

POTENTIAL ROLE OF RIFAXIMIN IN MANAGING SMALL INTESTINAL BACTERIAL OVERGROWTH IN PATIENTS WITH METABOLIC ASSOCIATED STEATOTIC LIVER DISEASE

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A study of 152 MASLD patients found that two-week rifaximin therapy reduced small intestinal bacterial overgrowth prevalence from 50% to 32.4% and improved gastrointestinal symptoms, liver enzymes, and lipid profiles.

KEY POINTS

- SIBO prevalence was significantly higher in MASLD patients (50%) compared to controls (23.4%), and decreased to 32.4% after rifaximin 200 mg three times daily for 14 days.
- Gastrointestinal symptoms improved significantly, with abdominal pain decreasing from 68 to 22 patients, bloating from 75 to 19 patients, and flatulence from 71 to 38 patients.
- Liver enzymes (ALT, AST) and inflammatory marker hs-CRP improved significantly after rifaximin therapy.
- Lipid profiles showed significant improvements with decreases in total cholesterol and triglycerides and an increase in HDL-C.
- The authors conclude rifaximin may be a valuable component of comprehensive MASLD management based on these findings in 152 patients.

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