28-January-2024

Dear prof. Rashad

You submitted a manuscript AJGH-2401-1048 entitled " **The influence of lncRNA IFNG-AS1 expression dysregulation on the prediction of celiac diseases among patients with Hashimoto's thyroiditis (HT)** " to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology.  The reviewer's comments (s) are included at the end of this email.

The reviewers have requested revisions to your manuscript.  Therefore, I invite you to respond to the reviewers' comments and revise your manuscript. Instructions on how to do this can be found at the bottom of this email.

Because we are trying to facilitate the timely publication of manuscripts submitted to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, your revised manuscript should be submitted as soon as possible.

Once again, thank you for submitting your manuscript to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, and I look forward to receiving your revision.

Sincerely,

Salem Y Mohamed

Chief Editor, African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Please revise your manuscript using a word processing program and save it on your computer.  Please also highlight the changes to your manuscript within the document using the track changes mode in MS Word or using bold or colored text.

Once the revised manuscript is prepared, you can send it to me via email.

When submitting your revised manuscript, please provide your responses and details of changes made to each comment in an Author Response Letter.  To expedite the processing of the revised manuscript, please be as specific as possible in your response to the reviewers.

**Reviewer Comments to Author:**

**Reviewer1: (AM)**

Excellent research idea, but you have profound mistakes concerning methods and results. Both need meticulous revision and statistical consultation. The discussion and conclusion cannot be revised till the result section is revised and corrected. I have attached comments within the manuscript and tables.

Check the uploaded files.

**Reviewer 2: (ME)**

1- According to Figure 1, to be enrolled, an inclusion criterion should be met (clinical + serological evidence of HT), and then 100 patients are enrolled. Of them, 50 are healthy; how come this? How healthy were they initially enrolled with the criteria of HT? Furthermore, in the methods section, it is mentioned that 60 patients with HT were enrolled, and 40 age and sex-matched healthy individuals were included  
2- The text needs to clarify how many patients in this cohort were diagnosed with HT and CD based on clinical and which type of immune markers and biopsies.  
3- I explored the results section, and I cannot find the levels of lncRNA IFNG-AS1 in the three groups and the p-value between them.  
4- AUC and diagnostic accuracies given in the results section: are these used to explore lncRNA IFNG-AS1 as surrogate markers for HT and CD diagnosis?  
5- What are the limitations of the current study?  
6- check the attached Word file for further comments

**Check the uploaded files.**

**Reviewer3: (MS)**

This is a well-written manuscript that only needs minor corrections. Please confirm and revise the references according to journal guidelines and correct figures as recommended.

**Check the uploaded files.**

**Editor Comments to Author:**

1. Please check the author names and affiliations included on your Title Page, mainly that the spelling of all authors' names is correct. They are cited in the order you wish them to appear in the final article. In addition, each author's affiliation details are correct.

2. Please include a 'Structured Abstract': not more than 250 words, broken down into, i.e., Aims, Patients & Methods/Materials & Methods, Results, and Conclusions. For authors presenting the results of clinical trials, the guidelines recommended by CONSORT should be followed when writing the abstract (http://www.consort-statement.org/), and the clinical trial registration number should be included at the end of the abstract, where available.

3. Please include up to 10 keywords in your revised manuscript (including the four keywords you selected as part of the submission process).

4. Please amend the references as per the author's guidelines:

a. References should be numerically listed in the reference section in the order they occur in the text.

b. References should appear as a number, i.e., [1, 2] in the text.

c. References should cite three authors et al.: It is our house style to list a maximum of six authors, and if there is more than this, three authors et al.

5. Please ensure all tables and boxes are titled and cited in the text. Three-line tables are preferred.

Please find a link to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Author Guidelines, which explains these sections in more detail: <https://ajgh.journals.ekb.eg/journal/authors.note>.

6. Please check the PDF file of your manuscript regarding plagiarism checking.

7. Please add the scale bar, annotations, magnifications, and program that generated these figures. Also, it is better to submit figures with high resolution and brightness.