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Summary

Capsule-based techniques are the answer to study small bowel motility

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Ingestible capsule technologies offer scalable ambulatory methods to assess small bowel motility and transit, but lack symptom correlation and face regulatory and standardization challenges.

KEY POINTS

- The speaker presented data on three capsule types: the wireless motility capsule measuring pressure, pH and temperature; the Atmo gas capsule using accelerometer and gas sensing; and endoluminal imaging capsules analyzed by machine learning.
- The wireless motility capsule showed weak pre-prandial motility signals in 144 IBS patients that did not correlate with symptoms, a major limitation the speaker noted across small bowel motility studies.
- The Atmo capsule detected physiological contraction frequencies more precisely than the wireless motility capsule and showed that patients with delayed transit had lower ileal contraction amplitude.
- Endoluminal imaging with machine learning identified motor abnormalities in over half of patients with abnormal manometry and about one third of functional bowel disorder patients, though again without symptom correlation.
- The speaker stated capsule technology may be more scalable than MRI or manometry but emphasized urgent need for outcome validation studies and noted the Atmo capsule is not yet approved for clinical use.
- The speaker disclosed receiving support from Atmo Biosciences for capsule studies.

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