Reviewer’s report

Title: Gastric Bacterial Flora in Patients Harbouring Helicobacter pylori With or Without Chronic Dyspepsia: Analysis with Matrix-assisted Laser Desorption Ionization Time-of-Flight Mass Spectroscopy

Version: 0 Date: 13 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Annalisa Schiepatti

Reviewer’s report:

In this paper the Authors aimed at characterizing the gastric microbiota of patients with H.Pylori infection with or without chronic dyspepsia and absence of organic disease. The paper is globally well structured and the results show a substantial difference in the gastric microbiota composition between these two groups.

I have the following minor concerns/considerations:

- Although the study of microbiota is a topic of interest, I am not sure that these results could impact clinical decisions, since it is very difficult to understand whether microbiota differences could anticipate H. Pylori infection or be the consequence of the presence of H. Pylori itself. This point is described in the discussion, but

- Rome III criteria have been updated to Rome IV criteria in 2016. Although Rome III definition of "functional gastro-duodenal disorders" has been largely confirmed, the Authors should refer to Rome IV criteria

- Could the Authors provide information about smoking and NSAIDs use in their patients?

- I am a little bit puzzled by the fact that gastric biopsies were not performed in the group of patients undergoing a gastroscopy because of dyspepsia. I think that this is a limitation of the study, because we do not have information about the presence of a chronic gastritis. The Authors are conscious of this point, but I think that this should be further highlighted.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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