

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 50517

Title: Prebiotic UG1601 mitigates constipation-related events in association with gut microbiota: A randomized placebo-controlled intervention study

Reviewer's code: 03202632

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's country: China

Author's country: South Korea

Reviewer chose by: Artificial Intelligence Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-07-25 14:36

Reviewer performed review: 2019-07-27 09:21

Review time: 1 Day and 18 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this manuscript Prof. Sung and his colleagues stated that prebiotic UG1601 supplementation might contribute to alleviation constipation symptoms and endotoxemia by conducting a RCT. They showed serum CD 14 and LPS concentrations were significantly decreased after prebiotic usage. They also compared some abundance of bacteria which may produce SCFA or other metabolites related to constipation. Major comments: -The authors based all the mechanism that prebiotics affect constipation on the change of SCFA level. However, in this study, no significant change of SCFA was observed between the two groups after prebiotic usage. So the discussion and conclusion are not convincing. I assume that the improvement of constipation symptoms and biomarkers were caused by other reasons the authors have not defined. -The authors should also describe the stool collection method which is important and special in patients with constipation. -The definition of “responders” and “non-responders” should be given in the method section in detail with reasons or reference. -In this article, various indicators were examined by the authors. But please explain the reason why you choose them. For example, why CD14 was examined rather than other factors? Similarly, could *Bifidobacterium longum* etc. represent the abundance of acetate-producing bacteria? -In general: all of the figure legends need to be much more detailed, important explanations and descriptions are missing. Minor comments: - The authors should explain why and how “mild constipation” patients (Line 323) was defined. - The methods lack a proper description of how the sample size was decided? -The name of bacteria need to be reported formally. -P values need to be reported. e.g. Page 14 Line 228

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

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☐ Plagiarism

☒ No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 50517

Title: Prebiotic UG1601 mitigates constipation-related events in association with gut microbiota: A randomized placebo-controlled intervention study

Reviewer's code: 02445670

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Full Professor

Reviewer's country: Iran

Author's country: South Korea

Reviewer chose by: Artificial Intelligence Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-07-27 07:19

Reviewer performed review: 2019-07-29 05:45

Review time: 1 Day and 22 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS



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This article investigates the mitigating effect of prebiotic on constipation in association with gut microbiota. Alongwith the effect of probiotic consumption on constipation, prebiotic consumption is a newer approach to emerge similar or even higher symptoms. The topic and title is interesting with practical merits. The study design is appropriate and a comprehensive set of parameters are measured. I suggest acceptance. Just, authors must re-check the bacterial names form the stylistic point of view (being italic or non-italic, if the first letter of genera must be written small-e.g., bifidobacteria-, and writing the name of genera in abbreviation-first letter in Capital- after the first emergence in the text instead of writing it in complete).

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- ☐ The same title
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- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 50517

Title: Prebiotic UG1601 mitigates constipation-related events in association with gut microbiota: A randomized placebo-controlled intervention study

Reviewer's code: 05125469

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree:

Professional title:

Reviewer's country: United States

Author's country: South Korea

Reviewer chose by: Ruo-Yu Ma

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-07-31 13:24

Reviewer performed review: 2019-08-04 21:30

Review time: 4 Days and 8 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
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			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In the present manuscript, Prof Sung and co-researcher has explained the importance of prebiotic UG1601 administration leads to amelioration of constipation related events in adult mild constipation subject. The title and abstract are catchy and well explained about the subject matter. Remove the Firmicutes from the Keywords as it is also coming under the gut microbiota. The statistical analysis and experimental methods are also well designed. The background section need little modify giving more emphases on the present status and significance of this randomized control trial study. This human trial study has been well executed and lot of factors like (serum cluster of differentiation (CD) 14, lipopolysaccharide (LPS) concentrations, fecal SCFAs Concentration, gut microbiota flora) has been evaluated and showing its associated with constipation. But the clinical diagnostic factor like Bloating & cramping, Hematochezia, increase serum calcium levels and decrease in serum potassium and magnesium levels (Metabolic causes) are some critical factor must included in the discussion part to provide clear cut idea on constipation diagnosis that would be helpful to the practitioner. If history (depression, dietary type, calcium and/or Iron supplementation, opioids consumption, or any other factor responsible for mild constipation) of this randomized controlled trial subjects are available that must be provided to give an idea about occurrence of constipation, and how to distinguish between a mild- and chronic-constipation. The author has explained very well about the association of gut microbiota and SCFAs with constipation. In the discussion part author must mention the limitation of the study just above the conclusion portion. In the conclusion portion mention the significance of the study properly how butyrate producing bacteria contribute to the improvement of the symptom score and endotoxemia, which will provide ideas to the scientific community for further future study. Re-check the writing style of scientific names both in the manuscript text as well as in figures. Moreover, author has fulfilled all the research methods and reporting protocols satisfying the ethical committee. All the best



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INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

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- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

BPG Search:

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- ☐ Plagiarism
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