

**LETTER**

# Response to 'Remarkable prevalence of celiac disease in patients with irritable bowel syndrome plus fibromyalgia in comparison with those with isolated irritable bowel syndrome: a case-finding study'

David D Sherry

See related research by Rodrigo *et al.*, <http://arthritis-research.com/content/15/6/R201>, and related letter by Rodrigo *et al.*, <http://arthritis-research.com/content/16/1/403>

In a recent issue of *Arthritis Research & Therapy*, I read with interest the report by Rodrigo and colleagues [1] documenting a fairly high rate of celiac disease in patients with irritable bowel syndrome and fibromyalgia. It is noteworthy that their patients improved on a gluten-free diet. However, that article references the report by Taubman and colleagues [2] and implies that our patient improved on a gluten-free diet whereas she actually, as reported, had an exacerbation of her symptoms on a gluten-free diet. Although the majority of such patients may improve when their celiac disease is treated, I do not want your readers to have the impression that such improvement is a uniform phenomenon. Both conditions are relatively common and therefore it is to be expected that some individuals will be unfortunate enough to have both conditions, unrelated to each other.

#### Competing interests

The author declares that he has no competing interests.

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#### References

1. Rodrigo L, Blanco I, Bobes J, de Serres FJ: Remarkable prevalence of celiac disease in patients with irritable bowel syndrome plus fibromyalgia in comparison with those with isolated irritable bowel syndrome: a case-finding study. *Arthritis Res Ther* 2013, 15:R201.
2. Taubman B, Mamula P, Sherry DD: Prevalence of asymptomatic celiac disease in children with fibromyalgia: a pilot study. *Pediatr Rheumatol Online J* 2011, 9:11.

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