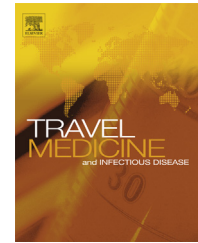




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## CORRESPONDENCE

***Tropheryma whippelii* as a causative agent of travelers' diarrhea: Further studies required**



Dear editor

Warm greetings and regards, we have some suggestions for honorable authors of the applied and interesting article under the title, "Occurrence of *Tropheryma Whippelii* (T. W) during diarrhea in Hajj pilgrims: A PCR analysis of paired rectal swabs" published by Gautret and colleagues on 21 April 2014 [1]. To demonstrate that, the T.W is a causative agent of traveler's diarrheal disease, we have still not enough information and further studies required. Some of the reasons are as follows:

T. w is a commensal bacterium which may also be isolated from the samples of healthy individuals [2]. *Tropheryma whippelii*, which causes Whipple disease, has been detected in 4% of fecal samples from the general adult population of France [3]. Overall, it is frequently recovered from stool (43%), saliva (15%), duodenal biopsy samples (12.5%), cerebrospinal fluid (6%), blood (5%), cardiac valves (3%), lymph nodes (2.5%), skin biopsies (1%), intra-articular fluid (1%), urine (0.5%) and aqueous humor (0.5%) [4].

Humans can be asymptomatic chronic carriers of *Tropheryma Whippelii* and the bacterial load is low in asymptomatic carrier states [5], therefore, positive cases in Gautret's study may be chronic carriers and when they have been tested before their departure, organism was not enough in obtained samples. PCR of stool specimens is highly sensitive, but not specific enough [6]. False positive PCR detection of T. W in the saliva of healthy people has been also reported [7]. Therefore, False positive of the tests should also be considered.

### Authors' contributions

1. Dr. Seyed mansour Razavi designed the idea, drafted the paper and approved the version to be published.
2. Dr. Payman Salamati designed the idea, revised the paper critically and approved the version to be published.

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None.

### Ethics committee approval

The paper has been prepared in accordance with the rules of the ethical review board of Tehran University of Medical Sciences.

### Conflict of interest

None.

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