Dear Sir,

We wish to thank Dr. Yamamoto for his letter, regarding our paper ‘Exclusive elemental diet impacts on the gastrointestinal microbiota and improves symptoms in patients with chronic pouchitis’.1

In his letter Dr. Yamamoto outlines the changes in cytokines that his group have identified in patients treated with elemental diet for Crohn’s disease who experienced symptomatic benefit with this treatment. More importantly Dr. Yamamoto outlines his group’s previously unpublished experience of treating pouchitis in patients with ulcerative colitis (UC) with exclusive elemental diet (number of patients not specified). He reports that in common with our recently published data they too failed to identify any significant improvement in clinical symptoms or endoscopic findings. In addition they did not identify any changes in cytokine production. These data clearly support our conclusions that exclusive elemental diet is unlikely to be an effective strategy for inducing remission in UC patients with pouchitis and that elemental diet cannot be recommended for the routine treatment of pouchitis.

References


Simon McLaughlin
Royal Bournemouth Hospital, Bournemouth, UK
E-mail address: simon.mclaughlin@nhs.net.

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