



SDI Review Form 1.6

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| Journal Name: | Journal of Advances in Microbiology |
| Manuscript Number: | Ms_JAMB_34492 |
| Title of the Manuscript: | EFFECTS OF PROBIOTICS ON INTESTINAL MICROFLORA OF HIV-INFECTED INDIVIDUALS |
| Type of the Article | Original Research Article |

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)



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PART 1: Review Comments

| | Reviewer's comment | Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here) |
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| Compulsory REVISION comments | <p>The study present relevant information related to the use of probiotics in HIV-1 patients. I suggest the review of the points bellow:</p> <p>1- Background:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Line 48: I have some questions to ask about the methodology, but it seems that the objective of the study was to "evaluate the effect of proiotics on intestinal microflora into two WHO stage groups of HIV-infected adults". Reading the way described in the manuscript, it seems that authors are going to perform a RCT and divide patients into probiotics and placebo group - which was not the case of the study. <p>2- Methods</p> <p>2.1 - Please, explain how these 40 patients were selected. Clarify the inclusion and exclusion criteria considered, number of patients meeting the criteria, number of them excluded and reasons for exclusion, and the final simple. Also, authors should compare their baseline characteristics with those of the patients not included in the analysis to rule out the possibility of selection bias.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All patients were ART-naïve? Please, clarify this point. - I didn't understand why 20 patients were selected to investigate their gut microflora. How these 20 patients were selected? Does this selection follow the same proportion of groups I and II? <p>3- Results and Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please include a paragraph discussing the limitations of the study. | <p>We thank the Reviewer for your interest in our work and for helpful comments that will greatly improve the manuscript and we have tried to do our best to respond to the points raised. As indicated below, we have checked the general and specific comments provided by the Reviewer and have made necessary changes accordingly to their indications.</p> <p>Thank you for your critical reading and constructive suggestions. We are not going to perform a RCT study. First of all we have 40 patients who agreed to take part in the study, but unfortunately in the second part of the study (where we estimated the influence of probiotics) the number of those who remained was 20, we felt that was enough to continue the study.</p> |



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| | <p>Please clarify the ethical issue if any.</p> <p>Authors described that all patients signed the written agreement to participate in the study. I would just like to request the approval number from the Research Ethics Committee</p> | <p>Study protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of the regional center of prevention and control of AIDS in Kharkov</p> |
| <u>Minor</u> REVISION comments | <p>3- Results and Discussion</p> <p>- Table 2 and Table 3: Please identify the correspondent lines on the Table - the two lines are group 1 and group 2?</p> | <p>Table 2 - Mean concentration of bacterial groups isolated from 40 HIV-patients (without probiotics)</p> <p>Table 3 - Mean concentration of bacterial groups isolated from 20 patients (with probiotics)</p> |
| <u>Optional/General</u> comments | | |