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**COVID-19 and gastrointestinal tract: source of infection or merely target of the inflammatory process following SARS-CoV-2 infection?**

COVID-19 and GI Tract

**Abstract**

Gastrointestinal symptoms have been described in a conspicuous percentage of COVID-19 patients. This clinical evidence is supported by the detection of viral RNA in stool, which also supports the hypothesis of a possible fecal-oral transmission route. A possible involvement of gastrointestinal tract in SARS-CoV2 infection is corroborated by the theoretical assumption that ACE2, which is SARS-CoV2 target receptor, is present along the gastrointestinal tract. Studies have pointed out that gut dysbiosis may occur in COVID-19 patients, with a possible correlation with disease severity and

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