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Summary

TRANSLATIONAL IMPACT OF THE FOOD-DERIVED XENO-MIRNA MIR-168 IN GASTROINTESTINAL CANCERS AND PRENOPLASTIC CONDITIONS

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Food-derived xeno-miRNA miR-168 is detectable in gastric and colonic mucosa with higher levels in non-tumorous versus tumorous tissues and in patients with moderate to severe intestinal metaplasia.

KEY POINTS

- MiR-168 levels were significantly higher in non-tumorous gastric cancer tissue compared to normal mucosa, chronic non-atrophic gastritis, and atrophic gastritis/intestinal metaplasia samples ($p<0.01$ each), with no association with H. pylori status or inflammation grade.
- Patients with moderate or severe atrophic gastritis/intestinal metaplasia or OLGIM 3/4 showed higher miR-168 levels.
- Paired analysis revealed higher miR-168 in non-tumorous compared to tumorous tissue in both gastric cancer (n=82) and colorectal cancer (n=40), with highest gastric levels in the cardia and lowest in the antrum.
- Survival analysis showed only a small trend toward worse overall survival with higher miR-168 levels in gastric cancer during the first 3 years, with no long-term difference and no survival association in colorectal cancer.
- The authors conclude that further functional analyses are needed to understand the role of xeno-miRNA in the gastrointestinal tract, particularly given elevated levels in moderate to severe intestinal metaplasia.

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