Supplementary data:

PCR

PCR was performed for 35 cycles using a 60-second denaturizing step at 940C, 60-second annealing step at 60^0C and a 60-second extension step at 72^0C. The PCR products of 450-500 bps were loaded onto agarose gels and the ethidium bromide stained bands were recorded.

Cloning and Sequencing of PCR products

The specific PCR products were excised from the gels and extracted using Fermentas Gel extraction Kit. PCR product extracts were cloned into a plasmid vector using the Fermentas GeneJet Kit and Xli Blue® competent bacteria. A total of 72 (36 IgA + 36 IgG) plasmid constructs were picked separately for each biopsy (after checking for PCR product insertion) and submitted for sequencing to Service XS, Leiden, The Netherlands.

Immunohistochemistry

Parotid glands were fixed in formaldehyde (4%), embedded in paraffin and sectioned. The sections were stained after deparaffinisation, pre-treatment with Ultra CC1 (Ventana Medical Systems, Inc, USA), antigen retrieval and endogenous peroxidase blocking using the Benchmark machine. Sections were immunohistochemically stained with polyclonal IgA (1:12000), polyclonal IgG (1:32000) and monoclonal CD79a, clone: JCB117 (dilution 1:100) antibodies. All antibodies used were from DAKO. The sections were then treated with peroxidase-labelled secondary antibody and visualized with the chromogen DAB (3,3' Diaminobenzidine) solution.