



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

Manuscript NO: 68457

Title: Immunomodulation by probiotics and prebiotics in hepatocellular carcinoma

Provenance and peer review: Invited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05619876

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Associate Chief Physician, Associate Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2021-05-27

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-06-03 04:08

Reviewer performed review: 2021-06-08 05:08

Review time: 5 Days

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 Grade E: Do not publish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



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Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

HCC is the most prevalent primary malignancy in patients suffering chronic liver diseases and cirrhosis. Recent attention has been paid to the involvement of the gut-liver axis in the HCC pathogenesis. The authors reviewed the new therapeutic opportunities that may arise from novel insights into mechanisms by which the microbiota immunomodulation, represented by probiotics, and prebiotics, affects HCC through the gut-liver axis. The data is comprehensive. So I suggest that it would be published in WJH.



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Provenance and peer review: Invited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 04477732

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Associate Professor, Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: India

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2021-05-27

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-06-03 04:22

Reviewer performed review: 2021-06-25 07:33

Review time: 22 Days and 3 Hours

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
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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Russo et al. have reviewed the immunomodulatory effect of probiotics and prebiotics in hepatocellular carcinoma. Although, there are some concerns which merit discussion in this article.

1. Recently Wan et al. have reviewed extensively the effect of probiotics in HCC (HepatoBiliary Surg Nutr 2018). Therefore, the current review has no novelty. Furthermore, the role of prebiotics in HCC is interesting though the underline mechanism is not adequate. Therefore, the author has to include a mechanistic figure describing the role of prebiotics on immunomodulation in HCC. Also, the recent review has to cite in the current review. (Golonka and Vijay-Kumar. Atypical immunometabolism and metabolic reprogramming in liver cancer: Deciphering the role of gut microbiome. Advances in Cancer Research 2021)
2. It would be interesting if the author has included the role of probiotics/prebiotics on tight junction regulation in HCC.
3. Some English inadequacy needs to be improved.
4. A list of abbreviation should be included. In the abstract, PAMPs should be expanded.
5. The page number should be included.
6. Introduction; paragraph 3; line 20: "than" should be deleted.
7. Stellate cell wrongly spelt under the heading "the involvement of microbiome in HCC."
8. 4th paragraph; under the heading of the involvement of microbiome in HCC: 2nd line may be changed to "due to" instead because to.
9. Under the heading "Therapeutic impact of probiotics in HCC: paragraph 4: miR needs to be expanded as microRNA.
10. Under the heading "Prebiotics as a novel therapeutic approach"; paragraph 4; Line 2: reference needs to be included as per journal format.
11. Under the heading "Prebiotics as a novel therapeutic approach"; paragraph 7; line 3: In fact, is hypothesised – check the sentence