

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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Title: Abundance of Enterobacteriaceae in the colon mucosa in diverticular disease

Reviewer's code: 00181101

Reviewer's country: Italy

Science editor: Yuan Qi

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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
<input checked="" 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		[Y] No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		[Y] No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an interesting and well-written research on possible colonic microbiota differences between healthy subjects and patients with diverticulosis/SUDD. Follow some major comments: 1) The study clearly needs to be compared with the previous paper published on Gut by Barbara et al from which the results differ significantly. In that paper a reduced percentage of Enterobacteriaceae and Akkermansia was detected in SUDD, while increased level of Bacteroides was seen in SUDD patients. Authors should comment more in depth differences between their and Barbara's work (some discussion is indeed present in the current version), including: different techniques used in the experiments, expected differences if they had tested faeces + mucosal biopsies and why other types of microbes such as Akkermansia and bacteroides were not analysed 2) Authors should discuss about methodological limitations, in particular the small sample size and the lack of strict matching between cases and controls (age, sex, habits), since



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controls and cases were just 'consecutive' patients referred for colonoscopy