SMALL INTESTINAL BACTERIAL OVERGROWTH IN INTESTINAL FAILURE: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS

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A systematic review and meta-analysis of six studies found that small intestinal bacterial overgrowth occurs in 55.2% of patients with intestinal failure, with parenteral nutrition appearing as a risk factor but no association with catheter-related bloodstream infections.

KEY POINTS

- The pooled prevalence of small intestinal bacterial overgrowth in intestinal failure was 55.2% (95% CI: 41.5-68.2) across 313 patients from six studies, with considerable heterogeneity (I^2=79.2, p=0.0001)
- Patients on parenteral nutrition showed a higher SIBO prevalence of 61.1% (95% CI 31.6-84.3), suggesting parenteral nutrition as a risk factor
- SIBO diagnosis by duodenal aspirate and culture yielded significantly higher prevalence than glucose breath test (OR 2.59, 95% CI 1.2-5.8, p=0.03)
- No difference in catheter-related bloodstream infection rates was found between SIBO-positive (45.5%) and SIBO-negative (45.7%) intestinal failure patients
- The authors caution that results require careful interpretation due to low sensitivity and specificity of SIBO diagnostic tests, lack of case-control studies, and clinical heterogeneity, with prospective studies needed

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