Author's response to reviews

Title: Positive regulatory effects of perioperative probiotic treatment on postoperative liver complications after colorectal liver metastases surgery: a double-center and double-blind randomized clinical trial

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

On behalf of my colleagues, I would like to submit manuscript entitled “The positive regulatory effects of perioperative probiotic treatment on serum zonulin level and subsequent postoperative liver complications after colorectal liver metastases surgery: a double-center and double-blind randomized clinical trial” for consideration for publication in *BMC Gastroenterology*.

We hypothesize that liver barrier contributed to the change of postoperative zonulin level in our present study of CLM, except the role of intestinal barrier. Thus, we further select the patients with normal intestinal permeability to investigate the role of liver barrier on the occurrence of postoperative infective complications. Results indicated that PRO could efficiently lower the postoperative infection related complications, indicating that liver barrier dysfunction also contributed to the postoperative infection related complications. In addition, we drew a CP picture to elucidate the relationship between PRO, liver barrier, intestinal barrier, and postoperative infection related complications (Figure 3), which will broaden the understanding of the effects of newly found molecule—zonulin, in its regulation on the barrier function after surgery.

This paper has not been published or submitted elsewhere in whole or in part. All authors have read and approved the contents, and agreed to submit for consideration for publication in the journal. There are no ethical/legal conflicts involved in the article.

Your consideration for this manuscript is highly appreciated. We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

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