

ANSWERING REVIEWERS



August 25, 2012

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format.

Title: Effectiveness of probiotics in all subtypes of irritable bowel syndrome: A systematic review with meta-analysis of 1793 patients

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 11781

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) first of all we added Running title : Effectiveness of probiotics in IBS- Meta Analysis to the first page of our study

(2) As reviewer mentioned Core tip section have been added to article :

Coretip :

Irritable bowel syndrome is a gastrointestinal tract dysfunction with complicated etiology. Probiotics may influence IBS symptoms. The present meta-analysis included 1793 patients with all subtypes of IBS in fifteen randomized, double-blind clinical trials from 2007 up to 2013. Use of different scales to analyse the mean differences of symptoms in various studies has been the main limitations of all meta-analyses in IBS including the present one. Thus, further clinical trials are still needed to conclude the effectiveness of probiotics on special major IBS symptoms of patients. Probiotics may have beneficial therapeutic role in IBS patients in definite duration of administration.

(3) In the introduction section the sentence has been corrected as respected reviewer recommended:

“such as inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) exposure in a family member changed to:

Genetics background and environmental factors, history of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) in a family member, psychological positions as stressful social activities are involved in the pathogenesis of IBS.”

(4) In the introduction section the word “reduce” was added to visceral hypersensitivity: “Moreover, probiotics stimulate goblet cells to produce mucus leading to enhance the intestinal barrier function and bowel movements, and reduce visceral hypersensitivity”

(5) In the methods, the first sentence in study selection part has been corrected : “Three reviewers inspected the topic and abstracts”

(6) To clarify our inclusion and exclusion criteria as the reviewer recommended, the underlined sentences from Data sources were replaced into the Study selection part:

“Three reviewers inspected the topic and abstracts of all articles to eliminate identical studies, review articles, systematic reviews and meta-analysis investigations. All relevant characteristics of included trials such as IBS type, probiotics strain, dose of probiotics, trial and follow up duration, patient’s characteristics and outcomes were collected and summarized. All randomized controlled trials which considered IBS symptoms improvement as outcome of interest were included. The reference lists of searched articles were reviewed for further eligible articles.”

(7) In the results and systematic review “the significant recovered bloating severity” sentence has been changed to “the significant reduction of bloating severity”

(8) In Meta-analysis section they recommended: We are missing risk of bias assessment. Authors provide us only with assessment of publication bias which is not enough.

Risk of bias assessment or study heterogeneity is already done by Cochrane Q test and has been reported in the Results for each analysis. The reviewer has missed to see that. The point is that risk of bias assessment means the study heterogeneity.

(9) We changed this sentences in the discussion “By use of probiotics and integrating into the host bowel “ to “ the use of probiotics and their integration in the host gut flora, result in the recovery and gradually heals”

(10) In Discussion section we changed this phrase “to change fermentation pattern” to “to a change of pattern of fermentation”

(11) The name of first author in reference number 18 were Bold.

(12) Comment section is added to the last section of our article.

References and type setting were corrected.

This paper has been already checked for English language but again it is double-checked to make sure there is no trace of linguistic problem. As a matter of fact, in meta-analysis papers, most of sentences have specific structure of representation. Its English language is perfect.

The revised file in track change mode for your convenience in following changes and extent of revision; After reading that please click on “accept all changes” and then “track change off” and then save to have a clean version ready for publishing.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.