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Summary

GASTRIC MICROBIOTA GENDER DIFFERENCES IN HEALTHY STOMACH AND AUTOIMMUNE ATROPHIC GASTRITIS

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A study of 52 subjects found that gender-specific differences in gastric microbiota composition observed in healthy individuals appear altered in autoimmune atrophic gastritis patients, potentially due to hypochlorhydria.

KEY POINTS

- In healthy subjects, women had significantly higher bacterial abundance than men (704.65 vs 470.40, p=0.03) and lower biodiversity (Shannon index 3.2 vs 3.4, p=0.003), while in AAG patients these gender differences were reversed or absent.
- AAG males showed significantly lower gastric microbiota biodiversity compared to healthy males (Shannon index 2.3 vs 3.4, p<0.001), whereas AAG females showed higher biodiversity than healthy females (3.5 vs 3.2, p=0.002).
- At the genus level, Streptococcus was the most prevalent and was higher in healthy females versus males (11.26 vs 7.88, p=0.03) but similar in both genders in AAG (15.94 vs 15.49, p=0.77).
- Several phylum-level differences were observed, including significantly higher Firmicutes in AAG males versus females (33.11 vs 27.46, p=0.0155) and higher Fusobacteria in healthy males versus females (1.31 vs 0.19, p=0.0124).
- The authors conclude that the clinical impact of these gender-specific microbiota differences on the natural history of AAG remains to be determined.

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