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Summary

FUNCTIONAL AND MOLECULAR CHARACTERIZATION OF PATIENTS WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE AND CHRONIC CONSTIPATION: ROLE OF THE INTESTINAL EPITHELIAL BARRIER

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Colorectal

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This study investigated intestinal epithelial barrier tight junction proteins and vasoactive intestinal polypeptide in Parkinson's disease patients with chronic constipation compared to chronic constipation alone and controls.

KEY POINTS

- Among 12 Parkinson's disease patients with chronic constipation, 60% showed delayed transit time and altered anorectal manometry, while 13% had altered manometry only.
- Tight junction marker mRNA levels (CLDN4, OCCL-1, ZO-1) were increased in Parkinson's disease with constipation versus controls and constipation alone, but protein immunoreactivity showed discordant patterns including decreased OCCL-1.
- VIP mRNA was significantly elevated in chronic constipation patients (3.98 ± 3.93) versus controls (1.52 ± 1.55) and Parkinson's disease with constipation (0.86 ± 1.056, $p<0.05$), with a non-significant 15% protein reduction trend in Parkinson's disease versus controls.
- The authors suggest these findings indicate transcriptional and post-translational regulatory mechanisms may differ between chronic constipation alone and Parkinson's disease-associated constipation, potentially implicating intestinal barrier dysfunction in the pathophysiology.

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