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Role of intestinal flora in primary sclerosing cholangitis and its potential therapeutic value

Zhen-Jiao Li, Hong-Zhong Gou, Yu-Lin Zhang, Xiao-Jing Song, and Lei Zhang.

Dear Editor,

We wish to re-submit the manuscript titled “**Role of intestinal flora in primary sclerosing cholangitis and its potential therapeutic value.**” (ID: 79168)

We thank you and the reviewers for your thoughtful suggestions and insights. The manuscript has benefited from these insightful suggestions. The manuscript has been rechecked, and the necessary changes have been made in accordance with the reviewers’ suggestions.

We are deeply grateful for the reviewer’s comments and suggestions, which have helped us improve the quality of our manuscript. Also, thank you for recommending the Reference Citation Analysis (RCA). We feel that this has helped us a lot in the process of revising our manuscript. We would love to thank you for allowing us to re-submit a revised copy of the manuscript. We really appreciate your efforts in reviewing our manuscript during this unprecedented and challenging time. We wish good health to you, your family, and your community.

I look forward to working with you and the reviewers to move this manuscript closer to publication. The responses to all comments have been prepared and are attached below.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Lei Zhang

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Responses to Reviewers

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors:

1. Please use the full spelling instead of abbreviation as a subtopic of each paragraphy, for example, FMT, BAs...

Response 1: Thank you for pointing this out. We apologize for the misuse of abbreviations in the sub-topics of the paragraphs, and based on your suggestion, we have corrected all relevant errors in the manuscript. Your scientific rigor is appreciated, and we have worked hard to maintain that level of rigor.

2. Please provide the difference of intestinal flora published from the Eastern and Western countries if possible.

Response 2: Thank you for your valuable comments, which helped us improve the overall quality of the manuscript. We have searched and read all the articles related to the intestinal flora of patients with PSC and described, in detail, some important findings of the relevant studies. So far, there are 17 studies describing the relevant changes in the intestinal flora of patients with PSC, and the specific intestinal flora dysbiosis in patients with PSC is illustrated in Table 1. Most of the relevant studies are from western countries (UK, Germany, etc.), whereas less relevant studies were reported from eastern countries (4/17), which are generally considered yet developing. However, combining all the relevant studies from Eastern and Western countries, we conclude that patients with PSC have a unique intestinal floral profile, which is not influenced by geography, diet, or lifestyle habits. There is no significant difference between the published intestinal flora in Eastern and Western countries (For more details, see The intestinal flora of patients with PSC, pp. 7-9)

3. Please enrich the content of "abstract" and provide more useful and prcticle results for readers.

Response 3: We are very grateful to the professor for pointing out this problem. Based on the professor's comments, we have rewritten the abstract in the context of the article (p. 3).

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: The Authors conducted a review on the role of gut microbiota in the primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC) pathogenesis. They concluded that intestinal flora had a major role in the PSC and it can be a target for future therapies. In my opinion, this review is worthy to be published for the following reasons: 1. PSC is a liver disease with high risk of cancers and with no effective treatment. So, a review on the pathogenetic mechanisms is useful to collect data to find new therapeutic target 2. The gut microbiota is assuming a predominant role in the pathogenesis of many diseases. In the PSC its role seems to be fundamental, especially in patients with concomitant inflammatory bowel disease. In general, the paper is well written, and the English grammar is good. However, I did not find in the text the position of Figure 1.

Response: Thank you for your valuable comments. We have submitted Figure 1 as a separate electronic file in the system in accordance with the "Guidelines and Requirements for Manuscript Revision" and "Format for Manuscript Revision" of the Baishideng Publishing Group.