



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

**Manuscript NO:** 79054

**Title:** Intestinal microbiota in the treatment of metabolically associated fatty liver disease

**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 05040484

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Assistant Professor, Doctor, Professor, Research Scientist

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-07-30

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-07-31 19:51

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-07-31 21:08

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<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 Grade E: Do not publish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 type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This is an interesting review, but I have a few comments: 1) reviews on this topic regularly appear in various scientific journals, I believe that the introduction should indicate how this review differs from those published earlier; 2) currently prefer the term "metabolically associated fatty liver disease" rather than "non-alcoholic fatty liver disease"; if you insist on the old terminology, explain your choice; 3) a table should be provided with data from published studies on changes in the intestinal microbiota in MAFLD and MASH; 4) the claimed figure 1 is not presented; 5) an additional schemes of disorders of the gut-liver axis in MAFLD and the points of application of the drugs described in the article should be presented; 6) the pathology of the gut-liver axis in MAFLD should be described more fully; 7) the authors write "The impaired intestinal barrier allows bacteria and their products, including pathogen-associated molecular patterns (PAMPs) and damage-associated molecular patterns (DAMPs), into the circulatory system", but the term "damage-associated molecular patterns" is usually used for macroorganism molecules that are released when its tissues are damaged, so justify the use of this term in relation to bacteria; 8) you use both the terms "lipopolysaccharide" and "endotoxin" without specifying that these are synonyms. Clarify this and use only 1 term.



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**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

**Reviewer’s Country/Territory:** Iran

**Author’s Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-07-30

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-08-28 06:10

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-08-28 06:56

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<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 type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Dear Associate Editor, Thank you for sending me the article entitled "Intestinal microbiome in the Treatment of Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease". This review explores the role of Intestinal microbiome on the treatment of NAFLD. There are some comments as the followings:

1- One important recent change has occurred in the terminology of NAFLD. I recommend using "Metabolic Associated Fatty Liver Disease" instead of "NAFLD".

2- Please define the effect of Small intestinal bacterial overgrowth on MAFLD and cite the following articles:

a. Wijarnpreecha K, Lou S, Watthanasuntorn K, Kroner PT, Cheungpasitporn W, Lukens FJ, Pungpapong S, Keaveny AP, Ungprasert P. Small intestinal bacterial overgrowth and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2020 May;32(5):601-608. doi: 10.1097/MEG.0000000000001541. PMID: 31567712.

b. Ivana Mikolasevic, Bozena Delija, Ana Mijic, Tajana Stevanovic, Nadija Skenderevic, Ivan Sosa, Irena Krznicaric-Zrnica, Maja Abram, Zeljko Krznicaric, Viktor Domislovic, Tajana Filipec Kanizaj, Delfa Radic-Kristo, Aleksandar Cubranic, Aron Grubestic, Radislav Nakov, Ivana Skrobonja, Davor Stimac, Goran Hauser. Small intestinal bacterial overgrowth and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease diagnosed by transient elastography and liver biopsy

3- Please define the role of helicobacter pylori on MAFLD and cite the following articles:

a. Jamali R, Mofid A, Vahedi H, Farzaneh R, Dowlathshahi S. The effect of helicobacter pylori eradication on liver fat content in subjects with non-alcoholic Fatty liver disease: a randomized open-label clinical trial. *Hepat Mon*. 2013 Dec 6;13(12):e14679. doi: 10.5812/hepatmon.14679. PMID: 24358044; PMCID: PMC3867002.

b. A Jamali, S Karbalai, G Tefagh, A Ahmadi, R Jamali. The Effects of Helicobacter Pylori Eradication on Liver Function and Metabolic Profile in Non-diabetic Non-alcoholic Steatohepatitis: A



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5-year Randomized Clinical Trial. Middle East Journal of Digestive Diseases (MEJDD) 14  
(1), 85-95



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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer’s code:** 06286442

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

**Reviewer’s Country/Territory:** China

**Author’s Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-07-30

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-08-25 04:18

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-08-30 15:57

**Review time:** 5 Days and 11 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this review, the authors summarized the association between intestinal microbiome and NAFLD, which is helpful for the readers to understand the current progression of NAFLD and its inner relationship with intestinal microbiome. Below, I have appended a detailed list of my concerns as well as further comments. Major points: 1. Please pay attention to the use of “microbiota” & “microbiome”, there is subtle differences between these two terms. Microbiome refers to the genomes of the microorganisms however; microbiota refers to the microorganisms. 2. The significant limitation of the paper is its duplicative nature. The current pieces of knowledge on the association between intestinal microbiome and NAFLD have been generalized in recent several reviews, for example by Hu H et al, 2020 (doi: 10.1007/s00535-019-01649-8) or Safari Z et al, 2019 (doi: 10.1007/s00018-019-03011-w). In my opinion, this manuscript reviewed is almost a duplicate of the aforementioned published data. In addition, the section on application to NAFLD treatment sounds superficial. The authors should more clearly indicate how the present review differs from those already published. 3. In fact, numerous studies have disclosed the lasted mechanism of how intestinal microbiome affect NAFLD in recent years. The authors best to draw a systematic map to show the relationship between intestinal microbiome and NAFLD. 4. I noticed that the references cited by the author are not up to date, which means the summarization is not new. The authors can read more papers to summarize the newest development in detail instead of doing such a general summarization. Minor points: 1. Please follow the rule of abbreviations in the text. For the first time, use both a full and abbreviated form, next time, just use an acronym. 2. In the whole text, “in vivo” & “in vitro” should be italicized. 3. The format of the references should be unified according to the journal’s policy (ref. 95, etc.). 4. The



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treatment options mentioned in the article, such as antibiotics, lack specific doses and duration of use cannot provide more help for clinicians in choosing treatment options, as well as the absence of side effects.. These are some of my suggestions, I hope it will be helpful to the authors.



## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-07-30

**Reviewer chosen by:** Li-Li Wang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-09-08 05:21

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-09-08 05:26

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<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 type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" 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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#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

No comments.



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**Professional title:** Doctor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-07-30

**Reviewer chosen by:** Li-Li Wang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-09-08 14:50

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-09-08 15:13

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<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
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#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The authors have thoroughly revised the manuscript according to the reviewers' comments. In my opinion, the changes have made the paper more interesting and clear. I have no future comments.



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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-07-30

**Reviewer chosen by:** Li-Li Wang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-09-09 08:15

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-09-09 08:31

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<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 type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
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<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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**SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

No additional comments