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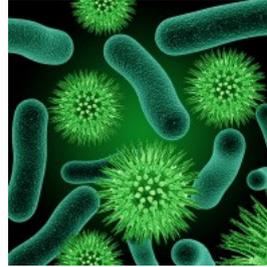
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GUT BACTERIA PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN TYPE 2 DIABETES

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According to a new study published in the journal Nature, individuals with [Type 2 diabetes](#) also have a significant amount of pathogens in their digestive tract. Researchers from the University of Copenhagen and the Beijing Genomics Institute examined the intestinal bacteria of more than 300 people living in China, and found that half of the subjects had diabetes.



Lots of good and bad bacteria can live in the gut

The average individual has 3.3 pounds of bacteria living in their gut. Depending on the conditions the bacteria live in, it could positively or negatively impact the person's health. For instance, diabetes patients are more likely to have a hostile bacterial environment. In addition, they may have an increased likelihood of becoming resistant to certain medications.

"It is important to point out that our discovery demonstrates a correlation," said Karsten Kristiansen, a professor from the university. "The big question now is whether the changes in gut bacteria can affect the development of Type 2 diabetes or whether the changes simply reflect that the person is suffering from Type 2 diabetes."

This is not the first time scientists observed results like this. Past studies conducted in Denmark revealed that there is an imbalance in the function and distribution of the intestinal bacteria of Type 2 diabetes patients. Researchers hope to carry out another study in which they transplant bacteria from affected individuals to mice and see if the rodents develop the condition.

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