

Answering Reviewers:

Thank you sincerely for your invaluable feedback on this manuscript; your insights have proven to be exceptionally beneficial to our research. Below, we provide comprehensive responses to the inquiries you raised.

1. There is no information on how many patients from the group treated with LP N1115 passed stools initially and after 3 months of intervention (the enigmatic information of 54 patients did not do so), it is insufficient, because conclusions were drawn based on the number of collected stool samples - ?

Reply: The intervention group consisted of 86 patients. Fifty-four patients were excluded from providing fecal samples after the intervention due to the administration of antibiotics or proton pump inhibitors for gastrointestinal bleeding, infection, etc. during their treatment with LP N1115.

2. There is no information on how feces were collected in the group of 74 patients who received only general treatment. Was an analogy used and stool samples were collected once initially or twice, i.e. after 3 months of treatment?

Reply: Currently, clinical data has been collected and analyzed only from patients undergoing general treatment; however, fecal samples have not yet been obtained. This aspect remains incomplete due to the economically developed region in which we are located and the limited availability of research funds. The completion of this aspect will be our ongoing focus in future research.

3. Were antibiotics or proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) used in both groups, and if so, why were antibiotics and PPIs used?

Reply: Exclusion criteria include: Patients who had not used antibiotics, microecological agents, or proton pump inhibitors within 2 weeks before enrollment. Some patients experienced gastrointestinal bleeding and infection during the follow-up, and were treated with PPI and antibiotics, so the follow-up visit was terminated, so fewer stool specimens were collected after 3 months than at the time of enrollment.

4. How old were the patients? 5. How many women and how many men?

Reply: The microecological intervention group had a median age of 58 years, comprising 68 males and 18 females. The general treatment group had a median age of 60 years, consisting of 53 men and 21 women.