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IN BRIEF

PEDIATRICS

Esophageal coin impaction in children

A retrospective chart review identified 113 children with esophageal coin impaction and analyzed their epidemiology and management. 55% of the children were male, and their mean age was 2.9 years. 65% had swallowed a penny, 80% had impaction of the proximal esophagus and 91% required a procedure to remove the coin. No relationship was found between the type of coin swallowed and the location of the impaction.

Original article McNeill, M. B. *et al.* Epidemiology and management of oesophageal coin impaction in children. *Dig. Liver Dis.* doi:10.1016/j.dld.2012.01.001

INTESTINAL TRACT

Preventing lethal dissemination of commensal bacteria

MyD88 is a Toll-like receptor adaptor protein that regulates intestinal homeostasis in mammals. Donna Kirkland and colleagues used cell-type-specific *Myd88*-deficient mice to demonstrate that B-cell-intrinsic MyD88 signaling is key to resistance to colonic damage induced by dextran sulfate sodium. MyD88 is involved in the production of IgM and complement-mediated control of intestinal bacteria. Therefore, mammals that lack functioning MyD88 signaling in B cells quickly die, as commensal bacteria become highly pathogenic in this setting.

Original article Kirkland, D. *et al.* B cell-intrinsic MyD88 signaling prevents the lethal dissemination of commensal bacteria during colonic damage. *Immunity* **36**, 228–238 (2012)

HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA

Risk of hepatocellular carcinoma reduced by consumption of fish rich in *n*-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids

A cohort study of 90,296 Japanese people has found an inverse association between consumption of fish that are rich in *n*-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids or individual *n*-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids (such as docosahexaenoic acid) and the incidence of hepatocellular carcinoma. People who consumed high amounts of *n*-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids were the least likely to develop hepatocellular carcinoma. In a subanalysis, this trend was also observed in patients who had HBV or HCV.

Original article Sawada, N. *et al.* Consumption of n-3 fatty acids and fish reduces risk of hepatocellular carcinoma. *Gastroenterology* doi:10.1053/j.gastro.2012.02.018

NONALCOHOLIC FATTY LIVER DISEASE

The features of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease are affected by puberty stage

Suzuki and colleagues divided 186 children with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) into three groups on the basis of their Tanner stage of puberty. Patients who were at or beyond puberty had less severe clinical and histopathologic features of NAFLD, such as steatohepatitis, than patients who had not entered puberty. However, postpubescent patients had a higher prevalence of Mallory–Denk bodies than the other two groups.

Original article Suzuki, A. *et al.* Association between puberty and features of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. *Clin. Gastroenterol. Hepatol.* doi:10.1016/j.cgh.2012.01.020