

Diet, the gut microbiome, and colorectal cancer: are they linked?

9 December 2016



implications of the latest evidence linking the intestinal microbiota to CRC development and progression. In the article entitled "Role of the Microbiota in Colorectal Cancer: Updates on Microbial Associations with CRC and Therapeutic Implications," the authors highlight the protective effects that probiotics and prebiotics can have against CRC through their ability to modulate the [gut microbiome](#) and, specifically, to expand the population of lactic acid-producing bacteria.

"This review provides an excellent overview of the relationship between the intestinal microbiota and [colorectal cancer](#) development. Potential therapies and preventative strategies are also discussed," says *BioResearch Open Access* Editor Jane Taylor, PhD, Edinburgh Medical School: Biomedical Sciences, University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

More information: Olivia I. Coleman et al, Role of the Microbiota in Colorectal Cancer: Updates on Microbial Associations and Therapeutic Implications, *BioResearch Open Access* (2016). [DOI: 10.1089/biores.2016.0028](https://doi.org/10.1089/biores.2016.0028)

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Recent evidence from animal models suggests a role for specific types of intestinal bacteria in the development of colorectal cancer (CRC). If a microbial imbalance in the gut could actively contribute to CRC in humans, dietary-based therapeutic interventions may be able to modify the composition of the gut microbiome to reduce CRC risk, as discussed in a review article published in *BioResearch Open Access*.

Olivia Coleman and Tiago Nunes, Technical University of Munich (Freising-Weihenstephan, Germany), discuss the significance and therapeutic

APA citation: Diet, the gut microbiome, and colorectal cancer: are they linked? (2016, December 9) retrieved 11 October 2022 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-12-diet-gut-microbiome-colorectal-cancer.html>

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