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Summary

INTESTINAL EPITHELIAL AND VASCULAR PERMEABILITY IS INCREASED IN IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME AND CORRELATES WITH SYMPTOMS

Giovanni Barbara

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Colorectal

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A study of 223 IBS patients and 66 healthy controls found compromised epithelial and vascular barriers in IBS, with increased intestinal permeability correlating with symptom severity and quality of life.

KEY POINTS

- In vivo sugar tests showed significantly increased lactulose, sucralose, and sucrose excretion in IBS patients compared to healthy controls, indicating increased intestinal permeability.
- Colonic mucosal blood vessels were increased 1.5-fold in IBS patients, with elevated PV1 expression and decreased VEC expression indicating vascular barrier dysfunction.
- Soluble mediators from IBS mucosal biopsies increased epithelial permeability via tight junction down-regulation and increased vascular permeability through a PAR2-dependent mechanism.
- Permeability changes correlated significantly with intestinal symptoms, extra-intestinal symptoms, and health-related quality of life in IBS patients.
- The study enrolled 223 IBS patients (112 IBS-D, 58 IBS-C, 53 IBS-M) and used Rome IV criteria with multiple validated assessment tools alongside in vitro and ex vivo barrier models.

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