

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

Nov 19, 2012

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 933-review.doc).

Title: Modulatory Effects of *Bifidobacterium longum* BB536 on defecation in elderly patients receiving enteral feeding

Author: Junko Kondo, Jin-zhong Xiao, Akira Shirahata, Mieko Baba, Akie Abe, Koichi Ogawa, Taeko Shimoda

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 933

This is a formal good study of double-blind, placebo-controlled trials.

Abstract: The abstract is too long and extensive

Au: The abstract has been shortened. We have followed the instruction to author for structural abstract (no less than 140 words for method and no less than 150 words for results).

Intro: The introduction has to be reduced to the main topics of the study an probiotic therapy - reduction minimum 50% volume.

Au: The introduction has been shortened to focus on the main topics.

MM: no commetns

Results: no comments

Discussion: The discussion is too long.

Au: The Discussion has been shortened.

The main results should be discussed and the clinical results and effects brought out - this is missing.

Mainly the conclusion shows that there is a minimum benefit of this therapy. The authors should discuss the cost effectiveness of this therapy and compare this to prokinetics and laxation therapy.

In this study there are no results about the positive effects of this medication to infections - this should be deleted from the discussion.

The authors should discuss if this probiotics should become part of the regular EN in elderly.

In conclusion I think that this a a good study design with low impact results to therapy.

The results the authors have should be condensed before revision.

Au: Discussion has been added relating to other therapies and implication of this study (lines 295-315).

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

Jin-zhong Xiao

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