Reviewer’s report

Title: PROBIOTICS AND VAGINAL MICROECOLOGY: FACT OR FANCY?

Version: 0 Date: 26 May 2018

Reviewer: Francesco De Seta

Reviewer's report:

1) The authors ignored to differentiate oral and vaginal route in the introduction.

2) In the Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2017 (Probiotics for vulvovaginal candidiasis in non-pregnant women. Probiotics for vulvovaginal candidiasis in non-pregnant women) the data show the beneficial effects of probiotics in short term follow up not confirmed in long term cure, but we know that also with traditional/conventional treatment (azoles) the recurrences represent a sort of not solved issue.

3) Regarding BV and probiotics, the authors considered only data from Tan H, Fu Y, Yang C, Ma J. and they completely neither cited nor mentioned other trial or cochrane with results not completely negative.


4) The authors don't differentiate between acute and recurrent form of infections (candidiasis or vaginosis) and relative therapeutic implications. In fact in complicated forms (recurrent infections) all treatments (also antymicotic or antibiotic) are not supportive, until today, of long term beneficial results.

5) In the obstetric population data showed in the paper are only related to the negative studies, instead other data reported beneficial effects in case of pPROM (Daskalakis et al) . Also the norvegian protocol showed beneficial effects when administrating in the early gestational age. At the end we know how far we are to having significant results in Ob patients but the sensation is that the authors have considered only a negative data of the literature to stress the incocnclusive effects of probiotics.

6) In the text there is a big confusion related to the endpoints considered in obstetric patients: prematurity? pPROM? Metabolic outcomes? Preeclampsia?

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

No
**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

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

No

**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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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