

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 59142

Title: Response of Gut Microbiota to Serum Metabolome Changes in Intrahepatic Cholestasis of Pregnant Patients

Reviewer's code: 03647444

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Academic Research, Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy

Author's Country/Territory: China

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Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-09-15 09:15

Reviewer performed review: 2020-09-24 15:04

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Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I read with great interest the article by Guohua Li et al. exploring the gut microbiota shift in patients with ICP and consequent metabolome shifts. The authors found that serum metabolome was altered in ICP patients compared to healthy controls, with significant differences in the bile, taurine, and hypotaurine metabolite pathways. Prior to a possible acceptance, the authors should amend several issues: - It is not very clear in the introduction section the link between microbial changes and a possible benefit in the clinical practice, justifying the aim of the study. - Line 109: please amend several eminent studies linking intestinal inflammation and microbial shift: DOI: 10.3748/wjg.v26.i22.3098., <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-49893-5>, <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12876-019-0930-3>, doi.org/10.1111/jgh.15183. - The link between metabolome and microbiota evaluation is not strict since metabolomics is influenced also by diet and several other factors. Do the author investigate these factors? Moreover, these limitations should be cited. - In the discussion section the authors should discuss what are the intervention that is possible to use in the clinical practice and which design should have further studies to confirm their results. - The authors should better amend in the limitation section the use of a not wide-comprehensive methods for gut microbiota assessment. - In conclusion, are there elements allowing to say whether dysbiosis may be a cause of ICP or if it is a mere consequence? - English quality may be ameliorated - Please correct several typos found throughout the manuscript.