

Additional file 3 Mean values and standard error or the mean (SEM) calculated for the daily records of stool frequency and consistency (averages were calculated for 2-week intervals).

GI symptoms		Total cohort		Severe		Moderate	
		EpiCor	Placebo	EpiCor	Placebo	EpiCor	Placebo
SF_T1	Mean	0.68	0.66	0.69	0.60	0.67	0.79
	SEM	±0.03	±0.05	±0.05	±0.06	±0.05	±0.06
SF_T2	Mean	0.88	0.76	0.87	0.70	0.90	0.89
	SEM	±0.05	±0.06	±0.06	±0.09	±0.11	±0.07
SF_T3	Mean	0.89	0.78	0.91	0.72	0.87	0.90
	SEM	±0.05	±0.05	±0.07	±0.06	±0.07	±0.07
SF_T4	Mean	0.86	0.79	0.90	0.72	0.79	0.92
	SEM	±0.05	±0.05	±0.07	±0.06	±0.09	±0.05
SF	<b><i>p-value (ANOVA)</i></b>	<b><i>&lt;0.0001</i></b>	<b><i>0.003</i></b>	<b><i>0.000</i></b>	<b><i>0.040</i></b>	<b><i>0.005</i></b>	<b><i>0.113</i></b>
SC_T1	Mean	2.88	3.29	2.68	3.18	3.34	3.53
	SEM	±0.17	±0.16	±0.21	±0.20	±0.25	±0.28
SC_T2	Mean	3.22	3.18	3.08	3.07	3.52	3.40
	SEM	±0.17	±0.17	±0.21	±0.20	±0.26	±0.30
SC_T3	Mean	3.03	3.25	2.99	3.29	3.11	3.18
	SEM	±0.17	±0.16	±0.21	±0.21	±0.31	±0.21
SC_T4	Mean	2.95	3.29	2.87	3.31	3.13	3.25
	SEM	±0.15	±0.15	±0.18	±0.19	±0.30	±0.25
SC	<b><i>p-value (ANOVA)</i></b>	<b><i>0.037</i></b>	<b><i>0.535</i></b>	<b><i>0.044</i></b>	<b><i>0.424</i></b>	<b><i>0.031</i></b>	<b><i>0.425</i></b>

**Legend:** SC, stool consistency; SF, stool frequency. The periods depicted are T1 (average of weeks 1 and 2 of run-in), T2 (average of weeks 1 and 2 of intervention), T3 (average of weeks 3 and 4 of intervention) and T4 (average of weeks 5 and 6 of intervention). A higher score is concomitant with an increase in frequency and normalization of consistency. A one-way repeated measures ANOVA was used to test for significant changes over time within each group ( $p$ -values  $\leq 0.05$  are depicted in bold text).