0)

19 Aug 2021

Dear AE,
The authors evaluated the impact of polymorphic forms of the NR3C1 glucocorticoid receptor gene on TGF-β1 mRNA expression in childhood asthma patients. They showed that TthIII1 significantly correlated with TGF-β 1 mRNA expression levels.
My criticism is as follow:
1. Demographic data of asthmatic children should be presented. Were they mild, moderate, or severe asthmatics? How about their sensitization status? Were they received any allergen-specific immunotherapy previously or currently?

2. Discussion: Please revise ‘However, some asthma children have reduced sensitivity or resistance to it.’ As ‘However, some children with asthma have reduced sensitivity or resistance to it.’
3. Discussion: Please revise ‘…structure that determining biological action or polymorphism’ as ‘…structure that determine biological action or polymorphism’.
4. Please cite for GINA and mentioned ‘national pediatric prevention and treatment cooperation group’ guideline.
5. Company names and country names should be uniformly given for the test materials.
6. Please check the format of Table 1. (the Asthma group ‘frequency’ heading should be in one line).
Thanks.

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision** (0) 26 Aug 2021

Dear EIC,
This paper has been examined by 2 external reviewers and then re-evaluated in-house. The reviewers believe that the manuscript is interesting but not publishable in its current form. They have raised a number of points, listed below for the authors' convenience.
Thanks.

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision** (0) 26 Aug 2021

Dear Authors,
Thank you for submitting your manuscript to Iran J Pediatr. Your manuscript has now been reviewed by two reviewers and an Associate Editor. I now have the reports of the Referees, which suggest that your manuscript might be suitable for publication following a number of revisions. I attach some reviewer comments and invite you to submit a revised version of your manuscript addressing the points made.
Thanks.

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (1)

Reply to Reviewers

Ideally, the reviewing process can significantly improve the submitted manuscripts by allowing the authors to take into account the advice of reviewers. Author(s) must reply to all reviewers' comments in a separate Word file, point by point. A "**Reply to Reviewers**" document is submitted along with revised manuscript during submission of revised files, summarizing the changes that the authors made in response to the reviewers' comments. The responses to reviewers' comments specifies how the authors addressed each comment the reviewers made.

You can read the authors' responses to the reviewers' comments in the next page.

Manuscript title:

Association of the glucocorticoid receptor gene polymorphisms with TGF-β1mRNA expression in childhood asthma

One-by-one reply:

Reviewer 1:

This is an interesting study on the impact of polymorphic forms (TthIII1, BclI, ER22/23EK, N363S) of the NR3C1 glucocorticoid receptor gene on TGF-β1 mRNA expression in childhood asthmatic patients.

Reviewer2:

The first question: Demographic data of asthmatic children should be presented. Were they mild, moderate or severe asthmatics? How about their sensitization status? Were they received any allergen specific immunotherapy previously or currently?

Demographic data of asthmatic children are visible in the first and second lines of background;
Were they mild, moderate or severe asthmatics? (see lines 6-8 of the subjects of materials and methods);

How about their sensitization status? (see lines 8-9 of the subjects of materials and methods);

Were they received any allergen specific immunotherapy previously or currently? (see in lines 9-10 of the subjects of materials and methods).

The second question: Discussion: Please revise ‘However, some asthma children have reduced sensitivity or resistance to it.’ As ‘However, some children with asthma have reduced sensitivity or resistance to it.’(see lines 2-3 of discussion)

The third question: Discussion: Please revise ‘…structure that determining biological action or polymorphism’ as ‘…structure that determine biological action or polymorphism’. (see lines 4-5 of discussion)

The fourth question: Please cite for GINA and mentioned ‘national pediatric prevention and treatment cooperation group’ guideline. (see lines 4-6 of the subjects of materials and methods).

The fifth question: Company names and country names should be uniformly given for the test materials.(see lines 3-4 of Specimen Collection and DNA Extraction, lines 11-12, 14 of Genotyping of TthIII1, BclI, ER22/23EK, N363S, lines 2, 4, 8, of TGF-β1 mRNA expression)

The sixth question: Please check the format of Table 1. (Asthma group ‘frequency’ heading should be in one line) Asthma group ‘frequency’ have been revised, see table1.

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Revision (1)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (1) 24 Sep 2021

Dear AE,
Comments for the authors:
1. Please revise 'remoddling' as 'remodeling'. Line 16.
2. Information about the severity of asthmatic patients should not be given in parenthesis as the format of referencing is similar. Please revise as including mild (n=32), moderate (n=17), severe (n=3). Also, the grammar of the entire sentence should be checked.
3. The allergen sensitization status should be emphasized. Please remove the statement '36 patients of them were sensitive to glucocorticoids, 16 had decreased sensitivity or resistance. '
4. Please revise ' remolding' as 'remodeling'. Line 36 & line 46.
5. Interleukins involved in the pathogenesis of inflammation in asthma in addition to TGF-β should be given.
6. It seems that there is a missing line in the sentence 'Glucocorticoid (GC) is widely used in anti-inflammatory drug for the treatment of…' Lines 47-48.
Thanks.

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision** (1) 24 Sep 2021

Dear EIC,
The second round of peer review of your manuscript is completed. I now have the reports of the Referees, which suggest that your manuscript needs more correction.
Thanks.

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision** (1) 24 Sep 2021

Dear Authors,
Thank you for submitting your manuscript to Iran J Pediatr for consideration of publication. The second round of peer review of your manuscript is complete. according to our reviewer and editor comments, this version needs some minor corrections.
Thanks.

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (2)

Reply to Reviewers

Ideally, the reviewing process can significantly improve the submitted manuscripts by allowing the authors to take into account the advice of reviewers. Author(s) must reply to all reviewers' comments in a separate Word file, point by point. A "**Reply to Reviewers**" document is submitted along with revised manuscript during submission of revised files, summarizing the changes that the authors made in response to the reviewers' comments. The responses to reviewers' comments specifies how the authors addressed each comment the reviewers made.

You can read the authors' responses to the reviewers' comments in the next page.

Manuscript title:

Association of the glucocorticoid receptor gene polymorphisms with TGF-β1mRNA expression in childhood asthma

One-by-one reply:

1. Please revise ‘remoddling’ as ‘remodeling’. Line 16.
   I had revised the word ‘remoddling’.

2. Information about severity of asthmatic patients should not be given in parenthesis as format of referencing is similar. Please revise as including mild (n=32), moderate (n=17), severe (n=3). Also the grammar of the entire sentence should be checked.
   I had revised the sentence: *There were 32 mild, 17 moderate and 3 severe cases of asthmatic children who had been diagnosed for 2-3 years.*

3. The allergen sensitization status should be emphasized. Please remove the statement ‘36 patients of them were sensitive to glucocorticoids, 16 had decreased sensitivity or resistance.
   The allergen sensitization status: All enrolled children were screened for allergens (serological allergen detection), including 10 non-sensitized, 16 mono-sensitized, and 26 multi-sensitized patients

4. Please revise ‘ remolding’ as ‘remodeling’. Line 36 & line 46.
   I had revised the word ‘remoddling’.

5. Interleukins involved in the pathogenesis of inflammation in asthma in addition to TGF-β should be given.
   Many polymorphisms and cytokines are involved in the pathogenesis of inflammation in asthma such as TGF-β, *interleukins (IL-2, IL-4, IL-5, IL-9, IL-6, IL-10, IL-12, IL-13, and IL-17, IL-22, IL-25, IL-33 etc.)(1, 2)* and so on.

6. It seems that there is a missing line in the sentence ‘Glucocorticoid (GC) is widely used in anti-inflammatory drug for the treatment of…’ Lines 47-48.
   I lost the sentence by mistake, but now I had added it.

1. Ito T, Hirose K, Nakajima H. Bidirectional roles of IL-22 in the pathogenesis of allergic airway inflammation. Allergology international : official journal of the Japanese Society of Allergology. 2019;68(1):4-8.
2. Gibeon D, Menzies-Gow AN. Targeting interleukins to treat severe asthma. Expert review of respiratory medicine. 2012;6(4):423-39.

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (2)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision** (2) 18 Oct 2021

Dear EIC,
The authors have addressed the concerns raised by the reviewers and have acceptably revised the manuscript.
Thanks.

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision** (2) 18 Oct 2021

Dear Authors,
Thank you for submitting your manuscript to Iran J Pediatr for consideration of publication. The third round of peer review of your manuscript is complete. At this time, your manuscript is acceptable for publication.
Thanks.