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Summary

GUT MICROBIOME IN AUTISTIC CHILDREN: THE EFFECT OF OXYTOCIN ON THE GUT MICROBIOME AND THE IMPACT OF LIFESTYLE VARIABLES

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Colorectal

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A randomized placebo-controlled trial examined gut microbiome differences between autistic and non-autistic children aged 8-12 years and assessed effects of 4-week intranasal oxytocin administration on gut microbiome composition.

KEY POINTS

- Autistic children (n=52) showed significantly lower gut microbiome observed richness and higher microbial evenness compared to non-autistic children (n=27), but no significant differences in abundances of bacterial genera after correction for multiple comparisons.
- The genus Romboutsia showed a significant positive association with parent-reported anxiety-like behavior across participants.
- The trial administered intranasal oxytocin 12 IU twice daily for 4 weeks to all participants during a single-blind phase, with gut microbiome analyzed by 16S rRNA sequencing and behavioral difficulties assessed using standardized scales.
- Results on oxytocin's effects on gut microbiome in relation to clinical responses were noted as ongoing analyses at the time of presentation.

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