

Fecal microbiota transplantation and the impact of COVID-19

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Podcast Episode

Gut Microbiota

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A Hong Kong FMT stool bank study found an extremely low donor qualification rate of 0.8%, primarily due to high prevalence of extended spectrum beta-lactamase organisms and pandemic-related screening requirements.

KEY POINTS

- Out of 119 potential donors screened, only one qualified (0.8% success rate), comparable to or lower than international standards in Australia and Europe.
- High prevalence of ESBL organisms in stool was the main reason donors failed screening, alongside new requirements for SARS-CoV-2 testing introduced during the pandemic.
- The guest argued that vigilant screening for multidrug resistant organisms and SARS-CoV-2 should become the gold standard for FMT stool banks worldwide, following FDA safety warnings about ESBL transmission.
- The speakers discussed future research directions including matching donors and recipients with the same ESBL organisms, incorporating donor diet into selection criteria, and optimizing FMT for indications beyond *C. difficile* infection.
- Relevant for gastroenterologists and microbiologists involved in FMT programs, particularly those establishing or managing stool banks.

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