



**PEER-REVIEW REPORT**

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

**Manuscript NO:** 51357

**Title:** Altered profiles of fecal metabolites correlate with visceral hypersensitivity and may contribute to symptom severity of diarrhea-predominant irritable bowel syndrome

**Reviewer's code:** 00008491

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

**Reviewer's country:** Italy

**Author's country:** China

**Reviewer chosen by:** Artificial Intelligence Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-09-20 09:21

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-09-29 17:49

**Review time:** 9 Days and 8 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 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**



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GENERAL COMMENT The study of Zhang and coll explored the hypothesis that altered profiles of fecal metabolites might be involved in the pathogenesis of IBS with predominant diarrhea. The authors found a different metabolites profile in IBS than in controls. They suggested that altered profiles of fecal metabolites may be one of the origins or exacerbating factors of symptoms in IBS-D via increasing visceral sensitivity. My major concern regards the lack of standardization of the diet during the study period. Although few studies showed that a dietary change can improve IBS symptoms, in absence of microbiota change, there were several evidences that dietary habit plays a fundamental role in selecting the microbiota and probably the fecal metabolite composition. MINOR POINTS The choice of “individuals who had undergone colorectal cancer screening or polyposis follow-up and had negative results”, as healthy controls is questionable. How was IBS – which is a functional disease - excluded ?

#### 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 Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 51357

**Title:** Altered profiles of fecal metabolites correlate with visceral hypersensitivity and may contribute to symptom severity of diarrhea-predominant irritable bowel syndrome

**Reviewer’s code:** 02531171

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** BSc, PhD

**Professional title:** Lecturer, Research Fellow

**Reviewer’s country:** Ireland

**Author’s country:** China

**Reviewer chosen by:** Artificial Intelligence Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-09-20 07:29

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-10-01 11:10

**Review time:** 11 Days and 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 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        |

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The study entitled 'Altered profiles of fecal metabolites correlate with visceral hypersensitivity and may Contribute to Symptom Severity of diarrhea-predominant irritable bowel syndrome' by Zhang et al, 2019 describes differences in fecal metabolites in IBS patients as compared to healthy controls. The researchers conclude that visceral hypersensitivity in IBS-D patients may be exacerbated by changes in fecal metabolites. This study is well-written, although some typos and grammatical errors are evident throughout the text. Experiments were appropriately designed and conducted. Some additional comments below may help to improve the readability of the manuscript.

**Introduction:** Justification for another correlative study should be strengthened.

**Methods:** Justify how the group sizes were determined. Discuss the gender disparity (particularly in the context of female prevalence). Describe collection of faecal samples.

**Results:** Not clear why some of the data is included in supplementary tables - it would be better to present all data in the main manuscript.

**Discussion:** The statement by the authors that 'the metabolites in feces are the origin of symptoms in IBS patients' is very speculative in a multifactorial disorder. Neither does the correlative design of this study denote causality.

## **INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT**

### ***Google Search:***

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- Duplicate publication
- Plagiarism
- No

### ***BPG Search:***

- The same title



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Duplicate publication

Plagiarism

No



**PEER-REVIEW REPORT**

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

**Manuscript NO:** 51357

**Title:** Altered profiles of fecal metabolites correlate with visceral hypersensitivity and may contribute to symptom severity of diarrhea-predominant irritable bowel syndrome

**Reviewer’s code:** 03000422

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

**Reviewer’s country:** Japan

**Author’s country:** China

**Reviewer chosen by:** Artificial Intelligence Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-09-24 10:24

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-10-04 10:17

**Review time:** 9 Days and 23 Hours

| SCIENTIFIC QUALITY                                | LANGUAGE QUALITY   | CONCLUSION   | PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS                      |
|---|--|--|---|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good       | <input 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              |
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| 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        |

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The manuscript by Zhang et al. investigated profiles of fecal metabolites in patients with diarrhea predominant IBS, and their association with visceral hypersensitivity etc. The point of view and findings are interesting, and the investigators may have invested considerable time in the conduction of this study. There are a few issues in this paper prior to the publication in "WJG". 1. It is better to make some Figures to show the significant correlation between IBS-SSS score and metabolites or maximum tolerable threshold and groups in Table 3 or 4. 2. Future direction based on this study should be written in discussion if possible.

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