

Nature Reviews Gastroenterology & Hepatology 9, 245 (2012); published online 17 April 2012;
 doi:10.1038/nrgastro.2012.70;
 doi:10.1038/nrgastro.2012.71;
 doi:10.1038/nrgastro.2012.72;
 doi:10.1038/nrgastro.2012.78

IN BRIEF

ENDOSCOPY

Screening for esophageal disease with transnasal esophagoscopy in a primary care setting

In this multicenter, prospective, cross-sectional study, 422 patients (mean age 55.8 ± 9 years) from a general medical clinic population underwent unsedated office-based transnasal esophagoscopy. The procedure was feasible, safe and well-tolerated, and the management of 38% of patients was changed in response to esophageal findings of erosive esophagitis or Barrett esophagus.

Original article Peery, A. F. *et al.* Feasibility, safety, acceptability, and yield of office-based, screening transnasal esophagoscopy (with video). *Gastrointest. Endosc.* doi:10.1016/j.gie.2012.01.021

ESOPHAGUS

Biodegradable stents deliver good dysphagia relief in patients with esophageal strictures

Griffiths *et al.* attempted to place 25 biodegradable stents in 23 patients identified from a prospective interventional radiological database. The technical success rate was 96% and the clinical success rate was 76%. The authors suggest using such stents might help avoid the need for feeding tubes in patients waiting for esophagectomy or undergoing radical chemotherapy. They do, however, note that there is a high reintervention rate once the stent has dissolved.

Original article Griffiths, E. A. *et al.* The use of biodegradable (SX-ELLA) oesophageal stents to treat dysphagia due to benign and malignant oesophageal disease. *Surg. Endosc.* doi:10.1007/s00464-012-2192-9

MOTILITY

Role for ghrelin in preventing levodopa-induced inhibition of gastric emptying in patients with Parkinson disease?

Patients with Parkinson disease are frequently treated with levodopa (L-dopa), but L-dopa delays gastric emptying, which lessens its absorption. In fasted rats, Wang *et al.* have shown that intravenous ghrelin can counteract the inhibition of gastric emptying by L-dopa and increase plasma levels of L-dopa and dopamine. In addition, ghrelin did not modify the induction of Fos in the brain by L-dopa.

Original article Wang, L. *et al.* Ghrelin prevents levodopa-induced inhibition of gastric emptying and increases circulating levodopa in fasted rats. *Neurogastroenterol. Motil.* doi:10.1111/j.1365-2982.2012.01904.x

DYSPEPSIA

No association between dyspepsia and increased mortality in the community

Multivariate analysis of the data from a longitudinal 10-year follow-up study by Ford *et al.* shows that the likelihood of death in individuals with dyspepsia is not significantly different from the likelihood of death in individuals who do not have dyspepsia. The authors obtained the data for their study from individuals taking part in a community-based *Helicobacter pylori* screening program. Of the 8,323 individuals for whom symptom data were available at the follow up (out of the 8,407 individuals initially enrolled), 3,169 had dyspepsia. There were 137 deaths during the follow-up period.

Original article Ford, A. C. *et al.* Effect of dyspepsia on survival: a longitudinal 10-year follow-up study. *Am. J. Gastroenterol.* doi:10.1038/ajg.2012.69