

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Meta-Analysis

Manuscript NO: 47973

Title: Probiotics for dyslipidemia, fatty liver, and obesity: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Reviewer's code: 00036318

Reviewer's country: Greece

Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-04-08 04:53

Reviewer performed review: 2019-04-23 17:16

Review time: 15 Days and 12 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a well-conducted meta-analysis in an important topic. I believe that it would be more useful if the authors reported changes in bmi as kg/m² and in lipids as changes in mg/dl so that it is clearer if the effects are clinically meaningful. Please also add a



**Baishideng
Publishing
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-223-8242
Fax: +1-925-223-8243
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
https:// www.wjgnet.com

paragraph with conclusions at the end of the discussion.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

BPG Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Meta-Analysis

Manuscript NO: 47973

Title: Probiotics for dyslipidemia, fatty liver, and obesity: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Reviewer's code: 03478516

Reviewer's country: Italy

Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-05-20 09:13

Reviewer performed review: 2019-05-20 13:15

Review time: 4 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Authors should add a recent systematic review dealing with both pre/probiotics in NAFLD, which reach the same conclusions of those of the authors as Systematic review on intervention with prebiotics/probiotics in patients with obesity-related



**Baishideng
Publishing
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-223-8242
Fax: +1-925-223-8243
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. Future Microbiol. 2015;10(5):889-902. doi: 10.2217/fmb.15.13. Authors should state that unfavourable articles are generally not submitted to any journal or worse not accepted for publication by quite all the journals. Very good the limitation about the lack of the eventual presence of side-effects.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

BPG Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Meta-Analysis

Manuscript NO: 47973

Title: Probiotics for dyslipidemia, fatty liver, and obesity: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Reviewer's code: 00199807

Reviewer's country: Turkey

Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-05-20 10:35

Reviewer performed review: 2019-05-20 14:12

Review time: 3 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Dear Editor, I reviewed the manuscript titled "Probiotics for dyslipidemia, fatty liver, and obesity: A systematic review and meta-analysis". I think, there are some meta-analyses about this topic, and this manuscript does not add new information about

this issue. This paper is not suitable for publication in WJG. My suggestions are listed below: 1. Title: The words “single strain” would be added to title as “Single strain probiotics for dyslipidemia, ...” 2. It is not clear the hypothesis of this meta-analysis. If single probiotic strain useful for dyslipidemia, is it cost-effective to use single strain instead of multiple-strain ones, in practically? 3. I think, it would be very useful if the Authors added clinical reflection and practical importance of these improvements of lipids in obese patients. 4. A conclusion paragraph should be added to the end of the discussion section.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

BPG Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Meta-Analysis

Manuscript NO: 47973

Title: Probiotics for dyslipidemia, fatty liver, and obesity: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Reviewer's code: 01809054

Reviewer's country: Brazil

Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-05-20 18:18

Reviewer performed review: 2019-05-20 18:56

Review time: 1 Hour

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript is current and the methodology is well done. The results and the discussion are good and the authors discussed the limitations of article.



**Baishideng
Publishing
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-223-8242
Fax: +1-925-223-8243
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

BPG Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Meta-Analysis

Manuscript NO: 47973

Title: Probiotics for dyslipidemia, fatty liver, and obesity: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Reviewer's code: 03647461

Reviewer's country: Reviewer_Country

Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-05-24 19:04

Reviewer performed review: 2019-06-03 18:36

Review time: 9 Days and 23 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In the results section, it is assumed that "articles" and "studies" are used interchangeably to mean the same thing. Is that right? For example, you stated that the literature search removed "23 studies targeted irrelevant patient population,"... Right

after that was the following sentence: “49 studied focused on food-based probiotics and/or mixed probiotics”. Prior to that, you stated that “3,293 irrelevant articles were removed”. First, what is meant by “irrelevant population”? In your screening methodology, you consistently used the word “articles” in keeping or removing them from consideration in the analysis. However, when it came to the above quoted “irrelevant population”, you cited 23 “studies” and not articles. Does this mean that the 23 studies that had irrelevant population target were also included in the “3,293 irrelevant articles” that were removed? Please clarify these statements. In this meta-analysis, there are several factors that are heterogeneous and do not follow a common modality in assessing the validity of the results from these various studies as a conclusive evidence of the effects of the probiotics on obesity, dyslipidemia or fatty liver disease. However, this study sheds some light on the contributions of the genus *Lactobacillus* more so than the other two genera, *Bifidobacterium* and *Pediococcus*, because of the limited number of studies generated from the latter two. Among, the primary outcome measures for fatty liver, obesity, and dyslipidemia listed in the Abstract was fibrosis score; and among the secondary outcome measures was subcutaneous fat. Both were not available in the outcome measures of the included studies that were reviewed. These measures would be critical in determining the three main disorders of fat metabolism, which lead to metabolic syndrome and NAFLD. This is important because probiotics as you correctly stated are one of the common ways to manipulate the gut microbiota as part of NAFLD management. Although, the comparison among the various studies was restricted to 12 or less number of weeks of probiotic administration, the duration of the benefit of the supplements to the users was not specified indicating that ceasing the intake of the probiotics after 12 weeks or less may not prolong the presence of the beneficial bacteria. As Table 1 shows, the sample size for each trial study is less than 130 people. The range of intake duration as stated

on page 10 is not correct when compared to Table 1. Among the 13 included studies, the manuscript states that “six trials treated subjects for less than 12 weeks”. However, in Table 1, only 4 were under 12 weeks, i.e. <84 days. Also, eight and not six trials chose the exact 12 weeks for intervention. This numbers should be reconciled.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

BPG Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No