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Summary

COLONIC VOLUMES IN IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME AND HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS; THE ASSOCIATIONS WITH SYMPTOMS AND GUT PHYSIOLOGY

Magnus Simrén

UEG Week Vienna 2024 | Poster

Colorectal

October 13, 2024

A pilot MRI study of 18 IBS patients and 19 healthy controls found no difference in total colonic volume between groups, but in IBS larger colonic volumes were associated with slower oro-anal transit time and lower rectal sensory thresholds.

KEY POINTS

- Total colonic volume did not differ between IBS patients and healthy individuals (736 ml vs 597 ml, p=0.44).
- In IBS, larger total colonic volume was positively correlated with oro-anal transit time (rs=0.54, p=0.02) and negatively correlated with rectal pressure threshold for first perception (rs=-0.51, p=0.04).
- Colonic volume showed weak or non-significant correlations with gastrointestinal symptoms in IBS, including trends for inverse associations with diarrhea severity and stool frequency.
- These associations between colonic volume and transit time or rectal sensitivity were weaker and not statistically significant in healthy controls.
- The authors conclude that larger studies are needed to clarify subtype differences and the relevance of colonic volumes for IBS pathophysiology and symptoms.

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