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Summary

PROXY MEASURES FOR SOCIOCULTURAL RISK FACTORS AND THE PREVALENCE OF FUNCTIONAL DIARRHEA: AN ECOLOGICAL STUDY

Natasha A Koloski

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Colorectal

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An ecological study of 33 countries found functional diarrhea prevalence correlated with markers of social development and processed food exposure, but not with Helicobacter pylori infection.

KEY POINTS

- Functional diarrhea prevalence was negatively correlated with household size (r= -0.69, p <0.0001) and number of people per quick service restaurant (r= -0.44, p= 0.02), a proxy for processed food exposure.
- Functional diarrhea prevalence was positively correlated with median age (r= 0.58, p= 0.004) and GDP per capita (r= 0.56, p= 0.006).
- Associations with Helicobacter pylori infection, used as a proxy for orofecal infections, did not reach statistical significance (r= -0.27, p= 0.16).
- The study used publicly available datasets and ecological design with Spearman rank correlations to test associations across diverse countries.

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