WHICH DISEASES CAN BE TREATED WITH FMT?

ARI GRINSPAN: The possibilities of Fecal Microbiota Transplantation-- or FMT-- in terms of treating human disease is pretty incredible. However, the only approved indication to use fecal transplant is for an infection of the intestine, called Clostridium difficile or C. diff.

And when we use fecal transplant for C. diff. It's a home run. We knock it out of the park.

Can we then use what we've learned from C. diff to treat other human conditions? And that's on the horizon, but we're not there yet. So there are clinical trials going on right now looking at Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, irritable bowel syndrome, obesity, and liver disease.

Beyond that, all the other trials are pre-clinical, meaning we're thinking about it, but there are no human trials going on, where we can use a fecal transplant for the following conditions like autism, or lung disease, or diabetes, or skin conditions, among others. So right now, we can only use it for C-diff.