Table 3

Causes of antibody-negative coeliac disease

- Self-commenced GFD prior to serological testing or duodenal biopsy
- IgA deficiency
- Immunosuppressive medication
- Early coeliac disease with lesser grades of villous atrophy (have not yet generated antibody response)
- Late coeliac disease (immunologically overwhelmed)

It is essential to encourage patients to continue on a gluten containing diet and refer cases in which you are still suspicious, even if the antibody tests are negative