Il Microbiota intestinale

nella salute e nella malattia

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Tutte le malattie hanno origine nell'intestino...



Ippocrate 460 a.C. - 377 a.C.

Il microbiota umano



Il microbiota intestinale



Human gut microbiota is:

- a complex community of 100 trillion archaeal and bacterial cells
- Composed by more than 1,000 bacterial species
- Composed by more than 90% from Firmicutes and Bacteroidetes.
- distinct and highly variable from person to person
- common among individuals (the core gut microbiota and the core microbiome)
 - required for the correct functioning of the gut.

Il microbiota intestinale



Da chi è composto il microbiota intestinale



Sviluppo del Microbiota



Il microbiota nelle diverse fasi della vita Diet-related metabolism **Bacterial Diversity** Western Glutamine degradation Amino acid degradation Simple sugar catabolism Vitamin biosynthesis Xenobiotic metabolism Bile salt metabolism Non-Western Glutamate synthase Alpha-amylase Microbial Diversity 5.7 Birth

Adolescence

Adulthood

Ageing

Childhood

Prenatal

Infancy

Fattori che influenzano la composizione del microbiota intestinale



ORIGINE GEOGRAFICA





https://doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2017.01162

Simbiosi tra ospite e microbiota

Metabolic

•Vitamines prouction

•Enterocytes differentiation

•Dietary carcinogenes digestion

•Non-digestible substrate fermantation

Sites and nutrients

competition

SCFAs production

Antimicrobial secretion

Energy source

Protective

•Colonization resistance

•Innate and adaptative immunity

•Inflammatory cytokine oversite

Immune system and barrier function

Structural

IgA stimulationIntestinal villi and crypts stimulation

Tight junctionMucous layer production



IL RUOLO DEL MICROBIOTA NELL'IMMUNITA' INNATA



Protective function (barrier effect)

- Compete and adhere to the attachment sites in the brush border of intestinal epithelial.
- Compete for available nutrients.
- Produce antimicrobial (bacteriocins).

All of this will prevent attachment and subsequent entry of pathogenic bacteria into the epithelial cells

Gut microbiota symbiosis and dysbiosis





DISBIOSI

- Fattori genetici che possono alterare la barriera intestinale
- Crescita smisurata di batteri patogeni
- Traslocazione di batteri o prodotti batterici
- Attivazione immunitaria produzione di citochine pro-infiammatorie
- Infiammazione cronica che porta alla distruzione dei tessuti
- Leaky-gut

IL RUOLO DEL MICROBIOTA NELLE MALATTIE



PATOLOGIE CORRELATE AL MICROBIOTA

Diseases of the GUT

- Malabsorption syndrome
- Malignancies: Colorectal cancer
- Inflammatory Bowl disease (IBD)
- Irritable Bowl syndrome
- Diarrheal diseases
- Clostridium Difficile Infection (CDI)

Non-mucosal diseases

- Obesity and metabolic syndrome
- Malignancies: liver cancer, breast cancer
- Complications of liver cirrhosis
- Allergic conditions
- Autoimmune disorders (T1DM, arthritis etc)
- Abnormalities of the gut-brain axis- Autism an other neurological disorders
- Obesity and other metabolic disorders
- Chronic fatigue syndrome
- Periodontal diseases



Debbie Maizels

Inflammatory Bowl Disease (IBD)

A group of inflammatory and autoimmune conditions that affect the colon and small intestine, typically resulting in severe abdominal pain, weight loss, vomiting and diarrhea.



IBD is driven by T cells



Involvement of the microbiota in regulating the balance between T_H and T_{Reg} cell subsets in the gut



→ Intestinal bacteria direct the differentiation of both pro- and antiinflammatory T cell populations and may therefore play a crucial role in IBD

Gut microbiota and obesity: what is the link?



Studying, Analyzing, and Interpreting Gut Microbiome Data



- Study design: sample size, choice of controls and timing and frequency of sampling
- What is the best way to collect and store sample for microbiome analysis?
- Microbiota profiling : how to define composition and function?
- Measuring the microbiome: quality control and data processing
- Statistical considerations in microbiome analysis: a roadmap

Sample size

Sample sizes, eligibility criteria and baseline microbiota in gut microbiota studies must be decided microbiome study project

Studies cannot include entire populations, it is crucial to define the target population of interest and then draw a representative study sample to ensure that the findings from the study are generalizable



Given the complex disease targets that translational studies attempt to understand, it is inevitable that diseased populations of interest are heterogeneous in their clinical phenotypes. Moreover, important confounding variables as age, diet and lifestyle could be considered.

This can be achieved by specifying well-defined inclusion and exclusion criteria to select the most homogeneous patient set



Baseline microbial composition

The choice of controls is a challenging question and is determined by the purpose of the study.



2. In time-series studies, individuals can be treated as their own control by collecting baseline samples before and during treatment

3. To find a discriminating microbiome signature that would aid in the accurate differential diagnosis of two very close conditions, a good control population could include patients with a clinical phenotype clearly in contrast to the condition of interest.



Timing and frequency of sample collection



If the goal is to discover and validate diagnostic microbiome signatures, it is most meaningful to collect cross-sectional samples from patients with clinically confirmed, early stages of the disease.

If the goal is to monitor disease severity or treatment-response, an appropriate design would incorporate temporally separated samples and repeated measurements from the same study subject.

The frequency of sample collection in temporal study designs is often determined by factors such as the budget resources for sample collection and storage, invasiveness of the sampling procedure, subject compliance to study protocol and in the case of retrospective studies, availability of samples from a pre-existing biorepository.



Clinical features and laboratory measurements



- While understanding the microbiome might be the central focus of the study, concurrent clinical, laboratory and "omics" measurements from the study play a crucial role in expanding the scope of microbiome-related findings by placing them in the context of disease pathways and pathological mechanisms.
- Non-microbiome measurements that encode disease phenotypes as continuous rather than categorical variables allow for more robust analyses and inferences.





What Is the best sample for gut Microbiome Analysis?

Table 1 Advantages and disadvantages of sample types for gut microbiome analysis		
Sample	Advantages	Disadvantages
Faecal sample	Noninvasive; no bleeding or discomfort; no bowel cleansing; easier to sample frequently	A proxy for the gut microbiome; might contain dead bacteria and/or bacteria from unspecified gastrointestinal tract compartments; less controlled sampling variables
Luminal brush	Captures host–microbe interactions; increased mucosal coverage; no bleeding; greater proportion of bacterial to host DNA than biopsies	Requires endoscopy; less biomass for host studies; affected by bowel cleansing
Rectal swab	No bleeding; greater proportion of bacterial to host DNA than biopsies; no bowel cleansing; can be administered at home; easier to sample frequently	No visual aid to pinpoint areas of interest; limited biomass for host studies; more discomfort than stool sampling; potential contamination with skin bacteria
Colonic lavage	Provides more DNA than biopsy samples; no bleeding	A proxy for the gut microbiome; requires endoscopy; affected by bowel cleansing
Pinch biopsy	Captures host–microbe interactions; can target exact areas of interest	Requires endoscopy; disrupts epithelium; affected by bowel cleansing
Sub- mucosal biopsy	Captures host–microbe interactions and bacterial translocations through epithelial layers; can target exact areas of interest	Requires endoscopy; disrupts epithelium; requires extensive sample processing; affected by bowel cleansing



Storage and transit conditions can be important variables in microbiome study outcomes because they impact the quality of samples



Special care must be taken to maintain the cold chain during the transport to study center, as freeze-thaw cycles increase the risk of altering the community composition.

It is most important to be consistent across samples and to keep conditions constant. The most widely accepted protocols include immediate freezing either on dry ice or in liquid nitrogen, followed by storage at 80°C.

However, this approach is not always practical, particularly for stool samples, which may be collected at home and then stored for an indeterminate time in home freezers.

Whether samples must be immediately frozen (and at what temperature) or whether they can withstand a period at room temperature remains controversial.

Microbiota profiling : how to define composition and function?

Microbiological cultures

Omics-based methods are now used as an alternative to traditional culture methods

Metatranscriptomics

The profiling of microbiome-wide gene expression (RNA-seq) can directly inform on the activity of microbial communities

Metabolomics

The determination of smallmolecule metabolite profiles (metabolomes) can be performed using mass-spectrometry or NMR spectroscopy

16S rRNA gene amplicon sequencing

The amplification of the 16s rRNA gene hypervariable regions can be used to measure the composition of the gut microbiome by clustering amplicon reads into bins called Operational Taxonomic Units (OTUs), or by determining Exact Sequence Variants (ESV).

Shotgun metagenomics sequencing

Shotgun metagenomics allows the identification of whole genomes including a larger range of microorganisms (bacteria, fungi, viruses and protists).

Metaproteomics

Metaproteomics is the study of all protein samples recovered directly from environmental sources, either using gel-based proteomics approaches, or directly by shotgun proteomics



99% of microbial species cannot currently be cultivated: Culturing: a few hundreds species per gram

Del Chierico, Gnani, Vernocchi et al., 2014. Meta-omic platforms to assist in the understanding of NAFLD gut microbiota alterations: tools and applications. *Int J Mol Sci*. 2014 Jan 7;15(1):684-711

Microbiota profiling : DNA based approaches

Microbiota profiling : DNA based approaches

The most common method of profiling the bacterial microbiome thus far has been to sequence one or more of the variable regions of the highly conserved gene that codes for the small-subunit (16S) of the ribosomal RNA (rRNA) in the bacterial kingdom.

The variation in the base pairs within the less-conserved regions of the 16S gene enables the identification of bacteria.

Similarly, the fungal microbiome has been profiled by sequencing the internal transcribed spacer (ITS) DNA located between the small and the large ribosomal subunit genes.

Profiling the 16S or ITS variable regions enables to catalog the taxonomic composition of the bacteria or fungi in the samples, up to a genus-level resolution.





Illumina sequencing P5 515F **V**4 index 806R P - 46 bp overlap -SBSF 150 bp (515F) index P5 V4 P7 150 bp SBSR (806R) 254 bp

Illumina sequencing


Metagenomica Shotgun



Bioinformatic methods for metagenomics



Evaluation of Reads Quality

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Summary

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 NIAID HPC Web site
 Babraham Bioin

RFastQC Report

Phred quality scores are logarithmically linked to error probabilities

Phred Quality Score	Probability of incorrect base call	Base call accuracy
10	1 in 10	90%
20	1 in 100	99%
30	1 in 1000	99.9%
40	1 in 10,000	99.99%
50	1 in 100,000	99.999%
60	1 in 1,000,000	99.9999%

Per base sequence quality





Produced by FastQC (version 0.10.0)

Report

Databases

1) Clusterize in OTUs: Operational Taxonomic Unit is an operational definition to clusterize metagenomic sequences. Cause most part of microorganisms are not cultivable, we compare each reads obtained to each other and all the reads that have a similarity level higher than a preset threshold (generally 97%) are clusterized togheter.

#OTU ID	F3D0	F3D141	F3D142	F3D143	F3D144	F3D145	F3D146	F3D147
OTU_6	749	535	313	372	607	849	493	2025
OTU 25	29	57	14	2	14	22	16	127
OTU_1	613	497	312	247	472	719	349	1720
OTU 8	426	378	255	237	382	627	330	1417
OTU_31	149	38	10	19	25	21	43	31
OTU 2	366	392	327	185	313	542	248	1367
OTU_7	196	370	92	107	48	155	74	105
OTU_10	46	169	87	109	171	209	120	864
OTU_80	26	6	0	1	4	8	18	11

2) After that we chose a representative sequence for each OTUs and that will be alligned to a reference dataset

to get the taxonomical classification of that OTU





Taxonomy: Is the science of defining and naming groups of biological organisms on the base of their shared characteristics





Carl Linnaeus (1707 – 1778)

Several informatic pipelines have been developed to analyse metagenomics data

Each one with different features → New discoveries in the field are often integrated within these pipelines

Some of them are useful just in some passage of metagenomic analysis while other contains most of the principles steps of analysis





Before we start:

In 1972 Whittaker used three different indices to describe vegetation ecology within a landscape. He claims that the total biodiversity present within a same landscape (gamma-diversity) is described by two different index

Alpha Diversity: It describes the existing biodiviersity within a same area

Beta Diversity: It describes the differences among different area

These ecological indices are now used even in metagenomic study to describe the microbial community living within human gut.

Indeed we can consider the human gut as an ecological area where different species of microorganisms are living togheter.

Thus, taken two groups of samples (such as patients and control group) we can use both indices to describe how is the variability within a same group (alpha-diversity) and between the two groups (beta-diversity)

alpha diversity

Observed Diversity: The counts of uniques OTUs in a group

CHAO1 Index: It is based upon the number of rare classes (i.e. OTUs) found in a sample

Shannon Index: It counts for richness and evenness. It refers to how equally abundant species in an environment are



beta-diversity

Bray Curtis: It is a used to quantify the compositional dissimilarity between two different area, based on counts at each site biodiversity

- UniFrac distances are based on the fraction of branch length shared between two communities within a phylogenetic tree constructed from the 16S rRNA gene sequences from all communities being compared.
- Unweighted UniFrac: only the presence or absence of lineages are considered (community membership).
- Weighted UniFrac: branch lengths are weighted based on the relative abundances of lineages within communities (community structure)



Metagenomic biomarker discovery and explanation



Proteomic



Domon and Aebersold, Nat Biotechnol 2010

From Proteomics to Metaproteomics

Microbiome



- $\checkmark\,$ How the population is composed
 - Operational Taxonomic Units (OTUs)
- \checkmark What function does it accomplish
 - Protein Expression
 - Metabolism
- \checkmark How does it react to external factors
 - Drugs
 - Diet
- \checkmark How does the host respond to the community changes
 - Wellness
 - Disease



METABOLOMICS



Del Chierico, Gnani, Vernocchi et al., 2014. Meta-omic platforms to assist in the understanding of NAFLD gut microbiota alterations: tools and applications. *Int J Mol Sci*. 2014 Jan 7;15(1):684-711



Host-microbiome metabolic interaction and cell-cell communication

Diet and caring (*i.e* probiotic consumption, antibiotic treatments, etc) has a key role in the gut microbiota modulation and shaping

Foods or their ingredients and "drugs" play a crucial role in microbe selection and in a metabolic signaling network construction

The chemical dialogue via low molecular weight metabolites, peptides, and proteins between cell-cell and host-microbes leads to the *metabolite production* which may influence host healthy statusand possibly represent disease biomarkers.

Vernocchi *et al.*, 2012. Front Cell Infect Microbiol. 2012;2:156



INTEGRATED APPROACH: DEVELOPMENT OF ORIGINAL PIPELINES



Del Chierico F, Vernocchi P, et al. Early-life gut microbiota under physiological and pathological conditions: the central role of combined meta-omics-based approaches. *J Proteomics*. 2012 Aug 3;75(15):4580-7.

DATA ANALYSIS

Pre-processing & Normalization & QC

Exploratory Analysis	Univa	riate Analysis	Correlation Analysis		
PCA and Discriminant Analysis	Selection of peaks displaying significant changes		Correlation Networks Linear and Non-Linear approach to profile association calculation		
Study general trends In data	Parametric Tests (t-test)	Non-parametric Tests (Kolmogorov-Smirnov)	Select peaks with high Level of correlations to Strongest outliers		

Multivariated analysis methodologies

Graphical illustration of use of diagnostic statistics NMC, AUROC, and DQ2 in double cross validation procedure Discriminant Analysis.

a) Use of diagnostics statistics in selection of optimal number of latent variables in CV1

b) use of diagnostics statistics in assessment of overall PLS-DA model quality after double cross validation procedu (CV2)



Szymanska E et al. Metabolomics 2012 Jun; 8(Suppl 1):3-16.

Integration of omics data



Come modificare il microbiota

- ► PROBIOTICI
- ► PREBIOTICI
- ► SIMBIOTICI
- POSTBIOTICI
- ALIMENTI FUNZIONALI
- Fecal microbita transplantation

PROBIOTICI

'Live micro-organisms which when administered in adequate amounts confer a health benefit on the host'

CARATTERISTICHE

- Essere attivi e vitali
- Essere sicuri
- Sopravvivere nel tratto gastrointestinale
- Colonizzare l'intestino
- Possedere caratteristiche di probioticità (conferire un beneficio fisiologico dimostrato secondo criteri fissati)

Esempi di probiotici

- Una miscela di Lactobacillus rhamnosus e Lactobacillus reuteri hanno dimostrato di ridurre in 6 settimane la permeabilità intestinale in bambini affetti da dermatite atopica (test lattulosio/mannitolo)
- Lactobacillus rhamnosus GG è in grado di accelerare la maturazione della barriera intestinale e di indurre la produzione di claudina3 in modelli animali.
- Lactobacillus casei aumenta l'espressione dei geni che codificano per la zonulina in modelli sperimentali (Caco2)
- Saccharomyces boulardii, in combination associato alla terapia standard migliora la permeabilità intestinale in pazienti con Morbo di Crohn

PREBIOTICO

- Fibre alimentari solubili e non digeribili
- Naturalmente presenti nella frutta e verdura
- Negli integratori alimentari (sorbitolo, pectine, xilitolo)
- Favoriscono la crescita dei batteri probiotici nel colon
- Migliorano le funzioni intestinali (attraverso il richiamo di H₂O nel colon e idratando il materiale fecale)

SIMBIOTICI

Integratori alimentari che contengono simultaneamente ceppi probiotici e sostanze prebiotiche.

La loro funzione viene svolta dalla attività sinergica di entrambi nell'intestino

POSTBIOTICI & ALIMENTI FUNZIONALI

POSTBIOTICO:

Sottoprodotto metabolico generato da microrganismi probiotici che influenza la biologia dell'ospite.

ALIMENTI FUNZIONALI:

Qualsiasi alimento modificato o ingrediente che fornisce un beneficio oltre a quello attribuito a ogni specifico nutriente/nutrienti in esso contenuto.

Deve rimanere un alimento e dimostrare il suo effetto in quantità normalmente consumate in una dieta.

Qualsiasi alimento contenente probiotici e prebiotici è un alimento funzionale (yogurt che contengono colture viventi di batteri probiotici, prebiotici e nutrienti della dieta...)

FECAL MICROBIOTA TRANSPLANTATION

Definition

 Fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) is the administration of a solution of fecal matter from a donor into the intestinal tract of a recipient in order to directly change the recipient's gut microbial composition and confer a health benefit.

[Bakken et al. 2011; Smits et al. 2013]

INDICAZIONI TERAPEUTICHE

L'unica indicazione terapeutica riconosciuta e approvata ad oggi:

Infezioni ricorrenti da Clostridium difficle MDR

Indicazioni sperimentali e trial clinici :

- Inflammatory bowel diseases
- gastro-intestinal acute graft-versus-Host disease after Allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation
- Colonizzazione intestinali in pazienti in attesa di trapianto di cellule staminali
- Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis
- Cirrhosis
- Obesity
- autism

Screening donatore

- Il donatore verrà sottoposto a interviste per escludere la presenza di malattie croniche o familiarità per esse.
- Inoltre il donatore è sottoposto a:
- Esami batteriologici:
- (Clostridium difficile, patogeni gastrointestinali, batteri farmaco-resistenti, Vibrio cholera e Listeria monocytogenes etc.)
- **Esami parassitologici:**
- (Giardia intestinalis, Cryptosporidium, Entamoeba histolytica etc.);
- **Esami virologici :**
- (CMV, EPATITE A , HBV, HCV, SIFILIDE, HIV, etc.)
- **Esami chimico-clinici :**
- Emocromo completo, PCR, Albumina, Creatinina, Transaminasi etc.)

Preparazione dell'emulsione fecale del donatore per FMT

- > Per la preparativa dell'emulsione verranno pesati un minimo di 30 gr di feci.
- Al campione verranno aggiunti 120 ml di soluzione fisiologica
- Il campione verrà omogeneizzato mediante un omogeneizzatore a pistoni.



 L'emulsione filtrata verrà raccolta mediante una siringa da 60 ml in una sacca sterile correttamente identificata.

How is the FMT Administered?

- Small bowel upper endoscopy to the jejunum
- Nasojejunal tube placement
- Colonoscopy
- Retention enemas
- Oral capsules

Fecal microbiota transplant in two ulcerative colitis pediatric cases: gut microbiota and clinical course correlations



doi: 10.3390/microorganisms8101486.



B)







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Grazie per l'attenzione

