MUCOSAL MICROBIOME ALTERATIONS IN PATIENTS WITH ANASTOMOTIC INSUFFICIENCY FOLLOWING COLORECTAL CANCER RESECTION

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A prospective microbiome study in 16 colorectal cancer surgery patients found that mucosal bacterial communities differ between those who developed anastomotic leakage and those with intact anastomoses, with Prevotella more abundant in the leakage group and Phocaeicola more abundant in the sufficient anastomosis group.

KEY POINTS

- Biopsies from three intestinal sites were collected before, during, and after surgery, with all patients receiving preoperative Metronidazole and Paromomycin plus intraoperative Ertapenem.
- 259 bacterial genera were identified, with Phocaeicola, Prevotella, and Enterococcus the most abundant across the cohort.
- Prevotella was significantly more abundant in patients with anastomotic leakage ($p<0.0001$), while Phocaeicola was more abundant in patients with sufficient anastomoses ($p=0.04$).
- Surgical intervention significantly decreased microbial diversity in samples collected during or after surgery, and Enterococcus and Escherichia/Shigella increased in abundance at subsequent sampling times.
- This study is relevant to surgeons and researchers investigating perioperative risk factors and mechanisms of anastomotic complications in colorectal surgery.

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