

FIRMICUTES, ACTINOBACTERIA, AND THE DECLINE OF AKKERMANSIA: MICROBIAL MARKERS IN MASLD

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A study of 152 MASLD patients and 150 controls found significant gut microbiota dysbiosis in MASLD, with increased Firmicutes and Actinobacteria, elevated Firmicutes/Bacteroides index, and reduced Akkermansia muciniphila presence.

KEY POINTS

- MASLD patients showed significantly higher Firmicutes levels (50.3% versus 25.17% in controls) and Actinobacteria levels (15.34% versus 10.9%), with an elevated Firmicutes/Bacteroides index (5.02 versus 2.1)
- Akkermansia muciniphila presence was substantially reduced in MASLD patients (33%) compared to controls (63%), with a negative correlation to MASLD diagnosis ($r=-0.69$, $p<0.05$)
- Positive correlations were found between Actinobacteria levels and the Firmicutes/Bacteroides index ($r=0.75$) and between the Firmicutes/Bacteroides index and triglyceride levels ($r=0.68$)
- The authors suggest Akkermansia muciniphila may play a protective role against MASLD progression and that findings highlight the potential of microbiome-targeted therapies
- Most relevant for researchers and clinicians interested in the gut-liver axis and potential microbiome-based interventions for MASLD

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