

October 21, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 13614-review.doc).



Title: Do probiotics play a role in the treatment of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease?

Author: Silvia Marinho Ferolla, Geyza Nogueira de Almeida Armiliato, Cláudia Alves Couto, Teresa Cristina Abreu Ferrari.

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 13614

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated and the language has been polished by a native speaker.

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer:

(1) Title: "Title is not well understandable. The title of the paper should be more specific whether improve or get worse".

We changed the title of the manuscript to a more specific one (page 1): "Probiotics as a complementary therapeutic approach in nonalcoholic fatty liver disease".

(2) Materials and Methods: "How the author to choose the final articles? Inclusion criteria and exclusion criteria are not mentioned".

We added to the manuscript (page 4) a paragraph with the inclusion and exclusion criteria as follows:

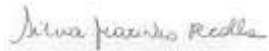
"Thus, there were selected all controlled clinical trials in which probiotics or synbiotics were used to treat NAFLD or NASH diagnosed by imaging methods and/or histological evaluation, regardless of the age, sex and ethnic origin of the participants. The trials in which the hepatic function and/or the metabolic and inflammatory parameters were not evaluated before and after the use of the probiotic/synbiotic were excluded from this review".

(3) Conclusions: "This paper lacks data analysis. If the paper have data analysis, all the conclusions may be much more believable".

We performed a systematic review and not a meta-analysis, which requires statistical approach. A meta-analysis on the use of probiotics in NAFLD was recently published; therefore, a new meta-analysis in this topic is justified only after the publication of new studies. On the other hand, the literature lacks systematic and more comprehensive reviews on this subject as we did in this article.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Hepatology*.

Sincerely yours,



Silvia Marinho Ferolla, MSc

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