

tection, differentiation from other disorders, and monitoring disease progression. Elevated levels of alpha-synuclein and tau indicate neuronal dysfunction, while neuroinflammation markers reflect disease processes. These biomarkers help clinicians make informed decisions and customize treatments. They also offer insights into disease mechanisms and treatment responses. By utilizing these biomarkers, healthcare professionals can enhance diagnostic accuracy, personalize treatments, and improve outcomes for individuals with these conditions.

Conclusions

The identification and characterization of novel biomarkers in Parkinson's dementia and Lewy body dementia have significantly advanced the understanding of the underlying pathophysiological mechanisms of these neurodegenerative disorders. Biomarkers such as alpha-synuclein species, tau, amyloid beta, neuroinflammation markers, and neurodegenerative markers play crucial roles in the development, progression, diagnosis, and treatment of Parkinson's dementia and Lewy body dementia. These biomarkers provide valuable insights into the specific pathological processes driving neuronal dysfunction, cognitive decline, and motor symptoms in these conditions. By utilizing these information provided by these biomarkers, healthcare providers can enhance diagnostic accuracy, personalize treatment strategies, and ultimately improve outcomes for individuals affected by Parkinson's dementia and Lewy body dementia. But the study found persistent gaps in knowledge regarding biomarkers in Parkinson's dementia and Lewy body dementia, conflicting findings across various articles, and it is necessary to do further future researches in these areas.

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THE ROLE OF GUT MICROBIOME IN NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES

Introduction

The gut microbiome significantly influences the diseases of human body by altering energy balance and lipid synthesis, leading to enhanced energy storage and systemic inflammation. Emerging evidence increasingly supports the gut microbiome's profound impact on neurological health, suggesting that the balance of gut bacteria can influence brain function and contribute to the pathogenesis of neurological diseases. This connection, often referred to as the gut-brain axis, has been implicated in conditions ranging from neurodevelopmental disorders to neurodegenerative diseases, highlighting the potential of microbiome-targeted therapies [1, 2].

Goal

The primary objective of this review is to explore and elucidate the mechanisms through which the gut microbiome exerts its influence on neurological diseases, thereby contributing to a deeper understanding of the gut-brain axis and its potential therapeutic targets.

Material and methods of research

For the methodology of our review on the influence of the gut microbiome on neurological diseases, we employed a comprehensive literature search across several databases including PubMed, Web of Science, and Google Scholar, utilizing search terms such as “gut microbiome and neurological diseases,” “gut-brain axis,” and “microbiota and neurodegeneration.” We focused on English-language, peer-reviewed articles from 2010 onwards that discuss the mechanisms linking the gut microbiome to neurological conditions, excluding non-English papers and unrelated studies.

In the analysis phase, we synthesized findings from the selected studies through a narrative review approach, categorizing the results based on the type of neurological disease discussed, the identified microbial mechanisms of influence, and the potential therapeutic implications of modifying the gut microbiome. This methodological framework allowed for a detailed examination of recent advances in our understanding of how gut microbiota impact neurological health and disease, highlighting significant patterns, gaps in the current knowledge, and directions for future research. Through this structured analysis, we aim to consolidate current insights into the gut-brain axis and foster a deeper understanding of its role in neurological diseases, paving the way for novel microbiome-targeted therapeutic strategies.

Results of the research and their discussion

The Gut-Brain Axis

Recent research emphasizes the gut-brain axis’s crucial role in physiological processes and neurological diseases [3], involving complex communication pathways like neural connections, endocrine signaling, immune responses, and metabolic interactions [4]. These connections allow the gut microbiome to affect brain health, playing a part in disorders like Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, and mood disorders [5]. Understanding these interactions is key to developing interventions targeting the gut microbiota to slow neurological disease progression [6], highlighting the gut-brain axis’s potential as a therapeutic target for neurological disorders.

The gut-brain axis is a key research area linking the gut microbiome to brain function and neurological disorders such as anxiety, depression, autism, and multiple sclerosis [2]. Technological advances like metagenomics sequencing have deepened our understanding of gut-brain communication. Ongoing research into specific microbes and metabolites involved in this communication could lead to new treatments for neurological conditions.

Therapeutic Implications

Recent studies show the potential of probiotics and prebiotics in enhancing neurological health by altering the gut microbiome. These interventions work by rebalancing microbial communities and increasing beneficial metabolites, thereby impacting brain function. Evidence indicates that dietary modifications, including high-fiber, polyphenol-rich, and omega-3 diets, can positively influence the microbiome and neurological health. Future treatments may focus on personalized microbiome interventions, fecal transplants, and microbial-based therapies, offering new avenues for managing neurological diseases [2, 5].

Research Gaps

Understanding the impact of microbial metabolites on neurological diseases is in early stages. While certain metabolites like amino acid derivatives and bile acids have been linked to neurological health, the precise mechanisms are yet to be fully understood. For instance, short-chain fatty acids (SCFAs) are recognized for their role in neuroinflammation, yet the detailed pathways remain under investigation. Additionally, the broader effects of gut dysbiosis on neuroinflammatory and neurodegenerative conditions need further clarity, despite some evidence showing certain bacterial products can reduce neuroinflammation.

Methodological Challenges

One of the primary challenges in studying the gut microbiome's interaction with the brain is the complexity of the microbiome itself and its interactions with the host's genetics, diet, and environment. Most current studies are correlational and do not establish causality. Moreover, translating findings from animal models to humans poses significant challenges due to physiological differences. There's also a lack of standardized protocols for microbiome analysis, which leads to discrepancies in data collection and interpretation across studies. The effects of antibiotics and other medications on the gut microbiome further complicate the study of its role in neurological diseases. These medications can profoundly alter microbial composition and function, impacting the brain and cognitive functions, yet the long-term consequences of these changes are not fully understood.

Future Research Priorities

Future investigations should prioritize the development of more sophisticated models to simulate human gut-brain interactions accurately, including organ-on-a-chip technologies and improved animal models. Longitudinal human studies are crucial to establish causal links between changes in the microbiome and neurodevelopmental or neurodegenerative markers. Additionally, exploring the therapeutic potential of modulating the gut microbiome through probiotics, prebiotics, and fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) offers promising avenues for treating neurological conditions. Another area of interest is the impact of diet and lifestyle on the microbiome and, by extension, on neurological health, considering the substantial influence of dietary patterns on microbial composition and function.

Conclusions

This review underscores the gut microbiome's vital role in neurological health via the gut-brain axis, showing how it impacts neurological disorder development and treatment. Despite advancements, significant gaps remain in our understanding of microbial interactions with neurological pathways, necessitating better research methods and human physiology simulations. Future research, including advanced models and longitudinal studies, aims to clarify these interactions, opening pathways for new treatments. This highlights the gut microbiome's potential to transform neurological disorder treatment, emphasizing the need for comprehensive healthcare solutions.

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