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Summary

SERUM CITRULLINE AND ORNITHINE: NON-INVASIVE MARKERS OF THE COELIAC DISEASE?

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A study of 94 coeliac disease patients and 35 controls found significantly lower serum ornithine concentrations in patients with coeliac disease, suggesting ornithine may be useful for assessing small intestinal function in uncomplicated disease.

KEY POINTS

- Patients with coeliac disease had significantly lower serum ornithine concentrations compared to healthy controls (mean 65 ± 3 µmol/L versus controls, $p < 0.001$), while citrulline concentrations showed no significant differences between groups.
- A statistically significant stronger correlation between plasma citrulline and ornithine levels was found in coeliac disease patients compared to healthy controls (Spearman's coefficient 0.723 vs. 0.313).
- The authors conclude that serum ornithine, but not citrulline, may be useful for assessing the functional status of the small intestine in uncomplicated coeliac disease, though further studies are needed.
- This research addresses the lack of a universal noninvasive indicator of small intestinal activity and functional integrity in coeliac disease patients.

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