

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 26525

Title: Lactobacillus acidophilus NCFM alleviates moderate to severe visceral pain in IBS volunteers

Reviewer's code: 03327970

Reviewer's country: Sweden

Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong

Date sent for review: 2016-04-14 11:51

Date reviewed: 2016-04-19 20:58

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

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This article describes a very well designed clinical trial on the effect of the probiotic strain *L. acidophilus* NCFM in two doses on symptoms in IBS patients. The trial design is of high-quality including the use of a well-defined strain, as well as an adequate number of participants and a long enough intervention period. Even though the strain was not superior in improving IBS symptoms compared to the placebo, using a post hoc analysis, *L. acidophilus* NCFM could significantly reduce symptoms in a subgroup of participants with increased intestinal pain scores at baseline, comparing the combined active groups (low and high dose) to placebo. I consider this article to be very interesting to the readers of the World Journal of Gastroenterology and recommend its publication after the following minor revisions: General advice: double-check language, check up on when to write numbers using letters or as actual numbers, check the use of the word 'per' Abstract – Results – 2nd sentence: IBS-SS improved over 12 weeks of treatment in all groups, .. → this should be mentioned already in the beginning of the sentence Introduction Page 5, line 10: timely is not the correct word, maybe temporary or over time Page 5, line 12-13: well-founded is exaggerated, the



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sentence needs to be rephrased for grammatical reasons also Page 5, line 19-21: not very clear English language, e.g. should be combination of strains Page 5, line 23: you mean statistically adequately? Page 6, line 1: rephrase "The sensation of functional bowel symptoms" Material and methods Page 6, line 16: per is the wrong word Page 7, line 7: Crohn's disease Line 13: Iron supplements Line 22: per is the wrong word Page 9, line 24: per is the wrong word Results Page 12, Line 15: per is the wrong word Page 13, Line 3: insignificance Page 14, Line 1: explain here already that the > 35 is part of the IBS-SSS, see also results in abstract Page 14, Line 4-7: where is this data shown? Any figure or table? Discussion Page 17, Line 14-15: Sentence is unclear Page 17, line 23-26: Sentence is unclear Page 18, line 8-11: please clarify this sentence Page 19, line 3-6: Should be part of a separate paragraph 'Conclusion', which should be a little bit more elaborated than these three lines

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 26525

Title: Lactobacillus acidophilus NCFM alleviates moderate to severe visceral pain in IBS volunteers

Reviewer's code: 00043396

Reviewer's country: Singapore

Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong

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CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	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"/> The same title	<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"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

A well conducted and well written study.

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 26525

Title: Lactobacillus acidophilus NCFM alleviates moderate to severe visceral pain in IBS volunteers

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CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" 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"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
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		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a well-designed trial and a well written paper I have only one major comment : the title is inadequate. Indfeed it suggests that the strain is effective while neither the primary outcome, nor the secondary outcomes differed between the 3 groups of patients. The conclusion is that the strain is no more effective than a placebo.