

# Review of: "Regular Consumption of Lacto-fermented Vegetables has Greater Effects on the Gut Metabolome Compared with the Microbiome"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is a very brief review, as this manuscript has received a number of in depth reviews from other reviewers. Overall, this is a well-written and clearly presented study. The approach and analysis are standard for the field, thorough, and clearly described and presented. The overall conclusions are supported by the data.

A study design caveat noted by several other reviewers, and clearly acknowledged by the authors, is that consumption of fermented vegetable was not randomized but rather self-initiated and self-reported. Given this caveat, I would suggest changing "has" in the title of the manuscript to "associated with".

There is another minor, but important point was raised by another reviewer, regarding potential differences in intake of dietary fiber between the two groups. In the discussion, the authors state that there is no significant difference in fiber intake, but it is not clear which data support this statement (I did not find anything in the results text). In fact, figure 1B shows that LFV consumers also consume more beans - so it may be a fiber type/quality rather than total sum intake. This should be either clarified and/or acknowledged as a caveat.