

## Celiac Disease in Children

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Nationwide Children's Hospital

## Disclosure

I have no relevant financial relationships with the manufacturers of any commercial products and/or provider of commercial services discussed in this CME activity.

I do not intend to discuss an unapproved or investigative use of a commercial product or device in my presentation.

## Celiac Disease

### Celiac Disease Facts

- Affects ~ 1% of the USA population\*
- 2-3 million cases in the USA
- 5-20 affected children in average practice
- ~ 80% undiagnosed

\*Arch Int Med 2003;163:286-92

- Med 2003;163:286-92

**Diagnosed**

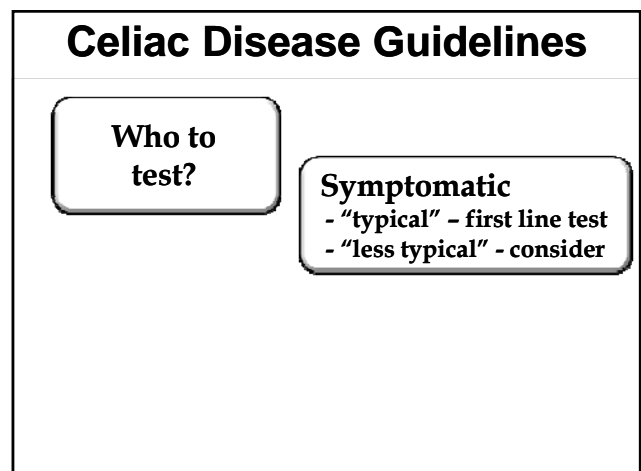
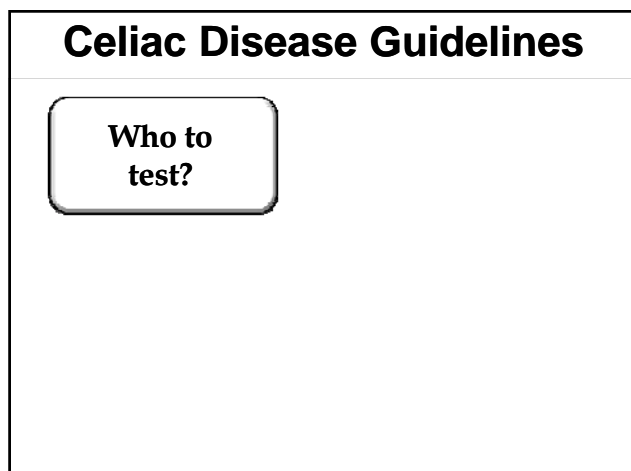
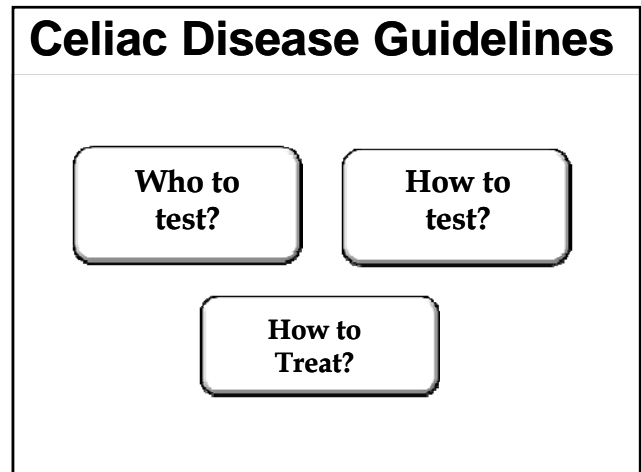
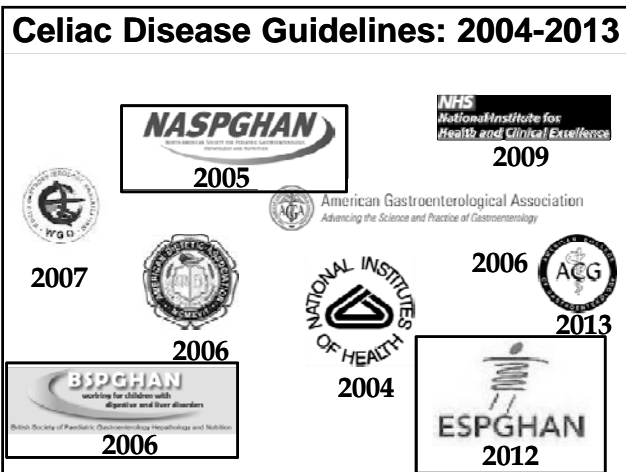
**Undiagnosed**

## Celiac Disease Learning Objectives

Identify children in need of testing for celiac disease

Choose most effective serological tests for screening

Understand the need to confirm the diagnosis before treating.



## Celiac Disease Guidelines

Who to test?

**Symptomatic**

- "typical" - first line test
- "less typical" - consider

What Symptoms are associated with celiac disease?

## Symptomatic CD

Symptoms in children

Highly variable

- age of onset
- severity of symptoms
- single or combined

## Symptomatic CD

Symptoms in children

Highly variable

- age of onset
- severity of symptoms
- single or combined

Symptoms mainly GI in young children. Non-GI sxs more common later.

## Celiac Disease

### • Symptomatic group

- Gastrointestinal – early onset
- Age – 6 mths – 2 yrs



Abdominal distention



Anorexia  
Weight loss  
Wasting

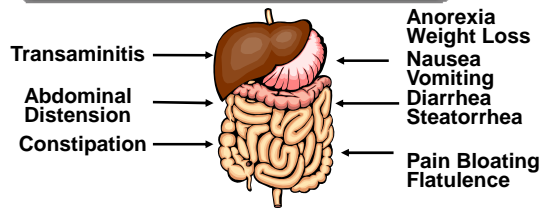
Diarrhea  
Steatorrhea

**Crisis**

## Celiac Disease

### • Symptomatic group

- Gastrointestinal – late onset
- Age – childhood to young adult



## Celiac Disease

### Symptomatic group

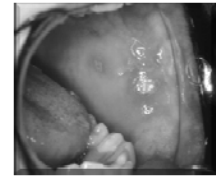
Non-Gastrointestinal

Skin and mucous membranes

Dermatitis herpetiformis



Aphthous ulcers



## Celiac Disease

### Symptomatic group

Non-Gastrointestinal

Musculoskeletal system

Short stature



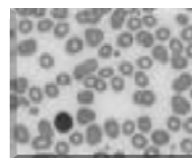
Rickets  
Osteopenia  
Osteoporosis  
Arthritis  
Fractures

## Celiac Disease

### Symptomatic group

Non-Gastrointestinal

Hematological system



Anemia  
iron deficiency  
folate/B12  
Leukopenia  
Bruising/bleeding  
vitamin K deficiency  
platelet dysfunction

## Celiac Disease

### Symptomatic group

Non-Gastrointestinal

#### Miscellaneous

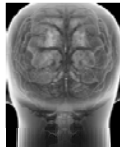


Dental enamel hypoplasia



#### Reproductive system

- pubertal delay
- infertility
- recurrent abortions
- low birth weight



#### Central nervous system

- behavioral changes
- anxiety disorders
- learning difficulties

## Celiac Disease

### Asymptomatic group

- At risk for CD

## Celiac Disease

### Asymptomatic group

- At risk for CD

#### Autoimmune

Type 1 DM  
Thyroiditis  
A.I. Hepatitis  
Sjogren's  
Arthritis

## Celiac Disease

### Asymptomatic group

- At risk for CD

#### Autoimmune

Type 1 DM  
Thyroiditis  
A.I. Hepatitis  
Sjogren's  
Arthritis

#### Non-autoimmune

Relatives  
Down syndrome  
Turner syndrome  
Williams syndrome  
IgA deficiency

## Celiac Disease Guidelines

### Who to test?

#### Symptomatic

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- "less typical" - consider

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#### Symptomatic

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#### Asymptomatic

- general population - no
- at risk groups - debate

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Yes

## Celiac Disease Guidelines

### Who to test?

#### Symptomatic

- "typical" – first line test
- "less typical" - consider

#### Asymptomatic

- general population - no
- at risk groups - debate



Yes

Not so fast!!



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## Celiac Disease

### Testing the Asymptomatic Debate



## Celiac Disease

### Testing the Asymptomatic Debate

#### Protagonists!

Increased mortality  
Increased malignancies  
Other morbidities  
– bones, growth,  
other AID's



## Celiac Disease

### Testing the Asymptomatic Debate

#### Protagonists!

Increased mortality  
Increased malignancies  
Other morbidities  
– bones, growth,  
other AID's



#### Antagonists!

Natural history unknown  
Benefits - uncertain  
Compliance -poor  
QOL issues

## Celiac Disease Guidelines

Who to  
test?

How to  
test?

How to  
Treat?

# Celiac Disease

## Commercially available tests

Antigliadin – IgA AGA & IgG AGA

Transglutaminase – IgA tTG (IgG tTG)

Endomysium – IgA EMA (IgG EMA)

Deamidated gliadin – IgA DGP & IgG DGP

Test	Sensitivity (percent)	Specificity (percent)	Technology	Cost
IgA AGA	80 (52-100)	85 (47-100)	Low	\$
IgG AGA	80 (42-100)	80 (47-94)	Low	\$
IgA tTG	95 (86-100)	96 (90-98)	Low	\$\$*
IgA EMA	90 (86-100)	98 (94-100)	High	\$\$\$\$*
IgA DGP	88 (74-100)	90 (80-95)	Low	\$\$#
IgG DGP	80 (70-95)	98 (90-100)	Low	\$\$#

Gastroenterology 2005;128:S25.  
JPGN 2012;54:229-241

Am J Gastroenterol 2010;105:2520-2524.

## Recommended Testing for Celiac Disease.

Test	Sensitivity (percent)*	Specificity (percent)*	Technology	Cost
<del>IgA AGA</del>	<del>52-100</del>	<del>85-100</del>	<del>Low</del>	<del>\$</del>
<del>IgG AGA</del>	<del>42-100</del>	<del>47-94</del>	<del>Low</del>	<del>\$</del>
IgA tTG	95	96	Low	\$\$
IgA EMA	90	98	High	\$\$\$\$
IgA DGP	88	90	Low	\$\$
IgG DGP	80	98	Low	\$\$

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Test	Sensitivity (percent)*	Specificity (percent)*	Tech	Cost
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IgA EMA	90	98	High	\$\$\$\$
IgA DGP	88	90	Low	\$\$
IgG DGP	80	98	Low	\$\$

Most reliable and cost effective single test  
Need to know serum IgA level?



## Celiac Disease Special Considerations

IgA deficiency  
- IgG (tTG, EMA or DGP)  
- consider biopsy

## Celiac Disease Special Considerations

IgA deficiency  
- IgG (tTG, EMA or DGP)  
- consider biopsy

The young child (< 2 yrs)  
- tTG IgA + DGP IgG  
(ESPGHAN)

## Celiac Disease

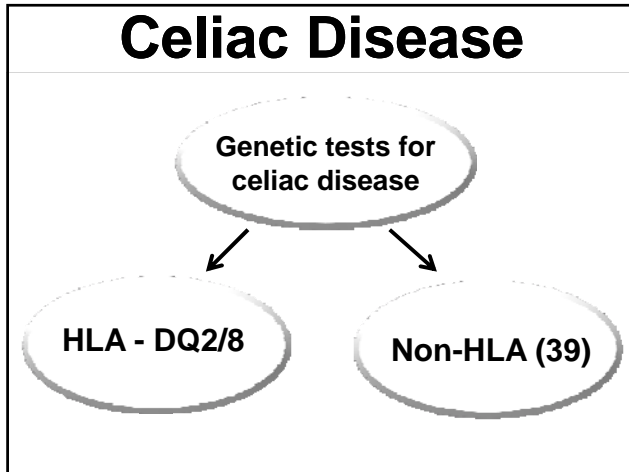
Genetic tests for  
celiac disease

## Celiac Disease

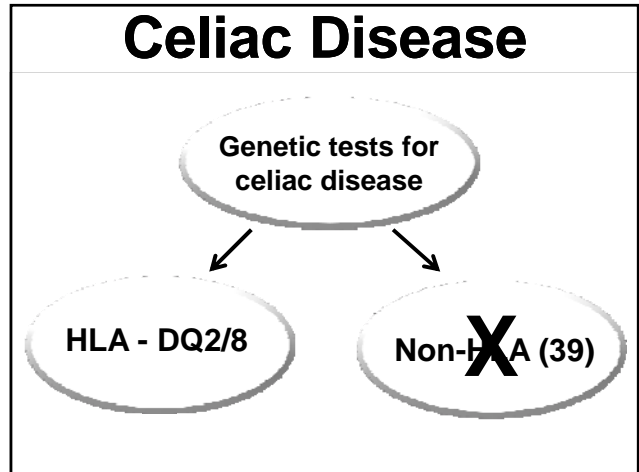
Genetic tests for  
celiac disease

HLA - DQ2/8

## Celiac Disease



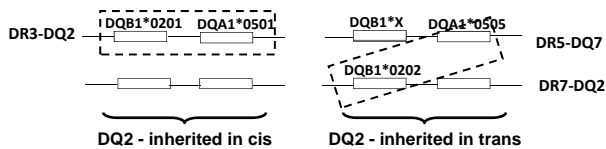
## Celiac Disease



## Celiac Disease

### HLA genes in celiac disease

- DQ2 > 95% of celiac individuals  
20% -30% general population
- DQ8 majority of non DQ2 cases

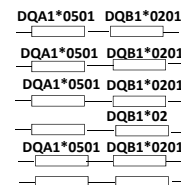


## Celiac Disease

### The Gene Dose Effect\*

#### Relative risk

- DQ2 homozygous
- DQ2 + DQB1\*02
- DQ2 + DQ/X



- Increased peptide binding & gluten specific T cell response #

\* Greco L, et al. Frontiers in celiac disease. Karger 2008;12:46-56.

# Vader W, et al, PNAS 2003;100:12390-12395.

## Celiac Disease

- Non DQ2 and/or DQ8 celiac
  - European collaborative study#
  - 1008 biopsy confirmed cases
  - 61 negative for DQ2 and/or DQ8
  - 57 positive for half the DQ2 heterodimer
    - 41 – DQB1\*02
    - 16 – DQA1\*05



## Celiac Disease

How to use  
HLA - DQ2/8

Specific alleles

Not for diagnosis

Selective use

## Definitive Testing

### Celiac Disease

Is a biopsy needed in all cases?



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ESPGHAN

## Definitive Testing

### Celiac Disease

Is a biopsy needed in all cases?



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ESPGHAN

- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- No

## Celiac Disease and Beyond

Biopsy  
Consensus  
Points

## Celiac Disease and Beyond

Biopsy  
Consensus  
Points

Endoscopic



Normal



Scalloping



Nodularity



Normal



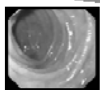
Atrophic

## Celiac Disease and Beyond

Biopsy  
Consensus  
Points

Endoscopic

Multiple  
Bulb & distal



Normal



Scalloping



Nodularity

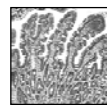


Normal

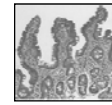


Atrophic

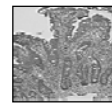
## Celiac Disease



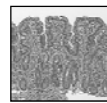
Normal 0



Infiltrative 1



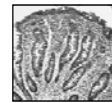
Hyperplastic 2



Partial atrophy 3a



Subtotal atrophy 3b



Total atrophy 3c

Marsh MN. Scanning Microsc. 1988;2:1663-84.

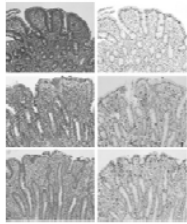
## Celiac Disease

Confirming the Dx

Marsh III – strong

Marsh II – moderate

Marsh I – weak



## Celiac Disease

Non Biopsy  
diagnosis?

## Celiac Disease

Non Biopsy  
diagnosis?

Symptomatic  
+ tTG >10x ULN

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Non Biopsy  
diagnosis?

Symptomatic  
+ tTG >10x ULN

EMA +ve  
HLA DQ 2/8

# Celiac Disease

Non Biopsy  
diagnosis?

Symptomatic  
+ tTG >10x ULN

EMA +ve  
HLA DQ 2/8

Symptoms resolve  
Serology resolves

# Celiac Disease

## • Recommendation 3.4.1.

- Every antibody test must be validated in a paediatric population of at least 50 children with active CD and 100 control children.....
- Laboratories providing CD antibody test results should participate continuously in quality control programs at a national or European level.

# Celiac Disease

## Confirming the Dx

Comparison of Commercially Available Serologic Kits  
for the Detection of Celiac Disease

Afari J. Najjar, MD, Lincoln Hernandez, MD, Edward J. Ciaccio, PhD,  
Konstantinos Papadakis, MD, John S. Manavalan, MD, Gerald Bhagat, MD,  
and Peter H. R. Green, MD

(J Clin Gastroenterol 2009;43:225-232)

Sensitivity - 71.4 - 96.4%  
Specificity - 87.5 - 100%  
False + ve - 13 - 25%

Oral Intensity

Diagnostic Accuracy of Ten Second-Generation  
(Human) Tissue Transglutaminase Antibody Assays  
in Celiac Disease

Bettina Von Muhlen, MD, Margot Hatz, MD, Hans-Hermann, MD, Giovanni Vignani, MD,  
Paula Bortolotto, MD, Klaus Grosse, MD, and Xavier Saurat, MD

# Celiac Disease

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**Need for Standardization!**

Oral Intensity

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# Celiac Disease

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Orl. Gastroenterol. Hepatol. 2012 Oct 25; pii: S1542-3556(12)01280-3. doi: 10.1016/j.oghe.2012.10.007. [Epub ahead of print]

### Defining Thresholds of Antibody Levels Improves Diagnosis of Celiac Disease.

Vermasech P, Gebaars K, Mearin G, Hoffman J, Haak M, Boskuyl X.

Laboratory Medicine, University Hospitals Leuven, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium.

#### Abstract

**BACKGROUND & AIMS:** The European Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition proposed guidelines for the diagnosis of celiac disease, stating that duodenal biopsy is no longer needed if patients have symptoms and levels of immunoglobulin A anti-tissue transglutaminase (IgA anti-tTG) more than 10-fold the cutoff value. We evaluated the accuracy of this guideline in a well-characterized population using different commercial assays.

**METHODS:** We analyzed levels of IgA anti-tTG in serum samples from 104 consecutive pediatric and adult patients who were not deficient in IgA and diagnosed with celiac disease from August 1, 2000 to December 31, 2009. We also analyzed serum samples from 337 consecutive patients without celiac disease (controls), collected from May 1, 2004 to October 12, 2006, who underwent intestinal biopsy analysis. Serum levels of antibodies were quantified using assays from BioRad, INOVA, Sorinco, and Thermo Fisher.

**RESULTS:** The likelihood ratio (probability of a specific result in patients divided by probability of the same result in controls) for celiac disease increased with levels of IgA anti-tTG in all assays. Depending on the assay, the likelihood ratio for levels >10-fold the cutoff ranged from 111 to 294. The percentage of patients with celiac disease with levels of IgA anti-tTG >10-fold the cutoff ranged from 41% to 81%, depending on the assay. For levels of anti-tTG >10-fold the cutoff, the post-test probabilities for celiac disease (probability of disease, based on pre-test probability and test result) were, depending on the assay, 89%-96% and 53%-75% (depending on the assay), for pre-test probabilities (probability of disease depending on symptoms) of 7% and 1%, respectively.

**CONCLUSIONS:** To diagnosis celiac disease based on serologic factors, it might be best to define thresholds for levels of IgA anti-tTG based on a predefined likelihood ratio or post-test probability, instead of a multiple of a cutoff value. Patients with a high pre-test probability and levels of anti-tTG >10-fold the cutoff have a high probability for having celiac disease, aiding clinical decision making.

# Celiac Disease

## Confirming the Dx

SHORT COMMUNICATION

### ESPGHAN Guidance on Coeliac Disease 2012: Multiples of ULN for Decision Making Do Not Harmonise Assay Performance Across Centres

William Liger, Anna Sherington, Ravishanker Sargur, Dana Patel, and Kersty Swallow

#### ABSTRACT

The updated ESPGHAN guidance on coeliac disease recommends the use of common multiples of the upper limit of normal (ULN) for IgA tissue transglutaminase antibodies (tTG) when deciding whether biopsy is required to follow. The current lack of standardisation between assays makes it difficult to harmonise results between centres as different performance characteristics are observed with each assay. This variation is shown as

use of times in its diagnostic algorithms and conflicts with the external quality assessment (EQAS) data used. Lack of standardisation across both serological (multiples of ULN) and histological (multiples of ULN) data used. Lack of standardisation across both serological (multiples of ULN) and histological (multiples of ULN) data used. Lack of standardisation across both serological (multiples of ULN) and histological (multiples of ULN) data used.

Use of common ULN for IgA tTG in different centres giving very different screening results when using different assays, and therefore following a different pathway through the algorithm for the same patient. This has the potential to lead to some centres making different biopsy requests depending on the assay used, despite the guideline intention of avoiding biopsy in those who are strongly positive for tTG. Furthermore, it is not yet clear that the PPV of high times is the same for all assays even when they produce similar apparent results for the mean or median ULN. There is considerable in the performance characteristics of different

data with external quality assessment programmes, for a much the optimal guidance is to standardise the use with all the commercial tTG kits and to therefore not mention this for use in all centres.

Key Words: coeliac disease, ESPGHAN guidelines, tissue transglutaminase antibodies.

JPGN 2012;55:733-735.

# Celiac Disease

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"As a result, the updated guidance is too generalized for use with all commercial TG2 kits and is therefore not translatable for us in all centres".

# Celiac Disease

Non Biopsy Dx?

## Celiac Disease

Non Biopsy Dx?

Ideal!

## Celiac Disease

Non Biopsy Dx?

Ideal!

Possible?

## Celiac Disease

Non Biopsy Dx?

Ideal!

Possible?

USA - Not yet!

## Celiac Disease

### Treatment for celiac disease

- **Recommendations**
- Always confirm before treating
- Confirmation mandates GFD for life
  - Following a strict GFD is not easy
  - Diet has potential QOL implications
- Failure to treat has potential long term adverse health consequences
  - increased morbidity and mortality



## Celiac Disease

- Celiac disease- current treatment

- **Strict GFD for Life!**
- **Skilled nutritionist**
  - assessment and education
- **Follow-up**
  - growth/health monitoring
  - serological resolution

## Celiac Disease

- Celiac disease –future treatment?

**Alternatives to the GFD?**

- digestive enzymes
- biologics

**Prevention?**

- infant feeding practices
- vaccines

## Celiac Disease

- Resources

- [www.gikids.org](http://www.gikids.org) (click on celiac disease)

- Guidelines for evaluation and management

- Patient information brochures
- Start up diet
- Gluten free drug list

- NASPGHAN guidelines – JPGN 2005;40:1-19.
- NIH Consensus Conference – Gastroenterology 2005:S1-S9.
- AGA guidelines – Gastroenterology 2006;131:1977-1980.
- Technical Review – Gastroenterology 2006;131:1981-2002.
- ESPGHAN guidelines – JPGN 2012;54:136-160.

## Presentation of Celiac Disease in Adults

**Sheryl Pfeil, MD**  
Associate Professor – Clinical  
Department of Internal Medicine  
Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition  
The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

### **Presentation of Celiac Disease in Adults**

- Delay in diagnosis common ("celiac iceberg")
- May be diagnosed at any age
- No weight exclusion
- Geographically widespread

### **Presentation of Celiac Disease in Adults**

- Frequent cause of unexplained iron deficiency
- GI symptoms: diarrhea, bloating, "IBS" type symptoms
- Spectrum of severity and symptoms; majority have mild symptoms; mono- or oligosymptomatic
- Non-GI manifestations and celiac associated conditions

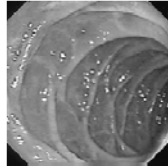
### **Celiac Disease and Iron Deficiency in Adults**

- 5-8% of adults with unexplained iron deficiency anemia have CD
- Many patients undergoing EGD for anemia do not get duodenal biopsies
- Macroscopic and microscopic findings
- Biopsy duodenal bulb and descending duodenum  
(2 + 4)

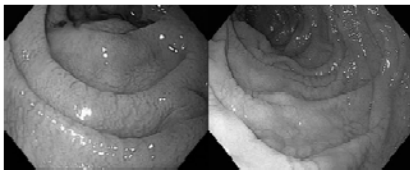
### **Endoscopic "Clues" in Diagnosis of Celiac Disease**

- Loss of duodenal folds
- Fissuring or scalloping along folds
- Nodularity
- Mosaic pattern

### Endoscopic "Clues" in Diagnosis of Celiac Disease

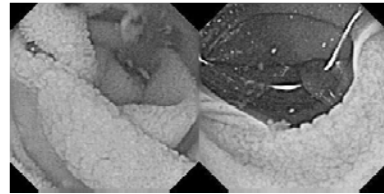


Normal Duodenum



Celiac Disease

### Endoscopic "Clues" in Diagnosis of Celiac Disease



Capsule Endoscopy in Celiac Disease

### Microscopic Diagnosis of Celiac Disease

- Spectrum of change
- "False positive" biopsies (NSAIDs, olmesartan, tropical sprue, autoimmune enteropathy, self-limited enteritis, Crohn's)
- Correlate with serologies and HLA type

### Abnormal Liver Tests and Celiac Disease

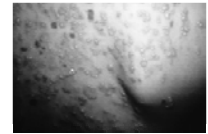
- Incidental elevated transaminases (ALT, AST): up to 9% may have "silent" celiac disease
- Non-specific reactive hepatitis
- Liver tests normalize on a gluten free diet
- Other associated autoimmune liver disorders
  - Primary biliary cirrhosis
  - Autoimmune hepatitis

## Conditions Associated with Celiac Disease in Adults

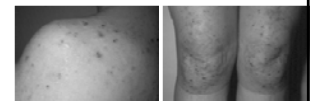
- **Dermatitis herpetiformis**
- Cerebellar ataxia
- Arthralgias
- **Osteoporosis**
- Reproductive disorders
- Small bowel malignancies (lymphoma and adenocarcinoma)

## Dermatitis Herpetiformis

- Symmetric pruritic papules and vesicles on forearms, knees, buttocks
- Majority (90%) no GI symptoms
- Majority (75+% have increased IEL's or villous atrophy)
- Gluten sensitive
- Responds to gluten withdrawal



CDC



Author: BallenaBlanca  
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## Osteopenia and Osteoporosis

- Early fractures often without GI symptoms
- Secondary hyperparathyroidism due to vitamin D deficiency
- Peripheral > axial bone loss
- Partial reversal on gluten free diet
- Perform DXA scan at diagnosis

## Treatment of Celiac Disease

- Gluten free diet
- Dietician referral
- Motivation: reduced complications
- Explosion of gluten free food industry

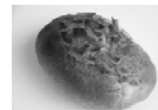


Author: Gérard Lora

The Gluten-free Diet Plate



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Author: DryPot

### **Early Management of the Adult Celiac Patient**

- Confirm diagnosis before treatment
- Diet instruction and support
  - Gluten free diet for life
  - Avoid wheat, barley, and rye
- Test for (and correct) nutrient deficiencies
- DXA scan to evaluate for bone loss

### **Early Management of the Adult Celiac Patient**

- Follow response to therapy
- Recheck serology (if initially positive)
- Support group

### **Late Management of the Adult Celiac Patient**

- Annual visit
- Repeat DXA scan (and vitamin D testing) depending on initial results
- May check serology (if initially positive) and routine labs (CBC, metabolic panel)
- Symptom flare: think inadvertent gluten ingestion, microscopic colitis, less likely malignancy

### **Celiac Disease Dilemmas**

- Self-imposed gluten free diet - confounds diagnostic testing (except HLA type)
- The patient who will not eat gluten
  - OK if nutritionally sound
- "Diagnosis" on basis of single positive test (e.g. gliadin antibodies, HLA type)
- Gluten "sensitivity"

## **Summary Points**

- **Test before treating**
- **You won't find what you don't look for: associated conditions and endoscopic findings**
- **Use the best serology strategy (Ig A anti-tTG Ab) if not Ig A deficient**

## **Summary Points**

- **Recognize risk groups and remember iron deficient anemia**
- **Diet "cures" the manifestations of the disease**
- **Follow the patient**