Dear Editor:

We are pleased to submit our article entitled “**Differences in the microbial composition of hemodialysis patients treated with and without β-blockers**” for possible publication in the *Microbiome* journal.

Several common medications are found associated with the alternation of gut microbiota composition. However, limited studies investigate the effect of the drug on gut microbiota in patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD). Since the composition of gut microbiota linked to health, so it’s essential to evaluate the common cardiovascular treatment drugs, β-blocker, in ESRD patients. In this study, we found the impact of β-blocker on gut microbiota composition in patients receiving hemodialysis. Hemodialysis patients treated with β-blocker had an increased α-diversity (Simpson index), and a distinct β-diversity (Bray-Curtis Index) compared to non-users. In particular, β-blocker users had a significant enrichment in the genus *Flavonifractor* compared to non-users.

All authors have seen and approved the manuscript. The manuscript has not been published and is not being considered for publication elsewhere. Besides, no potential conflict of interest was noted.

We notice that the *Microbiome* journal publishes high-quality articles. We believe that our study will fit the scope of the journal because our novel findings provide the real-world data and the new possibility of protective medicine.

We appreciate your comments! Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

Ping-Hsun Wu, MD  
on behalf of all authors

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