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IN BRIEF

MICROBIOTA

Salivary microbiota changes indicate dysbiosis in patients with cirrhosis

In individuals with cirrhosis, changes in salivary microbiota composition are similar to those found in stool samples, and are indicative of increased inflammation and changes in bacterial defence. Interestingly, a reduction in the abundance of salivary autochthonous bacteria was predictive of hospitalization within 90 days, and was independent of the severity of cirrhosis. The investigators believe these results will be important in future prognostic approaches for cirrhosis using microbiota.

Original article Bajaj, J. S. *et al.* Salivary microbiota reflects changes in gut microbiota in cirrhosis with hepatic encephalopathy. *Hepatology* doi:10.1002/hep.27819

ULCERATIVE COLITIS

Faecal transplant from donors no more effective than autologous transplant for treating ulcerative colitis

In the first double-blind, proof-of-concept study for faecal transplant to treat ulcerative colitis, patients received a transplant from either themselves or from healthy donors. No difference was observed in clinical remission of colitis between the two groups. Interestingly, patients who responded to treatment had altered faecal microbiota composition compared with nonresponders. The authors believe this result warrants further investigation.

Original article Rossen, N. G. *et al.* Findings from a randomized controlled trial of fecal transplantation for patients with ulcerative colitis. *Gastroenterology* doi:10.1053/j.gastro.2015.03.045

HEPATITIS

Hepatitis E virus vaccine can provide protection for up to 4.5 years

In an initial investigation, healthy individuals in China, aged 16–65 years, received either a hepatitis E virus (HEV) vaccine or a HBV vaccine. In this extended study, over a 4.5 year period, fewer patients who received the HEV vaccine contracted the virus than those in the control arm who received the HBV vaccine (7 versus 53). These results indicated a HEV vaccine efficiency of 86.8% (95% CI 71–94). Moreover, 87% of patients receiving the HEV vaccine still had detectable antibodies against HEV at the 4.5 year endpoint.

Original article Zhang, J. *et al.* Long-term efficacy of a hepatitis E vaccine. *N. Engl. J. Med.* **372**, 914–922 (2015)

CROHN'S DISEASE

GWAS reveals eight novel variants associated with an increased risk of Crohn's disease

The mode of Crohn's disease inheritance is unclear and might be explained by unidentified risk loci. Hong *et al.* performed deep sequencing of samples from 500 patients with Crohn's disease and 1,000 healthy control individuals in the Republic of Korea focusing on 131 genes associated with the disease. The team found three previously known variants, but also identified eight novel variants that might represent additional risk loci for Crohn's disease in these patients.

Original article Hong, S. N. *et al.* Deep resequencing of 131 Crohn's disease associated genes in pooled DNA confirmed three reported variants and identified eight novel variants. *Gut* doi:10.1136/gutjnl-2014-308617