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Flat C, 23/F., Lucky Plaza,  
315-321 Lockhart Road,  
Wan Chai, Hong Kong, China

### ESPS Peer-review Report

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

**Ms:** 1677

**Title:** Probiotics improve the survival of rats in experimental sepsis by suppressing the proliferation of conditioned pathogens in ascites

**Reviewer code:** 00503418

**Science editor:** h.h.zhai@wjgnet.com

**Date sent for review:** 2013-01-16 09:26

**Date reviewed:** 2013-01-28 10:16

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" 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)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

### COMMENTS

#### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS:

The paper deals with surgically induced infection and the effect of probiotics on survival in an experimental study on rats. The study has been performed well. The manuscript has a few spelling and grammatical errors that should be corrected.

## ESPS Peer-review Report

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

**Ms:** 1677

**Title:** Probiotics improve the survival of rats in experimental sepsis by suppressing the proliferation of conditioned pathogens in ascites

**Reviewer code:** 00289613

**Science editor:** h.h.zhai@wjgnet.com

**Date sent for review:** 2013-01-16 09:26

**Date reviewed:** 2013-02-06 05:19

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" 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)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

## COMMENTS

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS:

This study investigated the potential benefit of probiotic supplement in preventing septic death by studying the survival rates in rats treated with different doses of a probiotic mixture and then further investigating the effects of probiotics administration on the bacteria proliferation in blood and ascites in a cecal ligation and puncture sepsis model. However, some data were not presented clearly or supportive enough for the conclusion. The data were reliable. Data presentation, analysis, and interpretation need improvements. Discussion should be more concise. Major comments: The experimental approach was reasonable and explicated in details. Animal numbers for each experiment were in a sufficient amount. However, some data was not presented well, i.e. Figure 2 has no SD bar. Some data were not supportive to their conclusions. For example, from table 1 and table 2, we can see a decreased bacterial spectrum in probiotics group than septic model group, not "similar" as they concluded. More importantly, the author tried to conclude that the probiotic prevents septic death by inhibiting the proliferation of bacteria with the data of bacterial culture. This is not persuasive because the decreased bacterial number may not exclusively due to the inhibition of proliferation, but also might be other reasons such as a less bacteria infiltration or promoted bacterial killing. For the writing, the authors provided too much redundant information that is not actually needed in the discussion section. For example, the author did not do detections on cytokines at all, but has two sentences talking about cytokine in sepsis-- "The components and products of pathogens stimulate..... to systemic inflammatory responses of host". Also, there is no need to list detailed examples of other probiotics' functions in immune responses with no relation to this study.



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Minor comments: The presentation of unites this article should be normalized.