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Summary

LIQUID BIOPSY AS A POTENTIAL DIAGNOSTIC TOOL FOR THE EARLY DETECTION OF PANCREATIC CANCER AND RISK STRATIFICATION IN HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUALS

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Pancreas

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A pilot study of 239 participants found that gut microbiome alterations, but not relative telomere length in blood, may serve as biomarkers for pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma and chronic pancreatitis.

KEY POINTS

- Microbiome analysis revealed dysbiosis with overrepresentation of Prevotella copri and Akkermansia muciniphila in both chronic pancreatitis and PDAC patients, with a trend toward reduced microbial diversity in PDAC.
- Relative telomere length in peripheral blood showed no significant differences between PDAC and cancer-free groups, with only age, gender, and smoking associated with changes.
- Bacterial composition alterations were detectable in chronic pancreatitis patients, suggesting early microbiome changes may precede PDAC development.
- The findings provide a basis for developing non-invasive diagnostic strategies, though relative telomere length was not shown to be a reliable biomarker for PDAC.
- This work is relevant to researchers investigating early detection methods for pancreatic cancer and clinicians managing high-risk populations.

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