



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 61139

Title: Washed microbiota transplantation reduces proton pump inhibitor dependency in nonerosive reflux disease

Reviewer's code: 05040484

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Assistant Professor, Doctor, Professor, Research Scientist

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Russia

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2020-11-29

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-11-29 10:45

Reviewer performed review: 2020-12-01 16:22

Review time: 2 Days and 5 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The role of the microbiota in the pathogenesis of human diseases and the possibility of using it as an application point for various medical technologies, including the transplantation of fecal microbiota is being intensively studied. I have not been able to find any published studies investigating the use of fecal microbiota transplantation in the treatment of GERD, so this study is likely to be the first, which is its strong point.

However, the manuscript requires a number of fixes: 1) The authors, mentioning the microbiota, do not specify the localization of this microbiota. But it is present not only in the intestines, but also in the esophagus, stomach, oral cavity... Therefore, the authors, mentioning the microbiota, must indicate the organ. 2) The authors do not provide criteria for PPI dependence. 3) The phrase "The PPI dose in the WMT group was reduced by 80.0%" is ambiguous: it is not clear whether it means that it was possible to reduce the dose of PPIs in 80% of these patients, or that it was possible to reduce the dose by on average 80% in all of these patients. 4) Not specified, what criteria were used to select patients into the experimental and control groups 5) Subjective factors were analyzed and this predisposes to a high proportion of placebo effect. So would be worthwhile to compare it with the group that underwent simulated fecal transplantation.

6) Two patients were only assessed for the change in fecal microbiota. I don't think it has any scientific value. 7) The Background chapter is too extensive and should be shortened by removing unnecessary details on the prevalence of GERD and the fact that it often remains STI-dependent. For this, 2 sentences are more than enough. You should also delete or shorten the paragraph on probiotics for the treatment of GERD, as this is not in the study. The paragraph on faecal transplant should also be shortened. 8) Specify in "Total course of treatment: Four courses were implemented in the first month, second month, third month, and sixth month.": 4 courses were held every month and 1 course



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per month in the first month, second month, third month, and sixth month. 9) The data in Tables 2.2 are completely duplicated in the text, so it should be deleted. 10) Methods for assessing intestinal barrier function must be described in the Methods chapter. 11) SIBO was evaluated only in a few patients and only before starting therapy. This information has not value and should be removed. 12) Assessment of the intestinal barrier function should be carried out in both groups and compare them with each other. 13) Figure 3 is signed as Figure 2. 14) You should not combine tables with the same number, for example, tables 5.1 and 5.2.



RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Ru Fan

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-12-21 17:48

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Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS



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The article has become much better, but still some comments remained: 1) there are too many unnecessary abbreviations, some of which are used further in the text only a couple of times (for example, RE): you should only abbreviate really frequently occurring phrases; 2) p-value should be used instead of Z-value in Table 6. 3) do not use the Z-value in other tables, since the p-value is sufficient. 4) there are still no criteria for selection of patients to whom you performed fecal transplantation and who did not 5) it is necessary to cite the references describing that markers of intestinal barrier disturbance used by the authors can be used for these purposes and to cite the references describing the normal values of these markers 6) p-values should be indicated in Table 5 when comparing groups before treatment and in the experimental group before and after treatment, as well as correct errors in its name. 7) data on the safety of fecal transplantation in the study should be added to the abstract: the authors write about this in the conclusion and do not write about the results.