

Dear Editors and Reviewers:

We are pleased to have an opportunity to have our paper entitled "Overgrowth of *Lactobacillus* in gastric cancer" (Manuscript NO: 64677) published in your Journal. Thanks for the constructive comments from reviewers and scientific editor, which would be much useful for our ongoing study on gastric cancer. The manuscript has been revised as required. Those revisions are highlighted in yellow in the manuscript.

1. Answers to the comments from reviewers:

(1) Response to Reviewer #1:

Reviewer #1: The authors of the article entitled "Overgrowth of *Lactobacillus* in gastric cancer" describe the role of *Lactobacillus* in gastric cancer and pre-cancerous conditions of the stomach. The method of collecting information is adequate and the data are well presented and reasoned. The article is well written and informative. The title, abstract and keyword reflect the topic of the manuscript. The authors should address only minor comments before the article is accepted.

1) Core tip: the core tip repeats the general statements from the Abstract. I would suggest to rewrite the core tip in manner that it would present key information regarding the role of *Lactobacillus* in gastric cancer.

Response: Thanks for the comment. The core tip has been revised accordingly.

2) Page 5: the title of the section OVERGROWTH OF LACTOBACILLUS IN THE CANCEROUS STOMACH is not appropriate. The chapter describes the pre-cancerous or non-cancerous conditions which could induce the growth of bacteria in gastric environment, therefore, the title should reflect this accordingly.

Response: Thanks for the constructive comment. We have revised the title as OVERGROWTH OF LACTOBACILLUS IN GASTRIC DISEASES.

3) Page 7: in the sentence "...alleviation of mucosal inflammation, modulation of mucosal immunity, and ever anti-cancer effects." replace "ever" with "even".

Response: This typing error has been corrected.

4) Page 7: the statement "...H. pylori is pretty low in gastric mucosa of symptomatic patients."

Is not clear. The disease is explained in the following sentences, however it would be easier for the reader, if you could add for example ...of symptomatic patients with GI discomfort or similar.

Response: Thanks. It has been revised as suggested.

5) Table 3: Could you add legend for abbreviations below this table, too.

Response: Thanks. The legend for abbreviations in Table 3 has been added.

(2) Response to Reviewer #2:

Reviewer #2: This review summarizes the relationship between the microbiota in the stomach, especially *Lactobacillus*, and gastric cancer. *Lactobacillus* is thought to have a suppressive effect on gastric cancer due to the reduction of *H. pylori* and its anti-inflammatory effect, but there are some reports that it is involved in carcinogenesis. In this review, the latest information on gastric cancer and lactobacilli with many references is sufficiently covered without excess or deficiency.

Response: Thanks for the kind comment.

(3) Response to Reviewer #3:

Reviewer #3: This invited review article was well written and nicely summarized the latest findings about *Lactobacillus* in gastric cancer.

Response: Thanks for the kind comment.

(4) Response to Reviewer #4:

Reviewer #4: well written, adequate development on the manuscript. Interesting topic with lack of strong evidence yet.

Response: Thanks for the comment. We agree with the reviewer's opinion that further studies are required to make a definite conclusion regarding the role of *Lactobacillus* in the gastric carcinogenesis.

2. Answers to the comments from Editor Office's comments and suggestions:

- 1) Thanks a lot for the constructive comments. We have checked the references, and found the self-referencing rate is 3.7%, which is lower than the criteria.

2) We have uploaded the revision files enclosing approved grant application form.

Once again, thanks very much for the reviewers' and editors' comments and suggestions.

Best Regards

Sincerely yours.

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