

Reply to “Whether the absence of tongue papillae caused by various reasons can be regarded as the clinical standard of a certain disease”



To the Editor: We thank Dr Jianqiu Jin for his interesting comment. Indeed, we acknowledge that tongue atrophy can present as a result of various systemic conditions and cannot be taken on its own as a diagnostic feature for the inherited blistering disease epidermolysis bullosa. Therefore, the aim of our article was to study the diagnostic accuracy of absent tongue papillae for predicting the recessive dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa subtypes, within a cohort of patients with epidermolysis bullosa. It provides a guide for the subclassifications of patients who already have a diagnosis of epidermolysis bullosa into the minor types of the condition.

We would like to highlight Dr Jin's comment on the lack of a standardized diagnostic criteria for the degree of lingual papillary atrophy and invite the wider oral medicine community to work on such a tool.

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Funding sources: Fondo Nacional de Desarrollo Científico y Tecnológico (FONDECYT) Initiation into Research grant (#11140440), Chile.

Conflicts of interest: None disclosed.

Reviewed and approved by Facultad de Odontología, Universidad de Chile Independent Ethic Committee; approval #2015/02.

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaad.2020.06.049>