

Microbiome therapeutic beats placebo for recurrent *C. difficile*

January 24 2022



(HealthDay)—An investigational microbiome therapeutic composed of

purified Firmicutes spores, SER-109, is superior to placebo for treatment of recurrent *Clostridioides difficile* infection, according to a study published in the Jan. 20 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Paul Feuerstadt, M.D., from the Yale University School of Medicine in New Haven, Connecticut, and colleagues conducted a phase 3, double-blind, randomized trial involving patients who had three or more episodes of *C. difficile* infection. One hundred eighty-two patients were enrolled and randomly assigned to either SER-109 or placebo after standard-of-care antibiotics.

The researchers found that 12 and 40 percent of patients had recurrence of *C. difficile* infection in the SER-109 and placebo groups, respectively (relative [risk](#), 0.32) at up to eight weeks of follow-up. In analyses stratified according to age stratum, SER-109 led to less frequent recurrence than [placebo](#) (relative risks, 0.24 and 0.36 for those younger than 65 years of age and 65 years and older, respectively); results were similar in analyses stratified according to antibiotic received (relative risks, 0.41 and 0.09 for vancomycin and fidaxomicin, respectively). The number of adverse events, which were mostly mild-to-moderate and gastrointestinal in nature, was similar in the two groups. As early as week 1, SER-109 dose species were detected; they were associated with bile-acid profiles known to inhibit *C. difficile* spore germination.

"The lower incidence of recurrence achieved with SER-109 administered after treatment with standard-of-care antibiotics represents a 68 percent [lower risk](#) than that with [antibiotics](#) alone and a number needed to treat of 3.6 to avoid one recurrence of *C. difficile* [infection](#)," the authors write.

The study was funded by Seres Therapeutics, the developer of SER-109.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

Copyright © 2021 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Microbiome therapeutic beats placebo for recurrent C. difficile (2022, January 24)
retrieved 4 February 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2022-01-microbiome-therapeutic-placebo-recurrent-difficile.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.