Coeliac Disease at ABCD

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COELIAC DISEASE

INVESTIGATION OF THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF CERTAIN TYPES OF CEREAL ON PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM COELIAC DISEASE

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- Epidemiology
- Diagnosis
- Refractory coeliac disease
- New treatments





Epidemiology:

 In screening studies using antibody testing (EMA, tTG) followed by biopsy the prevalence of coeliac disease in virtually all communities studied is 1:300 – 1:100

Typical Coeliac Profile

- Commonest clinical feature anaemia
- Minor GI symptoms if any (IBS)
- Lethargy
- Adult, age 60 +

Recognised associations with coeliac disease

Family history **Insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus** Inflammatory bowel disease **Primary biliary cirrhosis** Primary sclerosing cholangitis **Epilepsy (with cerebral calcification)** IgA mesangial nephropathy Autoimmune thyroid disease IgA deficiency **Rheumatoid arthritis** Adverse preganancy related problems Down's syndrome Dyspepsia

Coeliac Disease and Type 1 Diabetes

- Adults: 1:16 1:76
- The majority of patients do not have gastrointestinal symptoms
- Children: 1:6 1:103
- In children they may initially be negative for antibodies and then subsequently become positive, hence if 1st screen -ve check again eg 1, 3 and 5 years post diagnosis.

Holmes GKT et al Malignancy and coeliac disease-effect of a gluten free diet. Gut 1989;30:333-338

A gluten free diet is protective

Should We Actively Look For (Screen for) Asymptomatic/Minor Symptomatic Coeliac Disease (incl Diabetes)?

- Does it reduce future morbidity and mortality?
- How feasible is it?

To Screen or Not to Screen for CD (in Diabetes): mortality

- Mortality in CD slightly increased:1.31 (CI 1.13-1.5) 4732 patients with CD vs 23,620 controls (From GP data base West et al 2004); GI cancer risk 1.85 (1.22-2.81); lymphoproliferative disease 4.8 (2.71-8.5)
- European multi centre study 2006: 1446 NHL's vs 9676 controls, patients with NHL increased risk of CD (OR 2.6 (1.4-4.9)
- In N Ireland 13 T cell lymphomas of small bowel in 10 years=incidence of < 1 per million per year. With prevalence of CD of 1:100 risk of EATL circa 1:10000 per year (Johnston SD, Watson RGP 2000)

To Screen or Not to Screen for CD (in Diabetes): morbidity

- To avoid bone mineral loss
- Improved metabolic control (growth)
- Avoidance of future autoimmune diseases
- Unrecognised illness

- Not associated with fractures
- Not universally improved control
- Controversial
- Controversial
- Additional dietary restriction: patient compliance and QOL

Learning point:

- Proactively look for coeliac disease when there are symptoms (incl anaemia, poor diabetic control, poor growth)
- Any benefit to asymptomatic patients is likely to be in the future and to be minimal and tenuous.
- For asymptomatic patients compliance with a GFD is likely to be poor
- Therefore (in my view) there is insufficient evidence to support screening in asymptomatic individuals (incl diabetes)

Diagnosis of coeliac disease

Serology (EMA, tTG)	Biopsy	Symptoms	Rx
+	+	+/-	Treat
+		+	Review histo + serology, repeat histo, review/treat
+	-		Review
	+	+	Treat
	+		Review
-		+	Review



Pre-Infiltrative

Infiltrative

Hyperplastic

Flat destructive

Irreversible hypoplastic/atrophic

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Learning point:

 Where investigations are not clear cut carefully evaluate possibilities, be willing to review patients and make the diagnosis at a future point in time in light of clinical progress and repetition of investigations.

Persistence of symptoms

- (Inadvertent) gluten ingestion (most common)
- Wrong diagnosis
- Lactose or fructose intolerance
- Pancreatic insufficiency
- Bacterial overgrowth
- Microscopic/collagenous colitis
- IBS
- Refractory coeliac disease



Pre-Infiltrative

Infiltrative

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Cellier et al 2000

21 RCD

16Clonal T cells 2ND

3 Absent Clonal T cells

Cellier et al 2000



Cellier et al 2000











Learning point:

- Persistence of symptoms and lack of response is most commonly due to continued gluten ingestion
- If mucosa apparently recovered look for additional problems eg microscopic colitis
- Refractory coeliac disease in some cases may be a diffuse lymphoma and has a poor prognosis

QLPQFEEIRNLALETLPAMCNVYIPPYCTIAPVGIFGTNYR

QQQPLSQVSFQQPQQQYPSGQGSFQPSQQNPQAQGSVQPQ

YQLVQQLCCQQLWQIPEQSRCQAIHNVVHAIILHQQQQQQQQ

QQQQQQQQLIQQLIPCRDVVLQQHSIAYGSSQVLQQST

PQPQPFRPQQPYPQSQPQYSQPQQPISQQQQQQQQQQQ

QPYPQPQPFPSQQPYLQLQPFPQPQLPYPQPQLPYPQPQLPY

MVRVPVPQLQPQNPSQQQPQEQVPLVQQQQFPGQQQPFPPQ



α -Gliadin: proline content

MVRVPVPQLQPQNPSQQQPQEQVPLVQQQQFPGQQQPFPPQ

QPYPQPQPFPSQQPYLQLQPFPQPQLPYPQPQLPYPQPQLPY

PQPQPFRPQQPYPQSQPQYSQPQQPISQQQQQQQQQQQQ

QQQQQQQQLQQLLQQQLIPCRDVVLQQHSIAYGSSQVLQQST

YQLVQQLCCQQLWQIPEQSRCQAIHNVVHAIILHQQQQQQQQ

QQQPLSQVSFQQPQQQYPSGQGSFQPSQQNPQAQGSVQPQ

QLPQFEEIRNLALETLPAMCNVYIPPYCTIAPVGIFGTNYR

α -Gliadin: immunogenic epitopes

MVRVPVPQLQPQNPSQQQPQEQVPLVQQQQFPGQQQPFPPQ

QPYPQPQPFPSQQPYLQLQPFPQPQLPYPQPQLPYPQPQLPY

PQPQPFRPQQPYPQSQPQYSQPQQPISQQQQQQQQQQQQ

QQQQQQQQLQQLLQQQLIPCRDVVLQQHSIAYGSSQVLQQST

YQLVQQLCCQQLWQIPEQSRCQAIHNVVHAIILHQQQQQQQQ

QQQPLSQVSFQQPQQQYPSGQGSFQPSQQNPQAQGSVQPQ

QLPQFEEIRNLALETLPAMCNVYIPPYCTIAPVGIFGTNYR

The Intestine and Gluten in Celiac Sprue



The Intestine and Gluten in Celiac Sprue



Learning point:

 The mainstay of treatment is a gluten free diet but with a better understanding of pathogenesis it should be possible in future to offer other therapeutic options