Reviewer's report

Title: The effects of synbiotic supplementation on hormonal status, biomarkers of inflammation and oxidative stress in subjects with polycystic ovary syndrome: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial

Version: 1 Date: 04 Feb 2018

Reviewer: Zuleyha Karaca

Reviewer's report:

In this paper, Nasri et al investigated the effects of synbiotic supplementation on hormonal status, biomarkers of inflammation and oxidative stress in subjects with PCOS. The paper seems interesting however I have some concerns;

1. The time period of 12 weeks for treatment is too short to evaluate the effects on hormonal parameters and FGS. How did the authors decide for this time, please explain and discuss the limitations.

2. In the abstract the number of controls is 35 but it is stated as 30 in the paper.

3. The authors state that the data regarding synbiotic supplementation is sparse but they haven't discussed the previous data if any.

4. In the results section; the effects of treatment on measured parameters are given. Please state which is before and after treatment.

5. The SDs of some parameters in the tables is too high. Please check if it is appropriate to give mean value.

6. How do the author interprete the decrement of FGS by 1.3 in 3 months time. The change is minimal clinically although statistically significant and the time period is very short. Do the authors expect further decrease in FGS by time?

7. Discuss the paper by Shoaei T in 2015 regarding probiotic supplementation in PCOS.
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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