BASELINE LIPID METABOLISM DISTURBANCES ARE ASSOCIATED WITH ONSET OF POST-TRANSJUGULAR INTRAHEPATIC PORTOSYSTEMIC SHUNT HEPATIC ENCEPHALOPATHY

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Pre-TIPS serum metabolomics in liver cirrhosis patients reveals lipid metabolism disturbances—specifically increased triacylglycerols and decreased glycerophospholipids—associated with development of hepatic encephalopathy within 6 months after TIPS placement.

KEY POINTS

- Untargeted metabolomics analysis identified 46 out of 1255 metabolites significantly associated with post-TIPS hepatic encephalopathy, with 12 up-regulated and 34 down-regulated, linked to alanine-aspartate-glutamate metabolism, fatty acid biosynthesis, and glycerophospholipid metabolism pathways.
- Targeted lipidomics identified 44 differential lipids out of 564, with 80% of up-regulated lipids being triacylglycerols and 58.6% of down-regulated lipids being phospholipids.
- Lysophosphatides comprised 30.4% of differential metabolites and were predominantly down-regulated in patients who developed post-TIPS hepatic encephalopathy.
- The study analysed serum samples collected before TIPS from 10 patients who developed overt hepatic encephalopathy within 6 months and 10 matched controls using mass spectrometry-based metabolomics.
- This research may benefit hepatologists managing cirrhosis patients being considered for TIPS placement who seek metabolic biomarkers for hepatic encephalopathy risk stratification.

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