

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 60459

**Title:** Probiotics effects on length of hospitalization in mild acute pancreatitis: A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial

**Reviewer's code:** 00055107

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Full Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Spain

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-11-05

**Reviewer chosen by:** Le Zhang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-11-12 12:31

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-11-19 13:29

**Review time:** 7 Days

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This work analyze the beneficial effects of treatment with probiotics in patients suffering from mild acute pancreatitis. Previous works have used probiotics in severe, but not mild, acute pancreatitis. Authors found interesting results showing that oral treatment with capsules containing a preparation of *Bacillus subtilis* and *Enterococcus faecium* is able to reduce the length of hospital stay, as well as the abdominal pain relief time and the successful oral feeding time. This is an interesting paper; however, authors should revise several minor points.

**ABSTRACT** The following paragraph have an inconsistency with respect to the results: "The probiotics group was associated with a shorter abdominal pain relief time, successful oral feeding time, and a lower rate of recurrent abdominal pain (all  $P < 0.05$ ) than the placebo group. No difference was found in recurrent abdominal pain between the two groups". I suggest rewriting this sentence: "The probiotics group was associated with a shorter abdominal pain relief time and successful oral feeding time (both  $P < 0.01$ ) than the placebo group. No statistical difference was found in recurrent abdominal pain between the two groups".

Species names (scientific names) should be written in italic (*Bacillus subtilis* and *Enterococcus faecium*).

**MATERIAL AND METHODS** In previous studies in severe acute pancreatitis, other strains of probiotic bacteria have been used, such as *Bifidobacterium* spp. or *Lactobacillus* spp. Whether *Bacillus subtilis* and *Enterococcus faecium* are used in this study for any reason, this should be given in this section.

**RESULTS** In the text of the second paragraph, there are some inconsistencies with respect to data from Table 1. Thus, in this table we can see that 46 females participates in this study from a total of 128 patients. Thus, 82 male is the 64.1 % from total patients and not "66.7%" as it is stated in the text. Please check these data. In the "Secondary End Points" paragraph, two " $P=0.01$ " that appear in the text should be replaced by " $P<0.01$ "



**Baishideng  
Publishing  
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite  
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA  
**Telephone:** +1-925-399-1568  
**E-mail:** [bpgoffice@wjgnet.com](mailto:bpgoffice@wjgnet.com)  
**https://**[www.wjgnet.com](http://www.wjgnet.com)

In the “Safety and Harm” paragraph, the results are in Table 3, and not in “Table 2” as stated in the text. Furthermore, several percentages showed in the text are not quite correct. For instance, in the probiotic group, 3 patients suffered from abdominal pain: 4.68% from total (64). Therefore, it is a 5% and not 4% from probiotic group. There is a misprint in a P value in this paragraph. In table 3, exacerbating abdominal discomfort shows “P=0.47” whereas in the text appear “P=0.75”

## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

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**Baishideng  
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Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite  
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA  
**Telephone:** +1-925-399-1568  
**E-mail:** [bpgoffice@wjgnet.com](mailto:bpgoffice@wjgnet.com)  
**https://**[www.wjgnet.com](http://www.wjgnet.com)

The authors have revised the manuscript and all the reviewer comments have been satisfactorily addressed. Thus, I consider that the paper is suitable for publication in its present form.