

Fecal Microbiota Transplantation

Bacteria living in our intestines, officially known as gut microbiota, play a pivotal role in creating and maintaining a healthy digestive system.

Gastrointestinal conditions – including functional bowel disorders and inflammatory bowel disease – may be caused by an upset of this gut microbiota. When that happens, the digestive system becomes imbalanced. The results can be devastating.

Deadly Conditions

Clostridium difficile (c. difficile) is an infection of the colon that's often caused by the use of antibiotics. C. difficile causes near-constant diarrhea, debilitating stomach cramps, fatigue and weight loss. Patients dread leaving the house – even for school or work – for fear of not getting to a bathroom in time.

The most extreme cases of c. difficile can lead to death.

The miracle of fecal microbiota transplantation

Fecal Microbiota Transplantation (FMT), or simply fecal transplant, is the miracle cure for recurrent or severe c. difficile infections.

Providing almost instant relief, patients at the FMT Program at the University of Alberta Hospital, one of the few programs in Canada to perform fecal transplants, report a return-to-normal within 1 to 3 days of the procedure.

Fecal transplants are not complicated. Stool from a healthy person is transplanted, either by colonoscopy or in pill form, into the patient. The bacteria from the healthy stool quickly re-establish the right balance to the gut microbiota in the recipient, and return a patient back to a healthy state.

Pursuing a cure for Crohn's disease

Ongoing research led by Dr. Dina Kao, a Gastroenterologist at the University of Alberta Hospital, is exploring the role of FMT in curing other gastrointestinal diseases such as Crohn's Disease, a chronic inflammatory disease of the intestines.



Within three days of receiving a fecal transplant, LeRoy Sonnenberg's life-threatening battle with an extreme c. difficile infection was over. "It was incredible," said LeRoy. "I was a real person again. Eating real food, and lots of it. Dr. Kao gave me my life back."

"This is the ultimate bench-to-bedside research. We are just at the tip of the iceberg as far as knowing what fecal transplants can do."

Dr. Dina Kao

connecting generosity...
to save lives

