



SDI Review Form 1.6

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.

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment <i>(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)</i>
<u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments	<p>I would like to make the following suggestions to the authors to improve the quality of the manuscript even further:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As a clinical trial involving humans I would urge the authors to modify their paper according to the CONSORT 2010 statement. 2. The authors do not comment on whether an ethics board approved the study. Please elucidate. 3. The authors do not state how this study was funded. Please include this in the paper. 4. The authors do not mention whether this trial was registered with a clinical trials database, for example clinicaltrials.gov prior to conducting the study. If this was not done, please include as limitation. 5. It is not clear what the primary outcome of this study was and when it would have been regarded as positive. If no primary outcome was chosen, please discuss as limitation. 6. It is not clear why only 20 patients were chosen to follow and 40 were investigated at baseline. Was there a power calculation or is this a random number? 7. It is not clear to me why the authors would distinguish a group I and II. Immunodeficiency is a continuum and a CD4 count of 350 is not a magic number to my understanding. Please explain or otherwise omit these groups. 8. I would suggest to combine table 2 and 3 for the 20 patients that were followed to make the comparison easier. Then the authors could consider to compare baseline vs follow-up CFU's of the species. This is more informative than comparing it to a normal population only. 9. The authors do not inform the reader where the 'normal' reference ranges come from. Is there a control group? Is this a literature reference? Please explain. 10. The authors do not include a strain designation for their probiotic mixture. Which <i>L. rhamnosus</i> were they working with? GR-1? What is 	



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	the source of these probiotics? Why was this particular mixture selected? Please discuss.	
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do the authors have more baseline variables on the patients? Were the patients on ARV for example? Any comorbidities? If no further variables known please include as a limitation. 2. The authors could consider to omit table 1 and include these values instead in the text. It does not seem to add much to have the information in a table. 3. The referencing is strange as it starts with reference 6 and 12. I would suggest to start with 1 and 2 instead and number throughout. 4. There are multiple grammatical errors. I would suggest to have this paper checked thoroughly checked on grammar. 5. What do the authors mean with a 'Dysbiosis correction circuit'. Please omit this wording if not warranted. 6. Line 13. What do authors mean with (1014) 7. The author only cite one paper (reference 4) on probiotics and HIV while there is a whole body of literature. Consider to include Int Rev Immunol. 2010 Oct;29(5):485-513. doi: 10.3109/08830185.2010.505310. Review. 	
<u>Optional/General</u> comments		

Reviewer Details:

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