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IN BRIEF

HELICOBACTER PYLORI

New endoscopic findings could confirm success of *Helicobacter pylori* eradication

Data from a multicentre prospective trial have revealed differences in the endoscopic mucosa of patients 2–4 months after *Helicobacter pylori* eradication therapy. Endoscopic analysis of 126 patients found that those in the successful eradication group (102 of 126) had substantial improvement in spotty redness of the fundic gland when compared with the failed eradication group (24 of 126); this phenotype could be useful for the rapid clinical diagnosis of *H. pylori* eradication.

Original article Kato, M. *et al.* Changes in endoscopic findings of gastritis after cure of *H. pylori* infection: multicenter prospective trial. *Dig. Endosc.* doi:10.1111/j.1443-1661.2012.01385.x

HEPATITIS

Nucleoside analogues could reduce HBV-related hepatocellular carcinoma recurrence after liver resection

A Taiwanese nationwide cohort study of 4,569 patients with HBV-related hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) who received curative liver resection found a substantially reduced risk of HCC recurrence after 6 years in patients given nucleoside analogues (untreated, $n=4,052$ versus treated, $n=518$). Treatment with NSAIDs, statin and aspirin also independently reduced HCC recurrence.

Original article Wu, C.-Y. *et al.* Association between nucleoside analogues and risk of hepatitis B virus-related hepatocellular carcinoma recurrence following liver resection. *JAMA* doi:10.1001/2012.jama.11975

COLORECTAL CANCER

Resistant starch supplement has no detectable benefit against colorectal cancer

A randomized trial investigating the potential of resistant starch in preventing colorectal cancer (CRC) has found no protective effect. No significant difference was found between patients given resistant starch ($n=463$) and those given placebo ($n=455$) in the time to first CRC (HR 1.40, $P=0.26$) or after study completion at 2 years (HR 1.09, $P=0.80$). Resistant-starch supplementation does not, therefore, seem to emulate the protective effect of diets rich in dietary fibre against CRC.

Original article Mathers, J. C. *et al.* Long-term effect of resistant starch on cancer risk in carriers of hereditary colorectal cancer: an analysis from the CAPP2 randomised controlled trial. *Lancet Oncol.* doi:10.1016/S1470-2045(12)70475-8

PANCREATITIS

Genetic advances in alcohol-associated pancreatitis

Whitcomb *et al.* have provided new insights into the link between *PRSS1* and *CLDN2* variants and pancreatitis. The *PRSS1* variant alters expression of the primary trypsinogen gene whereas the X-linked *CLDN2* risk allele leads to atypical localization of claudin-2 in pancreatic acinar cells. The *CLDN2* genotype results in highest risk of disease, which could help to explain the high frequency of alcohol-related pancreatitis in men, who have a hemizygote frequency of 0.26 compared with the female homozygote frequency of 0.07.

Original article Whitcomb, D. C. *et al.* Common genetic variants in the *CLDN2* and *PRSS1-PRSS2* loci alter risk for alcohol-related and sporadic pancreatitis. *Nat. Genet.* doi:10.1038/ng.2466