

December 15, 2016

Dear Xiaomei Wang,

Thank you for choosing Springer Nature Author Services. The manuscript entitled "Effect of moxibustion treatment on the gut microbiome in a DSS-induced colitis rat model" is an interesting report of the establishment of a rat colitis model and the profiling of the gut microbiome following moxibustion treatment. A brief summary of some of the improvements made to the writing follows.

We improved clarity in some sentences by simplifying sentence structure. For example, on page 1, the passage "A colitis rat model was established by administering 4% DSS in drinking water for 7 days, gut microbiome profiling was conducted by 16S rRNA amplicon sequencing, the mRNA expression of inflammatory cytokines were determined by RT-PCR" was edited to read "A rat colitis model was established by administering 4% dextran sulphate sodium (DSS) in drinking water for 7 days. Gut microbiome profiling was conducted via 16S rRNA amplicon sequencing, and the mRNA expression of inflammatory cytokines was determined by RT-PCR". In this example, the long original passage, which contained multiple independent clauses, was separated into two sentences, the first describing the colitis model and the second summarizing the experimental outline, thus simplifying the structure.

We revised the document to correct the usage of "that" versus "which". "Which" is used to add supplemental information about an already-identified item, whereas "that" is used to identify an item with essential information. For example, on page 2, in the sentence "Microbial dysbiosis is an important pathological factor of UC that affects host mucosal immunity", the phrase "that affects host mucosal immunity" provides essential information describing microbial dysbiosis. Thus, "that" was used instead of "which".

Finally, we edited the document to minimize excessive wordiness, which can often be reduced by removing phrases that are not necessary to understand the context. Often, this is applicable in cases of verbs that are accompanied by phrases such as "found to be" and "shown to be". For example, on page 7, the sentence "Moxibustion has been shown to be an effective and safe treatment for UC, but the underlying mechanism remains unknown" was edited to read "Moxibustion is an effective and safe treatment for UC, but the underlying mechanism remains unknown".

Comments were left within the manuscript where further clarification would be helpful or where confirmation of the meaning of the text may still be necessary. Please review these comments and all of our changes carefully for more detailed feedback and suggestions and to ensure that the final version of the manuscript is fully accurate.

Thank you again for using our editing services; we wish you the best of luck with your submission.

Best Regards,

Rachel G.  
Senior Editor  
Springer Nature Author Services