Reviewer’s report

Title: Randomised Clinical Trial: Effect of low-FODMAP rye bread versus regular rye bread on the intestinal microbiota of irritable bowel syndrome patients: Association with individual symptom variation

Version: 1 Date: 08 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Alessia Visconti

Reviewer's report:

This Reviewer is generally happy with the authors' answers. However, this Reviewer is concerned that one of the main comments was not clearly explained and it was misunderstood during revision.

This Reviewer is not disputing the established criteria for distinguishing responders from non-responders or asking to include multiple groups but is wondering whether using two different criteria (one for each kind of bread) is meaningful.

In fact, responders for low-FODMAP bread are defined as individuals IMPROVING IBS symptoms, while responders for regular rye bread are defined as individuals WORSENING IBS symptoms. Why not using the same criterium (getting better, getting worse) for both breads?

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?
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Yes
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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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