

ESPS Peer-review Report
Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 9457

Title: Stool characteristics of infants receiving short-chain galacto-oligosaccharides and long-chain fructo-oligosaccharides: a review

Reviewer code: 02821708

Science editor: Na Ma

Date sent for review: 2014-02-13 08:58

Date reviewed: 2014-02-18 23:34

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input 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	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	language polishing	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The review submitted by Scholtens and co-authors addressed the effect of a specific and industrially consolidated mixture of scGOS/lcFOS (9:1) on gut transit time, stool consistency and frequency in term and preterm infants. The review is well-written, contains useful information, is clear and concise and includes relevant bibliographic information. In my opinion, this manuscript is relevant enough to be published in the World Journal of Gastroenterology. I have only some minor questions to be addressed before potential publication.

- 1.- First paragraph, page 6. In addition to affect sodium and water absorption, SCFA production following prebiotics fermentation has also an impact on mineral absorption (mainly, calcium and magnesium). The authors could include some comment on this subject in the revised version of the manuscript.
- 2.- First paragraph, page 8. In the body text is indicated that the study of Moro et al. was performed with 0.8g/100 mL of scGOS/lcFOS whereas in Figure 1 a dose of 0.4/0.8g/100 ml is indicated. Please, clarify this point.
- 3.- Second paragraph, page 11. Please, could the authors be more specific on the production of SCFA provided by the ingestion of infant milk formulas with scGOS/lcFOS?. I mean, which type of SCFA has been described to be produced/increased (butyrate, acetate, propionate, formic, lactate)? all of them?.
- 4.- Conclusion section. Please correct the spelling mistake "lCOS" (I guess it should be "lcFOS").
- 5.- Figure 1. Please use decimal points instead of comma.

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Title: Stool characteristics of infants receiving short-chain galacto-oligosaccharides and long-chain fructo-oligosaccharides: a review

Reviewer code: 02821227

Science editor: Na Ma

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CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Specific comments: Page 3, line 13 and throughout manuscript - Avoid use of the word "parameters" in this context as its strict meaning has to do with statistical matters. Rather, use "outcomes" or "characteristics" instead. Page 8, line 14 - ...Veereman-Wauters et al., a ... Page 8, line 24 - Bisceglia et al followed ... Page 9, line 20 - What are the units for viscosity, centipoise? Page 10, line 5 - stools Page 10, line 7 - ... groups, respectively, was ... Page 10, line 9 - ... groups, respectively ... Page 11, lines 5 and 6 - Change "levels" to "concentrations". Page 11, line 6 - How much increase is noted in concentrations of bifido and lacto genera? What percentage of the microbes in the colon of the infant do these constitute? Page 11, line 13 - ... have indeed been shown ... Page 11, line 21 - 0.8 g/L Page 11, lines 23 and 24 - Quantify these responses. Page 11, line 28 - ... observed in human milk-fed infants. Page 12, line 1 - Remove "the". Page 12, line 4 - ... in a ratio of 9:1. Page 12, lines 5-6 - Expand on this point. HMO's are very complex and it's difficult for me to understand how a simple mixture of GalOS and Inulin could simulate in any way their structure. Please provide some explanatory language here. Page 12, line 16 - ... Russo et al. indicated ... Page 12, line 20 - Quantify this response. Page 19, Figure 1 - What is the title of this figure? Also, the format is very difficult to understand. Consider re-formatting to increase the clarity of the message that you are trying to convey in the use of this figure. General comments: This is a well written review of a very specific topic, namely, the effects on stool characteristics of a ratio of 9 GalOS:1 long chain fructooligosaccharides. Authors have summarized the work that has been conducted on this topic. In addition to the suggestions listed previously, authors should consider the following in preparation



BAISHIDENG PUBLISHING GROUP INC

8226 Regency Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588, United States

Telephone: +1-925-223-8242 Fax: +1-925-223-8243

E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com <http://www.wjgnet.com>

of the next draft of their paper: 1. What does the literature say about supplying these two oligosaccharides separately in infant formula? Those studies should be summarized and reported here. 2. What sources of GalOS and long chain fructooligosaccharides were used? That information should be listed for each study reviewed. Also, the purity of the OS should be reported. 3. Some information should be included as to the viability of the OS after they have undergone processing to manufacture the baby formula. Is there any loss in prebiotic efficacy?