

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

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Abstract selection

General data

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Title

Abstract body

Introduction: Metabolic Associated Steatotic Liver Disease (MASLD) is a common metabolic disorder frequently accompanied by small intestinal bacterial overgrowth (SIBO). SIBO exacerbates MASLD progression through systemic inflammation, impaired intestinal barrier function, and metabolic disturbances. Rifaximin, an antibiotic with minimal systemic absorption, has proven effective in treating SIBO by improving microbiota composition and reducing inflammatory processes.

Aims & Methods: Aim was to evaluate the prevalence of SIBO among MASLD patients, assess the effects of rifaximin on gastrointestinal symptoms, biochemical markers, and lipid profiles, and explore its role in MASLD management. Methods: The study included 152 patients with MASLD and 47 controls. SIBO was diagnosed using hydrogen breath testing. MASLD patients received rifaximin 200 mg three times daily for 14 days. Clinical symptoms, liver enzymes, inflammatory markers, and lipid profiles were assessed before and after therapy.

Results: SIBO was detected in 50% of MASLD patients compared to 23.4% of controls (p<0.05). Post-treatment, SIBO prevalence decreased to 32.4% (p<0.05). Significant improvements were observed in abdominal pain (reduced from 68 to 22 patients), bloating (from 75 to 19), and flatulence (from 71 to 38) (p<0.05). Biochemical parameters (ALT, AST, hs-CRP) and lipid profiles (decreases in total cholesterol and triglycerides, increase in HDL-C) significantly improved after rifaximin therapy.

Conclusion: Rifaximin effectively reduces SIBO prevalence and improves gastrointestinal symptoms, liver function, and metabolic parameters in MASLD patients. It may represent a valuable component of comprehensive MASLD management.

References

Disclosure

Nothing to disclose: Yes

Keywords

Keyword 1: SIBO
Keyword 2: MASLD
Keyword 3: rifaximin

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