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Summary

# INVESTIGATING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GUT MICROBIOME AND FIBROSIS MARKERS IN PATIENTS WITH VIRAL HEPATITIS

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**Network analysis of gut microbiome in 229 viral hepatitis patients identified Veillonella and Streptococcus as genera positively correlated with Fib4-index and negatively with prognostic nutritional index across both HBV and HCV cohorts.**

## KEY POINTS

- Among 145 HCV antibody-positive and 84 HBs antigen-positive chronic liver disease patients, 263 bacterial genera were identified from fecal samples using 16S rRNA sequencing, with over 90% of significant inter-bacterial correlations being positive.
- Veillonella and Streptococcus were the only genera demonstrating positive correlation with Fib4-index and negative correlation with prognostic nutritional index in both HBV and HCV groups, without direct correlation to age, ALT, AST, or platelet count.
- Lactobacillus showed positive correlation with age in both groups and with Veillonella and Streptococcus, suggesting a possible secondary relationship to fibrosis.
- Streptococcus occupied a central position in the bacterial correlation network with positive correlations to multiple bacteria and is suggested as a potential biomarker.
- The study proposes network analysis as a tool for identifying potential diagnostic and therapeutic targets in the gut-liver axis of viral hepatitis patients.

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