

INPLASY

Impact of Microbiome-Targeted Therapy (MTT) on the gut-liver axis in Alcohol-induced liver injury: A Systematic Review and Meta-analyses

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Pakuwal, E; Hargreaves, BM; Moradi, M; Bednarz, J; Page, AJ; Chinnaratha, MA, Stringer, AM.

Corresponding author:

Evince Pakuwal

evince.pakuwal@adelaide.edu.au

Author Affiliation:

The University of Adelaide.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Support - Adelaide Graduate Research Scholarship.

Review Stage at time of this submission - Formal screening of search results against eligibility criteria.

Conflicts of interest - None declared.

INPLASY registration number: INPLASY202490059

Amendments - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 16 September 2024 and was last updated on 6 February 2026.

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective Is using microbiome-targeted therapy useful in modulating gut and liver health in the case of alcoholic liver disease?

The objective of this study is to review and analyse what kind of changes the microbiome-targeted therapies induce in alcoholic liver injury. In addition to that, we also aim to understand if these therapies change liver markers in these pre-clinical mice and clinical studies in human clinical trial-based studies. We will also conduct group and sub-group analysis of different microbial cultures and identify which therapy was more helpful in modulating gut and liver health.

- Participants: Mice (Pre-clinical studies), Humans (Clinical trials)
- Intervention: use of any microbiome-targeted therapy
- Control: Non-exposure group (mice), standard of care/ SOC (Humans)

- Outcome: comparing the changes in the gut microbiome in the intervention and control groups (Mice), comparing the gut microbiome changes in intervention and SOC (Humans)
- Study design: Preclinical studies (Mice), Clinical Trials (Humans).

Rationale Previous studies have reported dysbiosis in the gut microbiota (GM) in alcoholic liver diseases, indicating GM to be a factor in driving recovery in liver diseases via gut modulation. ALD is a major disease burden worldwide in the case of liver diseases. However, there are limited studies that report the overall effect of microbiome-targeted therapies on alcoholic liver disease. Therefore, this study aims to carry out a systematic review and meta-analysis on the studies that analyse GM changes in alcohol-induced liver injury and after Microbiome targeted therapies (such as the use of probiotics, prebiotics, and faecal microbiome transplant) to treat and manage alcoholic liver diseases. For this,

we will look at the preclinical studies on mice using MTT in alcohol-induced liver injury and human clinical trials. We will perform a meta-analysis on the changes in microbial communities based on the alpha diversity in the case of mice-based studies and will do the same in the case of human clinical studies if the authors come in contact. In case we have insufficient data, we will include the human studies only in the systematic review.

Condition being studied Alcoholic liver disease model, alcohol-induced liver injury (Mice); Alcoholic liver disease (Humans).

METHODS

Search strategy We conducted a systematic search using the electronic databases EMBASE, PubMed, and Cochrane Central from inception to July 2025. Search was updated from March 2024 to July 2025.

Search strategies for PubMed

Searched from 04/03/2024 to 05/07/2025.

Query

1 "Fecal Microbiota Transplantation"[mh] OR "probiotics"[mh] OR "Saccharomyces"[mh] OR fecal microbiota transplant*[tiab] OR faecal microbiota transplant*[tiab] OR faecal microbiome transplant*[tiab] OR faecal microbiome transplant*[tiab] OR faecal microflora transplant*[tiab] OR faecal microflora transplant*[tiab] OR Fecal transplant*[tiab] OR faecal transplant*[tiab] OR Donor Infusion*[tiab] OR Feces Infusion*[tiab] OR Faeces Infusion*[tiab] OR Donor Feces transplant*[tiab] OR Donor Faeces transplant*[tiab] OR Intestinal Transplant*[tiab] OR Intestinal Microbiome Transplant*[tiab] OR Microbiota Transfer*[tiab] OR Intestinal Transfer*[tiab] OR Intestinal Microbiota*[tiab] OR Intestinal Microbiome Transplant*[tiab] OR Intestinal Microbiota transplant*[tiab] OR Intestinal microbiome transfer*[tiab] OR Faecal Microbiota Transfer*[tiab] OR Fecal microbiota transfer*[tiab] OR Probiotic*[tiab] OR symbiotic*[tiab] OR Probiota[tiab] OR symbiote[tiab] OR Saccharomyces*[tiab] OR prebiotic*[tiab] OR yogurt[tiab] OR inulin[tiab] OR oligosaccharide*[tiab] OR Lactobacillus[tiab] OR Bifidobacterium[tiab] OR Enterococcus[tiab] OR Streptococcus[tiab] OR synbiotic*[tiab] OR "Microbiota therapy"[tiab:~3] OR "microbiome therapy"[tiab:~3] OR "microbiota therapies"[tiab:~3] OR "microbiome therapies"[tiab:~3] OR "microbiomes therapy"[tiab:~3] OR "microbiomes therapies"[tiab:~3] OR "Microbiota treatment"[tiab:~3] OR "microbiome treatment"[tiab:~3] OR "microbiota

treatments"[tiab:~3] OR "microbiome treatments"[tiab:~3] OR "microbiomes treatment"[tiab:~3] OR "microbiomes treatments"[tiab:~3] OR "Microbiota intervention"[tiab:~3] OR "microbiome intervention"[tiab:~3] OR "microbiota interventions"[tiab:~3] OR "microbiome interventions"[tiab:~3] OR "microbiomes intervention"[tiab:~3] OR "microbiomes interventions"[tiab:~3] OR "Microbiota supplement"[tiab:~3] OR "microbiome supplement"[tiab:~3] OR "microbiota supplements"[tiab:~3] OR "microbiome supplements"[tiab:~3] OR "microbiomes supplement"[tiab:~3] OR "microbiomes supplements"[tiab:~3]

2 "Gastrointestinal Microbiome"[mh] OR gut microbi*[tiab] OR gastrointestinal microbi*[tiab] OR gut microflora[tiab] OR gastrointestinal microflora[tiab] OR gut flora[tiab] OR gastrointestinal flora[tiab] OR gastric microbi*[tiab] OR intestinal microbi*[tiab] OR intestinal microflora[tiab] OR intestinal flora[tiab] OR enteric bacteria[tiab]

3 "liver diseases, alcoholic"[mh:noexp] OR "hepatitis, alcoholic"[mh] OR "alcohol hepatitis"[tiab:~3] OR "alcoholic hepatitis"[tiab:~3] OR "alcohol liver disease"[tiab:~3] OR "alcoholic liver disease"[tiab:~3] OR "alcohol liver diseases"[tiab:~3] OR "alcoholic liver diseases"[tiab:~3] OR "alcohol liver disorder"[tiab:~3] OR "alcoholic liver disorder"[tiab:~3] OR "alcohol liver disorders"[tiab:~3] OR "alcoholic liver disorders"[tiab:~3] OR "alcohol associated hepatitis"[tiab:~3]

4 1 or 2

5 3 and 4

6 Systematic review[sb] OR metaanalys*[all] OR meta analys*[all] OR meta-analysis[pt] OR review[pt] OR case report[ti] OR comment[ti] OR editorial[ti]

7 "Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease"[mh] OR "Hepatitis, Autoimmune"[mh] OR "Hepatitis, Viral, Human"[mh] OR "Hepatitis, Viral, Animal"[mh] OR non-alcoholic fatty liver[ti] OR autoimmune liver[ti] OR autoimmune hepatitis[ti] OR viral hepatitis[ti] OR non-alcoholic[tiab]

8 5 not 7

9 8 not 6

10 With date limit: 20240304-20250705

Search Strategies for Ovid Embase

Query

1 (exp Meta Analysis/ or ((meta adj analy\$) or metaanalys\$.tw. or (systematic adj (review\$1 or overview\$1)).tw. or cancerlit.ab. or cochrane.ab. or embase.ab. or (psychlit or psychlit).ab. or (psychinfo

or psycinfo).ab. or (cinahl or cinhal).ab. or science citation index.ab. or bids.ab. or reference lists.ab. or bibliograph\$.ab. or hand-search\$.ab. or manual search\$.ab. or relevant journals.ab. or ((data extraction or selection criteria).ab. and [review.pt.](#)) not (letter or editorial).pt.

2 (Editorial or review or books or letter or conference review or chapter or note).pt.

3 exp Nonalcoholic fatty liver/ or autoimmune liver disease.sh. or autoimmune hepatitis.sh. or exp virus hepatitis/ or (non-alcoholic fatty liver or autoimmune liver or autoimmune hepatitis or viral hepatitis or non-alcoholic).ti.

4 fecal microbiota transplantation.sh. or ((donor or f?eces or intestinal or microbio* or f?ecal) adj3 (infusion or transplant* or transfer*)):ti,ab,kf. or exp Probiotic agent/ or exp Saccharomyces/ or (Probiotic* or symbiotic* or Probiota or symbiota or Saccharomyce* or prebiotic* or yogurt or inulin or oligosaccharide* or Lactobacillus or Bifidobacterium or Enterococcus or Streptococcus or synbiotic*):ti,ab,kf. or ((Microbiot* or microbiome*) adj3 (therap* or treatment* or intervention* or supplement*)):ti,ab,kf.

5 exp intestine flora/ or ((Gut or gastro* or gastric* or intestin* or bowel or digest* or alimentary or enteric) adj3 (flora or microbi* or microflora or bacteria)):ti,ab.

6 alcohol liver disease.sh OR exp alcoholic hepatitis OR (alcohol* adj3 (hepatitis OR liver disease* OR liver disorder*)):ti,ab,kf

7 4 or 5

8 6 and 7

9 8 NOT (1 OR 2 OR 3)

9 limit 9 to dc=20240304-20250705

Search strategies for Cochrane Library

Query

1 [mh "fecal microbiota transplantation"] OR [mh probiotics] OR [mh saccharomyces] OR ((donor OR feces OR faeces OR intestinal OR microbio* OR fecal OR faecal) NEAR/3 (infusion OR transplant* OR transfer*)):ti,ab OR (Probiotic* OR symbiotic* OR Probiota OR symbiota OR Saccharomyce* OR prebiotic* OR yogurt OR inulin OR oligosaccharide* OR Lactobacillus OR Bifidobacterium OR Enterococcus OR Streptococcus OR synbiotic*):ti,ab OR ((Microbiot* OR microbiome*) NEAR/3 (therap* OR treatment* OR intervention* OR supplement*)):ti,ab

2 [mh ^"gastrointestinal microbiome"] OR ((Gut OR gastro* OR gastric* OR intestin* OR bowel OR digest* OR alimentary OR enteric) NEAR/3 (flora OR microbi* or microflora OR bacteria)):ti,ab

3 [mh ^"liver diseases, alcoholic"] OR [mh ^"hepatitis, alcoholic"] OR (alcohol* NEAR/3 (hepatitis OR "liver disease" OR "liver disorder" OR "liver diseases" OR "liver disorders")):ti,ab

4 #1 OR #2

5 #4 AND #3

6 [mh "Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease"] OR [mh "Hepatitis, Autoimmune"] OR [mh "Hepatitis, Viral, Human"] OR [mh "Hepatitis, Viral, Animal"] OR ("non-alcoholic fatty liver" OR "autoimmune liver" OR "autoimmune hepatitis" OR "viral hepatitis" OR non-alcoholic):ti

7 #5 NOT #6

8 #7 with limit 4th March 2024 to 5th July 2025.

Participant or population Alcohol-induced liver injury (Mice model-based studies)

Patients with alcoholic liver diseases receiving microbiome-targeted therapy/ MTT (Human clinical trial-based studies).

Intervention Faecal microbiome transplant, probiotics, prebiotics, synbiotics, symbiotics, and other microbiome-targeted therapies other than fungal and bacteriophages.

Comparator A control group with alcohol-induced liver injury not exposed to any interventions (in the case of mice)

Standard of care group receiving medical treatment as per the medical standards of treatment (in case of humans).

Study designs to be included We will include pre-clinical animal intervention-based studies (mice), and clinical trial-based studies (humans) to address the objective of the review.

Eligibility criteria Inclusion criteria: Mouse model-based studies with alcohol-induced liver injury being treated with microbiome-targeted therapies. Original research articles only.

Exclusion criteria: Studies other than original research studies (Systematic review, meta-analysis, review, case report, comment, editorial), studies with non-bacterial outcomes/ fungal or viral outcomes, studies using bacteriophages, studies not reporting microbiome-based changes, studies with no control or baseline microbiome outcomes, non-alcoholic liver injury or non-alcoholic liver diseases (both human and mice), Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease, Viral Hepatitis, Autoimmune Hepatitis, non-alcoholic fatty liver, studies using animals other than mice (for animal studies), studies using sequencing techniques other than 16S rRNA gene sequencing or shotgun/ metagenomic sequencing, studies not reporting alpha diversity data.

Information sources Electronic databases (Embase, Pubmed, Cochrane Central) will be systematically searched. The corresponding

authors will be contacted for any data missing and needed for the meta-analysis in case of insufficient data.

Main outcome(s) The primary outcomes will include the changes in gut microbiome outcomes post-MTT treatment (16S rRNA gene sequencing/ Metagenomic sequencing). Secondary outcomes will include changes in taxonomic abundance post-treatment. The outcome reported will be a baseline gut microbiome profile compared to gut microbiome profile post-treatment.

Additional outcome(s) Other outcomes will include bioinformatics details, study details, and changes in liver markers (if reported). Functional pathway changes post-treatment will be reported (For metagenomic studies).

Data management Covidence will be used to screen and select the studies as well as to record the study data.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis SYRCLE's risk of bias tool will be used for mice studies - primary studies. The Newcastle-Ottawa scale will be used for human studies.

Strategy of data synthesis Meta-analysis of Alpha diversity post-treatment will be compared to baseline when at least two studies are reporting the same index of measure in same microbiome-targeted therapy. The Q and I square statistics will be used to test heterogeneity between the studies. Publication bias will be assessed using funnel plots. Egger's test will be used to test the symmetry statistically if we have enough studies (>10). All analyses planned to be performed using RevMan 5.3 (Cochrane).

Subgroup analysis Subgroup analysis was performed based on Shannon diversity indices using two different criteria: duration of exposure and dosage.

Sensitivity analysis Planned if there is significant heterogeneity.

Language restriction English.

Country(ies) involved Australia.

Keywords gut microbiome; microbiome target therapy; alcoholic liver disease.

Dissemination plans Plans on presenting at conference and submitting for publication.

Contributions of each author

Author 1 - Evance Pakuwal - Conceptualization; Data Curation; Methodology; Project Administration; Investigation; Validation; Visualization; Writing – Original Draft Preparation.

Email: evance.pakuwal@adelaide.edu.au

Author 2 - Benjamin Hargreaves - Data Curation; Validation; Data synthesis; Writing- review and editing.

Email: benjamin.hargreaves@mymail.unisa.edu.au

Author 3 - Maedah Moradi - Data synthesis; Visualization; Writing- review and editing.

Email: maedah.moradi@adelaide.edu.au

Author 4 - Jana Bednarz (South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute, Adelaide, SA 5000, Australia) added to the list of authors. She contributed to the statistical analysis for the meta-analysis.

Author 5 - Amanda J. Page - Writing- review and editing; Supervision.

Email: amanda.page@adelaide.edu.au

Author 6 - Mohamed Asif Chinnaratha - Conceptualization; Original manuscript; Writing- review and editing; Supervision.

Email: asif.chinnaratha@adelaide.edu.au

Author 7 - Andrea Marie Stringer - Conceptualization; Methodology; Validation; Supervision; Writing – Original Draft Preparation; Writing –review and editing.

Email: andrea.stringer@unisa.edu.au