

Gastritis linked to metformin-related GI side effects in T2DM

June 5 2015



(HealthDay)—For patients with type 2 diabetes, asymptomatic gastritis is associated with metformin-related gastrointestinal side effects, according to a study published online May 29 in the *Journal of Clinical Pharmacy and Therapeutics*.

Yuxin Huang, M.D., from the Shanghai Huadong Hospital affiliated to Fudan University, and colleagues examined whether asymptomatic chronic gastritis could influence metformin tolerance in patients with type 2 diabetes. Data were included for 144 metformin-naive patients; all subjects started metformin at 500 mg/day and increased progressively to 1,500 mg/day over four weeks. Each week a score of [gastrointestinal side effects](#) was assessed, and metformin dose was adjusted as

appropriate.

The researchers categorized 64 patients as non-gastritis subjects and 80 as chronic gastritis subjects based on endoscopy. No statistical difference was seen between the groups for [gastrointestinal symptoms](#) at baseline. With metformin, the mean scores for abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, and bloating were 1.02 versus 2.18 (P = 0.001), 0.20 versus 0.50 (P = 0.022), 0 versus 0.06 (P = 0.024), and 1.08 versus 1.71 (P = 0.028), respectively, for non-gastritis versus gastritis subjects, over four weeks. The mean final metformin doses were 706.24 and 1,101.56 mg for gastritis and non-gastritis subjects, respectively (P = 0.001).

"Our data show for the first time that asymptomatic [chronic gastritis](#) predisposes to metformin-related gastrointestinal side effects," the authors write. "However, the molecular mechanisms are still unclear and merit further investigation."

More information: [Abstract](#)
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Citation: Gastritis linked to metformin-related GI side effects in T2DM (2015, June 5) retrieved 18 April 2024 from
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