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Wan Chai, Hong Kong, China

### ESPS Peer-review Report

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 6612

**Title:** Is eHealth monitoring in IBS patients treated with low FODMAP diet feasible?

**Reviewer code:** 00035979

**Science editor:** Ma, Ya-Juan

**Date sent for review:** 2013-10-25 19:30

**Date reviewed:** 2013-12-15 16:39

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"/> Existed	<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"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this study, the authors report the effectiveness of dietary supplementation of a prebiotic diet in IBS patients. The objectives are clear and the methodology used is appropriated, thus obtaining results that confirm the potential beneficial effects of prebiotics in this intestine condition, as previously proposed. It is interesting the light improvement obtained in patients before intervention, although this has been conveniently justified by the authors.



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## ESPS Peer-review Report

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 6612

**Title:** Is eHealth monitoring in IBS patients treated with low FODMAP diet feasible?

**Reviewer code:** 00009420

**Science editor:** Ma, Ya-Juan

**Date sent for review:** 2013-12-20 19:30

**Date reviewed:** 2013-12-31 16:39

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"/> Existed	<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"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In their study, the authors describe the effects of e-monitoring via a web-application alone or in combination with a low FODMAP diet in a small group of IBS patients over a period of 12 weeks reporting positive effects of both the web-application per se and of the combination of the application with a low FODMAP diet. Remarks: 1. Was this study approved by an ethical committee and did the patients give informed consent? 2. My major concern is whether the second decline in the IBS disease score is indeed related to the introduction of the low FODMAP diet or whether it is related to the continuation of the e-monitoring application or to the natural course of IBS? The authors need to take this time course into consideration before they will be able to draw any definite conclusions on the e-monitoring application and the low FODMAP diet per se. Both factors need to be studied in separate groups: 1) a control group (natural course of the disease); 2) a group with the web-application for 12 weeks but without the diet and 3) a group with the web-application and the low FODMAP diet. Besides the authors need to provide evidence for the adherence of the patients to the FODMAP diet. All these factors need to be discussed in the discussion which now only repeats the main results and discusses the topic of the web-application. 3. The authors need to describe the statistical test used in more detail. I could not find the test used by the authors only a description of p-values. Which test was used, did it take into consideration the repeated profile on the three measuring points of the study design? 4. Could the authors comment on the power of this study for the IBS group as a whole (and for the subgroups of IBS patients)? Did they calculate the power of their study or even better did they calculate the number of patients needed to show statistical differences in advance? I know this paper is presented as a case report but nevertheless it would be interesting and scientifically sound to discuss the power in the discussion as well as the lack of



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appropriate controls (see remark 2). 5. Please provide an additional graph showing the results over the 12 week period of the 19 individual patients. 6. Figure 2 and 3 only show the median I presume, they need to show the median and the 25- and 75th percentile or they can be replaced by boxplot figures. 7. Please clarify the dots/circles on the X-axis in Figure 1 in the figure legend. 8. Table 1 one patient received budesonide, please specify the indication and did this patient show a similar profile?