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Summary

POOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN MANOMETRY-BASED AND BAROSTAT-BASED RECTAL SENSORY TESTING

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Colorectal

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A study of 26 healthy volunteers found weak correlation between rectal sensory testing by high-resolution anorectal manometry and barostat, suggesting the two methods cannot be used interchangeably.

KEY POINTS

- Statistically significant but weak positive correlations were found for first urge (rho=.433), intense urge (rho=.400), and maximum tolerable volume (rho=.573), while first sensation showed no significant correlation (rho=.151, p=.460).
- The methods differ fundamentally: HRAM uses volume-controlled elastic balloon distension while barostat uses pressure-controlled non-elastic balloons of different size and shape.
- Twenty-six healthy volunteers (mean age 42 years, 50% female) underwent both HRAM per IAPWG protocol and rectal barostat per GENIEUR protocol on the same day.
- The authors conclude that standardisation of rectal sensory testing is warranted to improve accuracy and reliability in assessing conditions like IBS-associated rectal hypersensitivity and constipation-associated hyposensitivity.

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