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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Groups** | **Number**  **of mice** | **Diet** | | **Oral gavage (twice a day)** |
| LC-PBS | 8 | low-cholesterol diet (D12337, Research Diet, USA) | | sterile PBS |
| HC-PBS | 8 | high-cholesterol diet (D12336a, Research Diet, USA) | | sterile PBS |
| HC-BFE | 7 | high-cholesterol diet (D12336a, Research Diet, USA) | | 1x1010 CFU of *L. rhamnosus* BFE5264b suspended in sterile PBS |
| HC-ST | 8 | high-cholesterol diet (D12336a, Research Diet, USA) | | 30mpk of lovastatinc |
| HC-GG | 7 | high-cholesterol diet (D12336a, Research Diet, USA) | | 1x1010 CFU of *L. rhamnosus* GGd suspended in sterile PBS |
| a 1.25% cholesterol and 0.5% Cholic acid | | |  | |
| b WDCM 597 (Korean Collection for Type Cultures) | | |  | |
| c Lovalord Tab. ChongKunDang Pharmaceutical, Korea | | |  | |
| d ATCC 53103 | | |  | |

**S1 Table. Design of the experimental grouping.** Animals were housed together in a cage for each group (N = 7-8 per group) at 23±1 °C, 55±10 % humidity, in a 12-hour light/dark cycle after adaptation for a week. The experiment was performed for nine weeks subsequent to a one-week adaptation on a normal chow diet.