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Bacterial overgrowth in the small intestines of liver cirrhosis patients

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Abstrak

Small intestinal bacterial overgrowth is a condition where the proximal small intestine harbours more than 10 organisms/ml intestinal fluid for a long period. Bacterial overgrowth could be found in patients with certain clinical conditions, such as intestinal anatomical disorders, intestinal motility disorders, and several diseases including liver cirrhosis. It was reported that the prevalence of bacterial overgrowth in patients with liver cirrhosis was around 30%-75%. Small intestinal bacterial overgrowth could induce various clinical conditions from mild to severe cases, therefore it is important to recognise its signs and symptoms, diagnosis, and management. This article will also review the clinical management of small intestinal bacterial overgrowth in liver cirrhosis.