Reviewer's report

Title: Immune-modulatory effects of dietary yeast beta-1,3/1,6-D-glucan

Version: 1

Date: 8 December 2013

Reviewer: Martin O. Weickert

Reviewer's report:

Stier and colleagues provide an interesting and up to date about the immunomodulating effects of yeast beta 1-3, 1-6 D Glucans.

Comments

1. Authors performed a narrative review of the literature. It will be important to give the reader an idea of how the respective studies were selected (e.g. review of which of the data bases, which exact search criteria were used for selection, e.g. presence of a control group, number of subjects, duration of the study, randomised controlled studies etc; and exact criteria for exclusion of studies from this review)

2. Authors are focusing on Yestimmun. A clear statement must be given in the article why authors focus on this specific product. Other comparable products might be around and should be covered as well.

3. Potential conflicts of interests need to be clearly stated, e.g. the fact that Leiber GmbH has a commercial interest in this study is not obvious

4. Some of the paragraphs would benefit from more moderate statements; e.g. instead of “not any signs of” could be replaced by “no signs of”; or “did not lead to any adverse effects” could be replaced by “no adverse effects” and so on. It also should be appreciated that long term beneficial effects of yeast beta 1-3, 1-6 D Glucans, as well as absence of long term adverse effects are unknown.

5. The review would greatly benefit from a Figure, pointing out the potential mechanisms that may be involved at conveying Immunomodulatory functions of yeast beta 1-3, 1-6 D Glucans.

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:

This reviewer had received partial funding from Leiber Inc, Bramsche Germany, in 2006; for the conduction of a intervention study investigating a yeast derived
(1,3)(1,6)beta-glucan of the company