

BBC: The symptoms are caused by toxins released by C. difficile bacteria. So the team at Loyola University Health System in Illinois tried giving patients spores of non-toxin-producing C. difficile. The friendlier bacteria should occupy the spaces in the gut that the toxic C. difficile normally inhabits and prevent it coming back. The trial showed the healthier bacteria took hold in the gut 69% of the time. In those people, just one in fifty faced another infection. Meanwhile, one in three people had renewed symptoms if the bacteria failed to colonise the gut or if they were given a dummy treatment.

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