Reviewer's report

Title: Small intestinal bacterial overgrowth in irritable bowel syndrome: are there any predictors?

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Reviewer: Mark Pimentel

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In the manuscript by Reddymasu, et al, the authors further delineate the association between SIBO and IBS. More specifically, the authors find that sex and age are major determinants of the prevalence of SIBO.

The study has limited data and is small in presentation. However, the data are vitally important in one way. Recently, a paper speculated that since many IBS patients are on proton pump inhibitor, that the PPI is affecting the result or even causing SIBO. While this was speculation, this study answers this question. Thus even more important than age and sex is this relationship. This needs to be expounded in the manuscript and included in the discussion.

Perhaps a figure would also be helpful rather than data in a paragraph to make the paper more interesting.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.