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A Potential Cellular Explanation for the Increased Risk of *Clostridium difficile* Infection Due to Hypoalbuminemia: A Response to Di Bella SD et al

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In their intriguing investigation, reported in "The protective role of albumin in *Clostridium difficile* infection: A step towards solving the puzzle" (citation Di Bella SD et al 2015), Di Bella SD and colleagues explored the cellular mechanism of potential protective effect of albumin in *C. difficile* infection (CDI). Their findings deepen our understanding of the association between low albumin levels and increased risks for CDI. [1] We applaud their effort.

Previous epidemiological work has found that hypoalbuminemia is a robust risk factor for mortality for hospitalized patients across a spectrum of clinical categories [234]. Di Bella et al's study points out that hypoalbuminemia plays a role in the predisposition to CDI, due to compromising the cellular protective property of albumin. Future studies may further explore the mechanism of low albumin levels and other pathological manifestations.

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