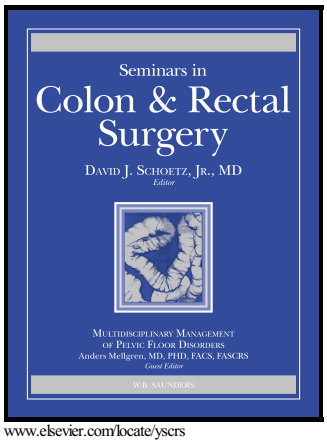

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Probiotics and fecal microbiota transplantation in surgical disorders

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Abstract

The importance of the gut microbiota in health and disease has led to interest in developing methods to modify it. Probiotics administration and fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) are two such approaches that can alter the gut microbiota, potentially offering health benefits by blocking gut colonization by pathogenic organisms and preventing a maladaptive immune response. Both methods have been studied in a variety of settings relevant to colorectal surgeons, including colorectal cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, *C. difficile* colitis, and surgical site infections. However, both therapies offer risks and benefits in surgical patients. Probiotics allow for targeted alterations of the microbiome, but lingering questions remain