

Blue feces: Modified gut bacteria could indicate colon cancer, inflammatory bowel disease

Checking the hue of your feces could soon reveal why you are feeling off-color. [Gut bacteria](#) in mice have been genetically modified to make colored pigments when they detect the presence of disease. If the mice have a gut disorder, the microbes turn blue.

A similar approach could be used to diagnose inflammatory bowel diseases or colon cancer in people.

At the moment, many gut disorders are diagnosed by putting a camera on a thin flexible tube up the rectum. “People often don’t like that,” says [Pamela Silver](#) of Harvard Medical School in Boston. And preparing for the procedure requires fasting and taking strong laxatives.

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Silver’s team gave their modified bacteria to healthy mice and to mice that had gut inflammation...Some bacteria get passed out of the body in feces, and lab tests revealed the color-change enzyme only in samples from animals with gut inflammation. In these samples, the bacteria changed color from white to blue.

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David Riglar at Harvard Medical School...hopes that the modified bacteria could help diagnose some of the many diseases that have been linked to gut bacteria, such as [Parkinson’s disease](#) and [autism](#).

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: [Gene tweak in gut bacteria could turn faeces blue if you’re ill](#)