

# Evaluation of Persistent Diarrhea and Recurrence Following Fecal Microbiota Transplantation for Recurrent *Clostridioides difficile* Infection

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## Background

- Recurrent *C. difficile* infection (CDI) is common following recovery from CDI.
- Fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) is highly effective for treatment of recurrent CDI.
- FMT is generally safe, though there are serious risks to consider.

**Aim: To determine what patient and disease factors are associated with negative outcomes following FMT**

## Methods

- We performed a retrospective cohort study of all patients at a large academic center who received their first FMT for recurrent CDI.
- Outcomes included recurrent CDI and persistent non-CDI related diarrhea within 90 days of FMT.
- Statistical analysis was performed with unadjusted and adjusted logistic regression.

## Conclusions

**FMT is effective for treatment of recurrent CDI.**

**Patients with higher BMI and longer duration of antibiotic therapy prior to FMT may be protected against recurrence.**

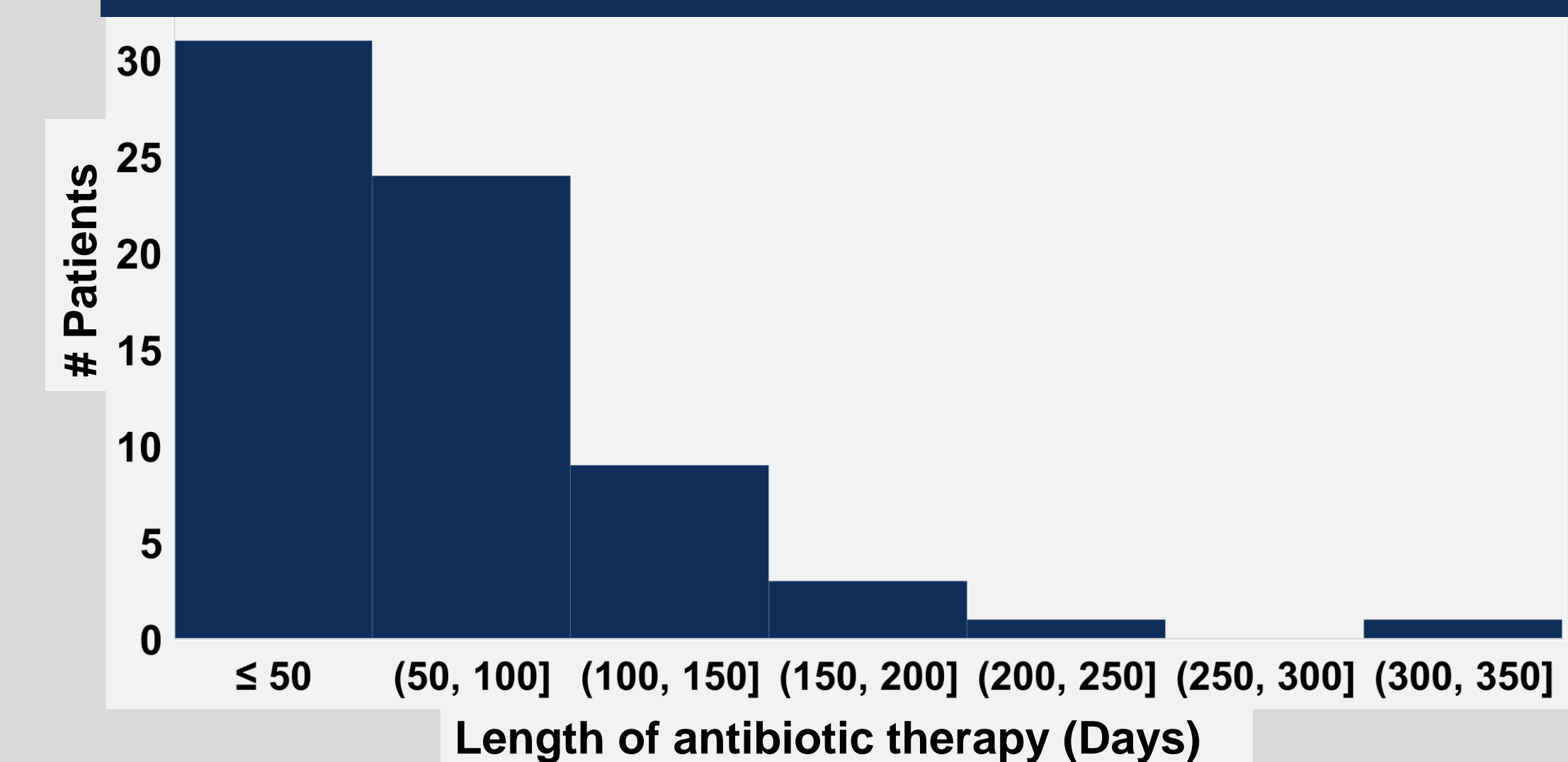
**Patients with a history of IBS are more likely to have persistent diarrhea following FMT that is not due to CDI.**

## Results

**Table 1: Patient characteristics (n=81)**

Age, yr (median, IQR)	58 (41-72)
Female sex	52 (64%)
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	25.63 ± 7.14
IBS	13 (16%)
IBD	10 (12%)
# CDI episodes	3.8 ± 1.3
Route of FMT:	
Lower GI delivery	10 (12%)
Capsules	71 (88%)

**Figure 1: Length of antibiotic therapy for CDI prior to FMT**



**Table 2: Outcomes (within 90 days of FMT)**

Recurrent CDI	9 (11%) <sup>1</sup>
Persistent non-CDI related diarrhea	26 (36%) <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Percentage of all patients

<sup>2</sup>Percentage of patients without recurrent CDI

**Table 4: Etiologies for persistent non-CDI related diarrhea following FMT (n=26)**

IBS/post-infectious IBS	10 (38%)
IBD	4 (15%)
SIBO	2 (8%)
Radiation colitis/proctitis	1 (4%)
No clear etiology	9 (35%)

**Table 3: Multivariable models of adverse outcomes following FMT for CDI**

	Recurrent CDI		Persistent diarrhea	
	OR [95% CI]	P	OR [95% CI]	P
Age, years	-	-	0.98 [0.95,1.01]	.185
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	0.73 [0.52,0.92]	.028	-	-
IBS	-	-	6.16 [1.39,34.2]	.022
# CDI episodes prior to FMT	-	-	0.68 [0.42,1.05]	.096
Duration of antibiotic therapy for CDI prior to FMT, log(days)	0.36 [0.12,0.88]	.038	-	-

Abbreviations: CDI, *Clostridioides difficile* infection; CI, confidence interval; FMT, fecal microbiota transplantation; IBS, irritable bowel syndrome; OR, odds ratio.