Author’s response to reviews

Title: Characterization of gut microbiota in children with pulmonary tuberculosis

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Author’s response to reviews:

actually, we have provided the reply letter as a word attachment

Reply letter

Dear editor:

Thanks for your attention on our manuscript and we really appreciate your work for correcting the grammar mistakes in our manuscript. we have revised our paper and the revised contents have been marked in yellow

1. we have revised the grammar mistakes in our manuscript that you have pointed out.

2. You advised that we should clarify what is meant be ‘pathogenic ‘evidence

Reply: we have added the contents about the pathogenic evidence on page 6 line 3 to 5.

3. You advised that we should define the positive PPD result

Reply: we have added the contents about the positive PPD test which is defined as the reaction diameter is more than 5 mm. on page 6 line 8.

4. You asked that “Why are you recording if the subjects received antibiotics, probiotics, etc if in the prior paragraph it is stated that none of the subjects received these drugs?”
Reply: on page 6 line 19 to 20, we described that none of the enrolled participants including the PTB group and the healthy controls had received probiotics, prebiotics or antibiotics within one month before admission. And in the next paragraph, we described that basic demographic data, clinical data and medical history including whether the subjects had received probiotics, prebiotics or antibiotics within one month before admission were collected at the time of admission for all subjects. The objective of the later paragraph was to describe that what would we do after we enrolled the subjects. We wanted to emphasize that none of the enrolled participants including the PTB group and the healthy controls had received probiotics, prebiotics or antibiotics within one month before admission. However, after the consideration, we also recognized that this contents about the medical history is repeated. So in the revision we have deleted these contents of medical history.

5. You advised that we should state ‘the Wilcox test’ and ‘the Adonis non-parametric test’

Reply: About Wilcox test. Actually, the Mann-Whitney U test and Wilcox test are all non-parametric tests. But the Mann-Whitney U test can be done by SPSS while the Wilcox test cannot. The result of these two tests are same. The Mann-Whitney U test is more commonly used when you compare two sets of nonparametric variables. So in the revision, for Chao 1 index, ACE index, Shannon index and Simpson index, comparison was performed by means of Mann-Whitney U test. The results of comparison of these index are as follows. We can see that the results of these two test are same. （0 means controls and 1 means TB group）

About the Adonis non-parametric test

We have stated this test in the revision on page 8 line 8 to 10. This statistic method is commonly used in Bioinformatics analysis. The P value of this test described whether the difference between two groups is significant.