

ESPS PEER REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Meta-Analysis

ESPS manuscript NO: 14764

Title: Meta-analysis of single strain probiotics for the eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* and prevention of adverse events.

Reviewer code: 00503590

Science editor: Fang-Fang Ji

Date sent for review: 2014-10-24 17:36

Date reviewed: 2014-12-04 22:05

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Review report Meta-analysis of single strain probiotics for the eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* and prevention of adverse events. by McFarland LV1 , Malfertheiner P 2, Huang Y3, Wang L3 The authors have performed a systematic review of adjuvant probiotic treatment in H pylori eradication. Effects on eradication efficiency as well as adverse events were detected. The analysis includes 25 trials with a total of 3769 participants. Main findings are that *S. boulardii* has a small but significant effect on eradication rate. The same strain also decreases overall adverse events and AAD, while *L. rhamnosus* decreases risk of AAD alone. The field of probiotic treatment is expanding rapidly with new commercial "fecal transplants" on the way. One big problem in this area is that the more complex mixtures of strains, the greater difficulties in proving each strain valuable. Therefore, the present paper is important in analyzing which strains are most efficient in preventing side effects of antibiotics as well as boosting efficiency of HP eradication. The latter effect is rather modest, however. The analysis seems to be performed vigorously, and the conclusions are sound. The effect on eradication rate may seem surprising, but the authors provide a possible explanation for this observation which could be analyzed further in future studies. One concern could be the association of two of the authors to probiotics manufacturers. However, the results and conclusions in the paper are presented with no link to specific products and are therefore quite neutral. Overall this paper is well written and I recommend publication.

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Name of journal: World Journal of Meta-Analysis

ESPS manuscript NO: 14764

Title: Meta-analysis of single strain probiotics for the eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* and prevention of adverse events.

Reviewer code: 02770241

Science editor: Fang-Fang Ji

Date sent for review: 2014-10-24 17:36

Date reviewed: 2014-12-27 10:30

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors conducted a comprehensive literature review and data analysis on eradication of *H. pylori* by a single strain of probiotics. From literature collection to data analysis, it is all scientifically sound and the manuscript is well written. It fits well with the aim of the journal and should be accepted for publication by the World Journal of Meta-Analysis. I have only a couple of minor concerns: 1. The authors said that they searched published data ranging from 1960 to 2014. The included data for analysis, however, only covered from 2000 to 2014. I wonder how many original studies were actually conducted prior to 2000. It would be nice to provide a short summary on this issue. 2. Some abbreviations, such as AAD (page 10), need to be abbreviated during first use.

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Name of journal: World Journal of Meta-Analysis

ESPS manuscript NO: 14764

Title: Meta-analysis of single strain probiotics for the eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* and prevention of adverse events.

Reviewer code: 01299180

Science editor: Fang-Fang Ji

Date sent for review: 2014-10-24 17:36

Date reviewed: 2014-12-25 11:04

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The study was interesting and carefully done. One suggestion is not including meeting abstracts in the analysis because the data reported in abstracts only were generally not peer reviewed. Another suggestion is perhaps polishing the English a bit more.