

The Microbiome and Bronchiolitis: An Unusual Pairing or Is It?

June 28, 2016

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Article type: [Pediatrics Blog](#)



Along with other journals, we have published a number of articles recently on the role of the microbiome as a possible factor in the cause of various pediatric conditions. This week, we are publishing a multicenter prospective study by Hasegawa et al. ([peds.2016-0218](#)) that identifies microbiota profiles from fecal samples in children with bronchiolitis compared to age-matched similar controls.

Four different profiles of organisms are identified and then compared with each other with a bacteroides-dominant profile being associated with the greatest likelihood of having bronchiolitis.

While causality cannot be derived from the data presented in this cross-sectional look at the microbial flora of the gut in bronchiolitis patients, the implications of changing the flora and potentially preventing a common respiratory viral illness from occurring are certainly thought-provoking. It is for this reason that we have asked Dr. Patrick Seed, an expert in the field of the microbial ecology, to share his perspective on this study and its implications. ([peds.2016-1377](#)) If you haven't recognized the import of the microbiome in influencing wellness and disease in all of us, you should do a gut-check on yourself and then read both this study and the commentary to learn more.

Further Reading

- [Validity of Bronchiolitis Outcome Measures](#)
- [Bronchiolitis Obliterans Organizing Pneumonia Due to Gastroesophageal Reflux](#)
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