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ESPS Peer-review Report
Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology
ESPS Manuscript NO: 10815
Title: Meta-analysis of the efficacy of probiotics in Helicobacter pylori eradication therapy
Reviewer code: 00503406
Science editor: Ya-Juan Ma
Date sent for review: 2014-04-21 13:04
Date reviewed: 2014-04-23 20:17

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
[ ] Grade A (Excellent)	[ ] Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	[ ] Accept
[ ] Grade B (Very good)	[ ] Grade B: minor language polishing	[ ] Existed	[ ] High priority for publication
[Y] Grade C (Good)	[Y] Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	[ ] No records	[ ]Rejection
[ ] Grade D (Fair)	[ ] Grade D: rejected	BPG Search:	[ ] Minor revision
[ ] Grade E (Poor)		[ ] Existed	[Y] Major revision
		[ ] No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a methologically sound meta-analysis of the probiotic effect on H. pylori eradication and side effects of the treatment. The statistical section is correct using updated met-analytical methods. The favourable effects of probiotic in caucasian/non-caucasian populations must be more emphasized becuase presiously unkown. Details of composition of the propbiotics used (No. of colony forming units, type of bacteria, Nr. of bacterium species) would have been detailed because there are great differences between the products.

T he reference list in imcomplete and did not include/cite all other meta-analysis on the topic.

Tables must be rearranged. In the reference list, PPMID and doi numbers must be included, some of jjournal titles are incorrect.

The text of core tip must be corrected. Was the manuscript read by a native English speaker?

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ESPS Peer-review Report
Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology
ESPS Manuscript NO: 10815
Title: Meta-analysis of the efficacy of probiotics in Helicobacter pylori eradication therapy
Reviewer code: 00033010
Science editor: Ya-Juan Ma
Date sent for review: 2014-04-21 13:04
Date reviewed: 2014-04-24 15:38

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
[ ] Grade A (Excellent)	[ ] Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	[ ] Accept
[ ] Grade B (Very good)	[Y] Grade B: minor language polishing	[ ] Existed	[ ] High priority for publication
[Y] Grade C (Good)	[ ] Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	[ ] No records	[ ]Rejection
[ ] Grade D (Fair)	[ ] Grade D: rejected	BPG Search:	[ ] Minor revision
[ ] Grade E (Poor)		[ ] Existed	[Y] Major revision
		[ ] No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The paper of Rong Zhu, "Meta-analysis of the efficacy of probiotics in Helicobacter pylori eradication therapy" is an analysis of randomized clinical trials comparing conventional triple therapy versus triple therapy plus probiotics. The topic is not completely novel, since at least four metanalyses have already been performed. Authors concluded that probiotics supplementation is useful to reduce side effects of the therapy (OR = 0.49) and to improve the eradication rate (OR = 1.67). Main comments: ? A linguistic revision by a native speaker is needed. ? Authors should precise the reason why they calculated Odds Ratio while not Risk Ratio. ? "At present, the standard triple therapy, which consists of a proton pump inhibitor (PPI) and two antibiotics, is regarded as the first-line treatment". This statement is not completely updated, as the increasing clarithromycin resistances rendered triple therapy ineffective worldwide. Indeed, reference 2 refers to Maastricht II (2000), but the last consensus (Maastricht IV 2012) reports that in areas with high clarithromycin resistances, the first options are sequential or concomitant regimen. ? Adverse events: Authors state that they found significant heterogeneity (I2 = 85.7%; Fig. 4). Therefore, they should perform a sub-analysis according to the probiotic strains. ? Authors included both 7-day and 14-day lasting triple therapy, so another subgroup analysis is strongly recommended since the eradication rate is significantly different in the two regimens. ? Authors did not demonstrated that probiotics play a role in H. pylori eradication. The OR 1.67 may be explained by the fact that probiotics reduce side effects, so it is more likely that patients received the full therapy, by reducing the number of drop-outs and early treatment interruption. Another possible explanation for their results is that the outcome was affected by antibiotic resistances more than probiotic supplementation. If Authors want to demonstrate that probiotics can eradicate H. pylori, they should perform a meta-analysis comparing probiotics alone

(without antibiotics) vs placebo. These points have to be discussed in the manuscript. ? Please provide images of forest plot with a better resolution. A final consideration: the results of this study need to be compared with similar ones in order to clarify the concordant and dicordant aspects.

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ESPS Peer-review Report
Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology
ESPS Manuscript NO: 10815
Title: Meta-analysis of the efficacy of probiotics in Helicobacter pylori eradication therapy
Reviewer code: 00183471
Science editor: Ya-Juan Ma
Date sent for review: 2014-04-21 13:04
Date reviewed: 2014-05-08 17:43

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
[ ] Grade A (Excellent)	[ ] Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	[ ] Accept
[ ] Grade B (Very good)	[Y] Grade B: minor language polishing	[ ] Existed	[ ] High priority for publication
[Y] Grade C (Good)	[ ] Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	[ ] No records	[ ]Rejection
[ ] Grade D (Fair)	[ ] Grade D: rejected	BPG Search:	[Y] Minor revision
[ ] Grade E (Poor)		[ ] Existed	[ ] Major revision
		[ ] No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS
In methods section- para 1 the bracket after Streptocooccus seems unnecessory. In results section para-3 last line of the page- " patients were divided into two categories according .... is redundant as this staement has already been given somewhere.