

tTGA: Is it more essential in diagnosis of gluten sensitive enteropathy?

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CD is a highly prevalent disease (1:100 to 1:300) which fulfils most of the criteria favoring mass screening. Despite this, screening for gluten sensitive enteropathy (GSE) is still controversial due to its dubious benefits and the acceptance of a gluten-free diet (GFD).

A research article to be published on March 21, 2009 in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology* address this question. The study shows that GSE patients in the [general population](#) may not be identified by clinical features, since a similar percentage of related CD symptoms was found in individuals with positive and negative markers. This fact explains why CD remains underdiagnosed in a high proportion of affected subjects and is an additional argument for mass-screening using other approaches. It was also demonstrated that Marsh I subjects detected by t-TGA evaluation in a non-at-risk group for CD, were as symptomatic as Marsh III patients and also responded to [GFD](#), reinforcing the final diagnosis of GSE in mild enteropathy.

GSE in the general population is frequent and is clinically relevant, irrespective of the severity of the histological lesions. [Mass screening](#) programs are useful to identify these patients in order to initiate either a GFD or close follow-up monitoring. t-TG antibody is more sensitive than EmA for the diagnosis of the whole spectrum of GSE in the general population.

The authors of the paper work in a tertiary hospital and individuals were recruited from an Occupational Health Department.

More information: Mariné M, Fernández-Bañares F, Alsina M, Farré C, Cortijo M, Santaolalla R, Salas A, Tomàs M, Abugattas E, Loras C, Ordás I, Viver JM, Esteve M. Impact of mass screening for gluten-sensitive enteropathy in working population. *World J Gastroenterol* 2009; 15(11): 1331-1338 www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/15/1331.asp

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