

Low-dose rifaximin cuts endotoxin level in cirrhosis

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(HealthDay)—For patients with liver cirrhosis, low-dose rifaximin is comparable to high-dose rifaximin for reducing serum endotoxin levels, according to a study published online Oct. 16 in the *Journal of Digestive Diseases*.

Xin Zeng, from the Second Military Medical University in Shanghai, and colleagues examined the efficacy, safety, and tolerability of different rifaximin doses in patients with hepatic cirrhosis. Sixty Chinese [patients](#) with [liver cirrhosis](#) underwent screening and 43 were eligible for inclusion. Patients were randomized in a 1:1:1 ratio to low-dose rifaximin (400 mg two times/day), high-dose rifaximin (600 mg two times/day), or control. The treatment period was two weeks and the observation phase was four weeks.

The researchers found that the [serum level](#) of endotoxin was significantly lower in the low-dose rifaximin group and high-dose rifaximin group compared with the control group (1.1 ± 0.8 and 1.0 ± 0.8 , respectively, versus 2.5 ± 1.8 EU/ml) after two weeks of treatment; there was no difference between the treatment groups. The high-dose rifaximin effect on endotoxemia lasted four weeks or more following drug withdrawal. After two weeks of rifaximin therapy there was a significant reduction in the abundance of the taxa *Veillonellaceae* and an increase in the abundance of Bacteroides. The three groups had similar incidence of adverse events and serious [adverse events](#).

"Our findings indicated low-dose (800 mg/day) rifaximin could be analogous to high-dose (1,200 mg/day) rifaximin to reduce the serum endotoxin level after two weeks [of] treatment," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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