HISTOLOGICAL FINDINGS IN GASTRIC BIOPSIES AT DIAGNOSIS IN AN ADULT CELIAC DISEASE POPULATION

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Background: Chronic gastritis (CG) and lymphocytic gastritis (LG) have been described in pediatric populations with celiac disease (CeD). A US national review of gastric and duodenal biopsies showed an association between duodenal histology compatible with CeD and the presence of CG or LG. However, this transversal study did not include clinical or serological data.

Aims: To evaluate, in an adult CeD cohort, the gastric histological findings at diagnosis of CeD.

Methods: Longitudinal chart review study at Centre Hospitalier de l’Université de Montréal from August 2003 to June 2016. Were included every new cases of CeD (presence of tissue transglutaminase antibodies (tTG) and duodenal biopsies corresponding to Marsh 1 to 3c classification, without any notion of previous gluten-free diet). Medical record, endoscopic and pathology reports were reviewed. Mann-Whitney U test was used to compare continuous data and Fisher's exact test to compare categorical data.

Results: 186 cases of CeD were diagnosed (mean age(SD) 47.3±15.9 years; 64% female). Concomitant gastric biopsies were done in 43% of them (n=80). Gastroscopy findings were abnormal in 33.8% (n=27), the main finding being mucosal erythema (n=18). Gastric histology was abnormal in 63.75% (n=51). Findings included inactive CG(n=27), active CG without helicobacter pylori (Hp) (n=7), Hp infection (n=5), reactional gastropathy (n=4), gastric polyps (n=2), LG (n=3), parietal cells pseudohypertrophy (n=2) and intestinal metaplasia(n=1). No difference was found between the level of increase of tTG in the subgroup with abnormal gastric histologic findings (his+) and the subgroup with normal findings (his-). The two groups were also similar for the proportion of patients with moderate to severe duodenal villous atrophy.

Conclusions: Gastric histologic findings at diagnosis in an adult population with celiac disease are variable and do not seem associated with severity of celiac disease.

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