

Dear editors and reviewers,

The authors are very grateful to the editors and technical reviewers for their careful reviews of the manuscript entitled "**Effect of a specific *E. coli* Nissle 1917 strain on minimal/mild hepatic encephalopathy treatment**" (Manuscript NO.: 66640) and offering their insightful comments and suggestions to improve the quality of the article. We revised the manuscript according to your decision letter, and all the detailed correction were shown in our response letter text material.

The following responses have been prepared to address the Editor's and the reviewers' comments. The responses to the comments are marked as blue text. And the tracking version of manuscript is uploaded again. Thank you!

Reviewer

Thank you very much for your comments. Down below we report point by point our answers to your comments.

Comment 1: The title and the abstract should state that the study was conducted on patients with minimal/mild HE.

Response: Thanks for the recommendation. The title changed to: Effect of a specific *E. coli* Nissle 1917 strain on minimal/mild hepatic encephalopathy treatment.

Comment 2: In the Results the authors say that the baseline demographic and clinical characteristics did not significantly differ between groups. They should provide these data in a table. Please also include the etiology of cirrhosis.

Response: Thanks for recommendation. The requested table was added.

Table 1. Baseline clinical parameters in examined patients (M±SE or %)

	Lactulose group	Rifaximin group	EcN group	P
Age, years	48.92±1.64	49.07±1.76	48.85±1.93	0.996
Male, % (n)	78.6 (11)	78.6 (11)	71.4 (10)	0.877
Etiology of cirrhosis				
HCV, % (n)	57.1 (8)	42.9 (6)	50.0 (7)	0.940

Alcoholism, % (n)	21.4 (3)	35.7 (5)	28.6 (4)	
Mixed, % (n)	21.4 (3)	21.4 (3)	21.4 (3)	
Cirrhosis duration, years	8.14±0.61	8.00±0.61	8.07±0.60	0.986
Time to progression from hepatitis to cirrhosis, years	4.00±0.41	3.42±0.38	3.56±0.32	0.468
Child-Pugh score				
A, % (n)	35.7 (5)	42.9 (6)	28.6 (4)	0.733
B, % (n)	64.3 (9)	57.1 (8)	71.4 (10)	
HE grade				
MHE, % (n)	42.9 (6)	35.7 (5)	42.9 (6)	0.979
Grade 1, % (n)	35.7 (5)	35.7 (5)	28.6 (4)	
Grade 2, % (n)	21.4 (3)	28.6 (4)	28.6 (4)	

p - the difference between all study groups calculated using one-way ANOVA or χ -square test for categorical data

Comment 3: The IRB approval and the informed consent should be accompanied by an English translation.

Response: According to journal guidelines IRB approval should be in original language.

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