

SMALL INTESTINAL BACTERIAL OVERGROWTH POSITIVITY AS A PREDICTIVE MARKER FOR ELEVATED FIB-4 SCORES IN CHRONIC HEPATITIS: A RETROSPECTIVE COHORT ANALYSIS

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UEG Week Berlin 2025

Poster

Hepatobiliary

October 4, 2025

Retrospective study of 122 viral hepatitis patients found significantly higher FIB-4 scores in those with SIBO positivity compared to SIBO-negative patients, suggesting a potential association between gut microbial dysbiosis and hepatic fibrosis severity.

KEY POINTS

- Patients with SIBO positivity had significantly higher median FIB-4 scores (1.87) compared to SIBO-negative patients (1.23), $p < 0.05$
- A moderate positive correlation (Spearman's $\rho = 0.41$) was observed between viral titers and FIB-4 levels
- The study analyzed 122 patients with confirmed viral hepatitis (HBV, HCV, or HDV) using SIBO breath test results, liver enzymes, and viral titers
- The authors suggest that incorporating gut health assessment into liver disease screening may enhance early detection and recommend prospective studies to explore causality

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