

ENTEROCOCCUS FAECALIS IS INVOLVED IN THE PANCREATITIS PROCESS

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Poster

Pancreas

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A study found elevated levels of cytolysin-producing *Enterococcus faecalis* in the gut microbiota of patients with chronic alcoholic pancreatitis compared to those with alcoholic hepatitis and healthy controls, with evidence suggesting a detrimental role in pancreatic inflammation.

KEY POINTS

- Cytolysin-positive *E. faecalis* was detected in 96% of chronic alcoholic pancreatitis patients versus 48% of alcoholic hepatitis patients and 39% of healthy controls ($p < 0.001$ for both comparisons).
- Relative abundance of cytolysin-positive *E. faecalis* was significantly elevated in chronic alcoholic pancreatitis patients ($p = 0.0006$) and alcoholic hepatitis patients ($p = 0.0067$) but not in healthy controls.
- In a murine cerulein-induced pancreatitis model, *E. faecalis* tended to increase pancreatitis lesions and acinar-to-ductal metaplasia lesions when pancreatitis was triggered.
- *Enterococcus* was present in pancreatic tissue of chronic alcoholic pancreatitis patients but not in healthy pancreatic controls, detected using two different antibodies.
- The authors suggest these findings may inform investigation of microbiota-targeted therapeutic approaches in chronic pancreatitis patients at risk for pancreatic cancer development.

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