



SDI Review Form 1.6

PART 1:

Journal Name:	<u>British Microbiology Research Journal</u>
Manuscript Number:	2013 BMRJ 4327
Title of the Manuscript:	CORRELATION OF H₂O₂ PRODUCTION OF LACTOBACILLUS SPECIES WITH NUGENT SCORES OF YOUNG NIGERIAN WOMEN
Type of the Article	Research paper

General guideline for Peer Review process is available in this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)

- This form has total 7 parts. Kindly note that you should use all the parts of this review form.



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PART 2: Review Comments

		Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments	1) What is MRS agar? Can this really determine definitively that the bacteria grown can be only <i>Lactobacillus</i> from a swab of many potential vaginal microbes? qPCR using specific primers to <i>Lactobacillus</i> should be used to identify the genus at least. 2) 97 women were used to isolate 97 isolates of presumed <i>Lactobacillus</i>. It is unlikely that only one strain of <i>Lactobacillus</i> is present in the vagina from one woman. How can the authors show that only H₂O₂ or non H₂O₂ producers are present or absence in the respective vaginal swab? Wouldn't both be present and its more likely that certain ratios of H₂O₂ producers vs non-producers are present in ratios?	1) MRS agar means deMan Rogosa Sharpe agar and it is the recognised and accepted selective culture medium for <i>Lactobacillus</i> as shown by standard textbooks and literature. Although a few other organisms grow on it, these are either not Gram positive bacilli or are catalase positive. Any catalase negative Gram positive bacillus growing on MRS agar is <i>Lactobacillus</i> species. 2) Two strains were seen on MRS agar in a few of the vaginal swabs and this is now reported in the manuscript. However since the focus of the study was H₂O₂ production which protects the vagina, we decided it does not matter how many strains were there as long as H₂O₂ is produced by at least one of the strains. Species or subspecies analysis was not the focus of the study.
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	1) The details of how were the microbes grown anaerobically are missing from the methods 2) The tables presented are unhelpful and do not represent the data in a meaningful manner. Please change the tables that are easier to analyse. 3) Student T tests are not an appropriate test. Is the data normalized? Please use proper	The anaerobes were grown on blood agar which were pre-reduced and incubated anaerobically for 48hours. The anaerobic environment was provided in an anaerobic jar using gaspak technique with anaerogen (Oxoid). Data are analysed with ANOVA and Spearman's correlation coefficient



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	statistical methods.	methods.
<u>Optional/General</u> comments		