

March 12, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name:1677-review.doc).

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

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 1677

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) Reviewers: Some data was not presented well, i.e. Figure 2 has no SD bar.

Answer: The data of Figure 2 were isolating rate of various bacteria in ascites between two groups. The length of histogram represented the percentage (%) of detecting a kind of bacteria. So the data were not expressed as the mean  $\pm$ SD.

(2) Reviewers: 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.

Answer: We rewrote the relative contents in results and table legend section according to the suggestion of reviewers, i.e. "The bacterial spectrum of ascites (Table 1) and blood (Table 2) decreased in probiotics treated group than septic model group"

(3) Reviewers: 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.

Answer: We deleted the word "proliferation" from the title. We rewrote the relative contents in discussion section according to the suggestion of reviewers, i.e. "All these data indicated that the mixture of probiotics improved the survival in a murine model of polymicrobial sepsis by suppressing the conditioned pathogens. However, the reasons of this suppression are not clear. There are two potential reasons of it. First, the decreased bacterial number may due to the inhibition of bacterial proliferation. Second, it may be other reasons such as a less bacteria infiltration or promoted bacterial killing."

(4) Reviewers: 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.

Answer: We deleted the relative contents in discussion section according to the suggestion of reviewers.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

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