Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of two Lactobacillus strains on lipid metabolism and intestinal microflora of rats on a high-cholesterol diet

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Reviewer: Min-Tze Liong

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Effects of two Lactobacillus strains on lipid metabolism and intestinal microflora of rats on a high-cholesterol diet

General:
This current work examined the effect of Lactobacillus strains on lipid metabolism and intestinal microflora in hypercholesterolemic-induced rats. The results obtained have been evaluated and mechanism for the removal of cholesterol has been postulated. Generally, these findings are not new and lack novelty. The manuscript was poorly written and the grammar needs to be improved. In addition, it lacks a smooth flow in the presentation of information and scattered evidences without much discussion to highlight the significance of findings. The lack of critical comments from the author also resulted in a manuscript with disorganized compilation of information, without much insight from the author to evaluate the presented studies. I would like to suggest for a major correction. Other minor points to be attended are listed below.

Specific
Please make a space after punctuation marks. Please check throughout text.
Page 1, Line 14: Missing of comma after ‘In the study’
Page 2, Line 12: Change ‘weights’ to ‘weight’
Page 2, Line 15: Change ‘may able’ to ‘might be able’
Page 3, Line 2: reportedhat?
Page 3, Lines 10-13: Please rephrase the sentence
Page 3, Line 14: intestina?
Page 3, Line 15: Add ‘of cholesterol’ immediately after ‘amount’
Page 3, Line 17: Change ‘conversed to’ to ‘converted into’
Page 4, Line 1-3: This sentence is confusing. Please rephrase
Page 4, Line 5: Missing of comma after ‘So’
Page 4, Line 11: Add ‘In’ before ‘in vitro’
Page 4, Line 12: Delete ‘more or less’
Page 4, Line: Change ‘the growth’ to ‘their growth’
Page 4, Lines 20-21 and Page 5, Lines 1-4: This sentence is too long and confusing. Please rephrase.

Page 5, Line 4: Delete the comma after ‘laboratory’.

Page 5, Line 7: What is the concentration of normal saline used? How many percent?

Page 5, Lines 19-20 and Page 6, Lines 6-7: What was the ratio? w/v or v/v? Please include.

Page 6, Line 10 and 17: Please use ‘L’ for litre and check for consistency throughout text.

Page 6, Line 11: Change ‘week’ to ‘weeks’.

Page 6, Line 11: Add ‘were’ immediately after ‘groups’.

Page 6, Line 14: Change ‘weights’ to ‘weight’.

Page 6, Line 18: ice? How many degree celcius? Please be more specific.

Page 6, Line 19: Make a space after ‘30’.

Page 7, Line 2: This sentence is hanging. Please rewrite.

Page 7, Line 7 and 20: What was the ratio? w/v or v/v? Please include.

Page 7, Line 9: Change ‘content was’ to ‘contents were’.

Page 7, Line 12: Change ‘1’ to ‘One’.

Page 7, Line 13: Please use ‘L’ for litre and double check throughout text.

Page 8, Line 1: What was the ratio? w/v or v/v? Please include.

Page 8, Line 11: normal?


Page 8, Line 12: Please use ‘L’ for litre and double check throughout text.

Page 10, Line 3: Please use ‘L’ for litre and double check throughout text.

Page 10, Line 3: Change ‘are’ to ‘were’.

Page 11, Line 3 and 15: Change ‘are’ to ‘were’.

Page 12, Line 3: supplenented?

Page 12, Line 7: “…was not present in L.9-41-A group and L.M1-16 group”. Based on Figure 2, lipid deposition was found in L.9-41-A group and L.M1-16 group, although low. Please double check.

Page 12, Line 13: Change ‘is’ to ‘was’.


Page 12, Line 17: “…smaller adipocyte size…”? compared to?

Page 13, Line 12: Change ‘is’ to ‘was’.

Page 13, Line 21: Add ‘as’ immediately after ‘considered’.

Page 14, Line 3: Change ‘versus’ to ‘compared to those’.
Page 14, Line 12: Change to 'reducing serum total cholesterol'
Page 14, Lines 14-15: This sentence is hanging. Please rephrase
Page 14, Line 16: Add 'that' immediately after 'found'
Page 14, Line 17: Add 'the' immediately after 'reported that'
Page 14, Line 20: Add 'that the' immediately after 'found'
Page 14, Line 21: Change 'to be reduced' to 'were reduced'
Page 15, Lines 9-13 and Lines 14-17: Please rewrite the sentence
Page 15, Line 21: Change 'can' to 'could'
Page 16, Line 1: Add 'a' immediately after 'knowledge,'
Page 16, Line 1: Add 'that' immediately after 'reported'
Page 16, Line 1: Change 'an' to 'a'
Page 16, Line 1: Change 'besides' to 'other than'
Page 16, Line 2: Please note P-values when stating significant results. Please check throughout text
Page 16, Line 8: Add 'that' immediately after 'reported'
Page 16, Line 13: Add 'that' immediately after 'found'
Page 16, Line 15: Add 'also' immediately after 'Watanabe et al.'
Page 16, Line 15: Change 'can' to 'could'
Page 17, Line 5: Change 'E. coli growth' to 'the growth of E. coli'
Page 17, Line 7: Change '…bile salt and…' to '…bile salt that…'
Page 17, Line 12: Add 'that' immediately after 'found'
Page 17, Line 16: Add 'also' immediately after 'might'
Page 18, Line 2: Change '9-41-A' to 'L.9-41-A'
Page 18, Line 5: Change 'is' to 'was'
Page 18, Line 8: Change 'are' to 'were'

Tables and Figures: All tables and figures must be self-explained. How many samples and replicates; n=? What did the error bars or +/- represented; std dev or std error?

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**
'I declare that I have no competing interests'