Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Effect of supplement with lactic-acid producing bacteria on fatigue and physical activity in patients with chronic fatigue syndrome

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 13 August 2008

**Reviewer:** Pirje Hutt

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- **Major Compulsory Revisions**
  1. It should be clarified what parameters were evaluated as in the text it is only written that at the end of the study 6 of 15 patients reported that they had improved.

  2. In the methods section more precisely microbiological procedures should be described. Which were the non-selective and selective media?

  3. Why only Lactobacillus F 19 was examined by RAPD-PCR, while the consumed product contained 3 different probiotic strains?

  4. Statistical analyses are only described in methods section but not included to the data of the tables.

  5. In detecting anaerobes gas-liquid chromatography was applied but no results are shown.

  6. What is the meaning of the detection of calprotectin if the patients had no symptoms indicating gastrointestinal disorders?

  7. The tables are not very informative.

- **Minor Essential Revisions**

  1. In the abstract it is written that faecal samples were collected and the normal microflora was analysed, but in the Material and methods section it is noted that faeces was sampled 3 times.

  2. In the tables 1 and 3 the first column is without heading.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.