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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

ESPS Peer-review Report
Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology
ESPS Manuscript NO: 8550
Title: The influence of a probiotic mixture on antibiotic induced microbiota disturbances
Reviewer code: 00166494
Science editor: Gou, Su-Xin
Date sent for review: 2013-12-30 11:57
Date reviewed: 2014-01-03 18:08

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
[ ] Grade A (Excellent)	[Y] Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	[ ] Accept
[ ] Grade B (Very good)	[ ] Grade B: minor language polishing	[ ] Existed	[ ] High priority for publication
[Y] Grade C (Good)	[ ] Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	[ ] No records	[ ]Rejection
[ ] Grade D (Fair)	[ ] Grade D: rejected	BPG Search:	[Y] Minor revision
[ ] Grade E (Poor)		[ ] Existed	[ ] Major revision
		[ ] No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

WGE-EPS-8550 The influence of a probiotic mixture on antibiotic induced microbiota disturbances Assigned: 30-Dec-2013 Due: 13-Jan-2014 Report sent: 03-Jan-2014 General Statement This paper essentially shows that an 8 days treatment with amoxicillin-clavulanic acid (AUGMENTIN?) for 7 days causes only very minimal changes in the intestinal microbiota, and also minimal changes in gastrointestinal symptom rating score, bowel habits and Bristol stool scales (using validated instruments). Moreover, simultaneous administration of probiotics did not provide really significant protection against the minimal changes that were observed in their absence. Thus, by and large, the study is negative. In this respect, it may be worth to be published because of all the uncertainties around the use of probiotics to prevent gastrointestinal disorders related to antibiotic treatments. However, the limitations of the study (small number of subjects; use of only one antibiotic preparation and one type of treatment) need to be carefully underlined. Also, the conclusions need to be much more straightforward (say plainly that there are no real difference). Lastly, the paper is quite long and could easily be pruned by 30-40 %, especially since there is not much to discuss (the data speak for themselves if taken at face value and in the context of a biological investigation where minimal changes are probably unimportant). Specific points: The authors provide detailed tables with statistical analyses. This is good, but data need also be looked at face value. Thus, some of the differences may be statistically significant (using the appropriate test) but are those biologically meaningful ? For instance, the authors go a long way in explaining that B. lactis CFUs significantly decreased during the study ($p < 0.001$) but the actual largest change is from 8.82 +/- 0.69 to 8.20 +/-0.64. I really question the biologic significance of such a small change.

Thus, the Discussion should be more critical and go beyond the mere acceptance of statistical significances… Commercial names must be avoided in scientific publications and only used once if needed to clearly identify the product in use. So, please, use amoxicillin/clavulanic acid throughout and cite AUGMENTIN? only once when you define the product you used. The description of the study design is a bit confusing as the first line suggests to the reader that there are 3 groups, namely placebo and two study (non-placebo) groups. A strain of bacteria is susceptible, not sensitive, to an antibiotic (hence the title of the CLSI document describing the standard methodology for testing antibiotic activity: "Performance Standards for Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing" [see http://www.clsi.org/standards/micro/sub-ast/) or the name of the European committee defining the corresponding standards: " European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing" [http://www.eucast.org])

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ESPS Peer-review Report
Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology
ESPS Manuscript NO: 8550
Title: The influence of a probiotic mixture on antibiotic induced microbiota disturbances
Reviewer code: 00502807
Science editor: Gou, Su-Xin
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CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
[ ] Grade A (Excellent)	[Y] Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	[Y] Accept
[Y] Grade B (Very good)	[ ] Grade B: minor language polishing	[ ] Existed	[ ] High priority for publication
[ ] Grade C (Good)	[ ] Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	[ ] No records	[ ]Rejection
[ ] Grade D (Fair)	[ ] Grade D: rejected	BPG Search:	[ ] Minor revision
[ ] Grade E (Poor)		[ ] Existed	[ ] Major revision
		[ ] No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS
Acceptable