

Reviewer's report

Title: Effect of supplement with lactic-acid producing bacteria on fatigue and physical activity in patients with chronic fatigue syndrome

Version: 1 **Date:** 25 August 2008

Reviewer: Suzanne D Vernon

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting pilot study that describes dietary supplementation with lactic acid producing bacteria to determine benefit for chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) patients. 15 CFS patients were included in this study which involved 2 weeks to establish gut microflora baseline, fatigue, disability and neurocognitive function followed by 4 weeks dietary supplementation/treatment and 4 weeks of follow up. Longitudinal design allowed patients to serve as controls - assessing symptom changes and gut microflora changes over time. These investigators found significant improvement in neurocognitive function and variable improvement or worsening in fatigue and physical function. There were no microflora changes. This is an interesting pilot study that provides preliminary evidence of some benefit for dietary supplementation with lactic acid producing bacteria in CFS patients.

Major compulsory revisions:

The tables should be re-formatted to allow the reader to view and understand the information in the table without necessarily having to read the text. Please consider adding additional column and row information to clarify each table in addition to the VAS information. Column headings and other abbreviations should be noted in table footnote.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests.