

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 36498

**Title:** Review of the relationship between intestinal microbiota and ulcerative colitis and its treatment with probiotics and fecal microbiota transplantation

**Reviewer's code:** 02446483

**Reviewer's country:** Canada

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2017-10-03

**Date reviewed:** 2017-10-06

**Review time:** 3 Days

| CLASSIFICATION                                    | LANGUAGE EVALUATION                                                   | SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT                          | CONCLUSION                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing                 | Google Search:                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title        | <input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing  | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair            | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor            |                                                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision     |
|                                                   |                                                                       | BPG Search:                                    |                                                        |
|                                                   |                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title        |                                                        |
|                                                   |                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication |                                                        |
|                                                   |                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism            |                                                        |
|                                                   |                                                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         |                                                        |

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Ulcerative colitis [UC] is associated with colonic mucosa barrier defects and bacterial dysbiosis, but these features may simply be the result of inflammation. The authors report that that probiotics improve intestinal mucosa barrier function and immune system function and promote secretion of anti-inflammatory factors, thereby inhibiting the growth of harmful bacteria in the intestine. Fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) can reduce bowel permeability, and thus the severity of disease, by increasing the production of short-chain fatty acids and the authors emphasize the role of intestinal microbiota in the pathogenesis and treatment of UC. There is an important missing point and there is no discussion, which I consider highly relevant. Despite the absence of ileitis, UC patients display ileal barrier depletion illustrated by reductions in mucin-containing goblet cells and mucin production and altered epithelial NLRP6 expression. In both CD



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patients with ileitis and UC patients with normal histology, bacteria coated with IgA and IgG penetrate the TI mucin layer. Please read, discuss the findings and cite this reference of Dr. Alipour! Here is the reference: Alipour M, Zaidi D, Valcheva R, Jovel J, Martínez I, Sergi C, Walter J, Mason AL, Wong GK, Dieleman LA, Carroll MW, Huynh HQ, Wine E. Mucosal Barrier Depletion and Loss of Bacterial Diversity are Primary Abnormalities in Paediatric Ulcerative Colitis. *J Crohns Colitis*. 2016 Apr;10(4):462-71. doi: 10.1093/ecco-jcc/jjv223. Epub 2015 Dec 9. PubMed PMID: 26660940; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4946763. Moreover, the phenomenon of dysbiosis under therapy needs to be expanded.

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**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 36498

**Title:** Review of the relationship between intestinal microbiota and ulcerative colitis and its treatment with probiotics and fecal microbiota transplantation

**Reviewer's code:** 03415937

**Reviewer's country:** United States

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2017-10-03

**Date reviewed:** 2017-10-12

**Review time:** 8 Days

| CLASSIFICATION                                    | LANGUAGE EVALUATION                                                   | SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT                          | CONCLUSION                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing                 | Google Search:                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title        | <input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing  | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair            | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor            |                                                                       | BPG Search:                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision                |
|                                                   |                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title        |                                                        |
|                                                   |                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication |                                                        |
|                                                   |                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism            |                                                        |
|                                                   |                                                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         |                                                        |

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Please elaborate more on the role of microbiota in the pathogenesis of UC. Figure legend needs to be more descriptive.

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**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 36498

**Title:** Review of the relationship between intestinal microbiota and ulcerative colitis and its treatment with probiotics and fecal microbiota transplantation

**Reviewer's code:** 02441166

**Reviewer's country:** Italy

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2017-10-03

**Date reviewed:** 2017-10-15

**Review time:** 11 Days

| CLASSIFICATION                                   | LANGUAGE EVALUATION                                                      | SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT                              | CONCLUSION                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent      | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing                    | Google Search:                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> [ Y] Accept                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> [ Y] Grade B: Very good | <input type="checkbox"/> [ Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing          | <input type="checkbox"/> [ ] The same title        | <input type="checkbox"/> [ ] High priority for publication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> [ ] Grade C: Good       | <input type="checkbox"/> [ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> [ ] Duplicate publication | <input type="checkbox"/> [ ] Rejection                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> [ ] Grade D: Fair       | <input type="checkbox"/> [ ] Grade D: Rejected                           | <input type="checkbox"/> [ Y] No                   | <input type="checkbox"/> [ ] Minor revision                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> [ ] Grade E: Poor       |                                                                          | BPG Search:                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> [ ] Major revision                |
|                                                  |                                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> [ ] The same title        |                                                            |
|                                                  |                                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> [ ] Duplicate publication |                                                            |
|                                                  |                                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> [ ] Plagiarism            |                                                            |
|                                                  |                                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> [ Y] No                   |                                                            |

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The review from Shen Z and Co. deals with an important issue in ulcerative colitis. Data about the intestinal microbiota in UC and a possible treatment of the disease with probiotics and fecal microbiota transplantation are well reported and discussed in deep. The review is well written and updated, and its educational role is unquestionable. I checked for doubled references. On my opinion, no further changes are required.

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**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 36498

**Title:** Review of the relationship between intestinal microbiota and ulcerative colitis and its treatment with probiotics and fecal microbiota transplantation

**Reviewer's code:** 00227403

**Reviewer's country:** Italy

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2017-10-03

**Date reviewed:** 2017-10-15

**Review time:** 12 Days

| CLASSIFICATION                                    | LANGUAGE EVALUATION                                                   | SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT                          | CONCLUSION                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing                 | Google Search:                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title        | <input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing  | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair            | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor            |                                                                       | BPG Search:                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision                |
|                                                   |                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title        |                                                        |
|                                                   |                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication |                                                        |
|                                                   |                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism            |                                                        |
|                                                   |                                                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         |                                                        |

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In the section Introduction, the sentence "Fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) is also used to treat UC." is not appropriated because only in the context of experimental studies, trials or case report, this has been considered as treatment. I think that before the section "intestinal microbiota" the authors should briefly discuss on the pathogenesis of UC. This discussion could be summarized considering reviews as that of Actis GC et al. Minerva Medica 2016;107:401-12.