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IN BRIEF

NASH

Weight loss positively affects features of NASH

A prospective study investigated the effects of weight loss induced by lifestyle change on histological features of NASH. Liver biopsy samples were taken from participants with NASH at the start and the end of the study, 52 weeks later. All patients who had lost $\geq 5\%$ of their initial weight showed substantial improvements at week 52. Extent of weight loss positively correlated with histological improvements. The largest reduction in NAFLD activity score, NASH resolution (90%) and fibrosis regression (45%) occurred in patients who lost $\geq 10\%$ of their initial weight.

Original article Vilar-Gomez, E. *et al.* Weight loss via lifestyle modification significantly reduces features of nonalcoholic steatohepatitis. *Gastroenterology* doi:10.1053/j.gastro.2015.04.005

LIVER

Liver dialysis device demonstrates survival benefit in a pig model of paracetamol-induced acute liver failure

A novel extracorporeal liver assist device, called the University College London–Liver Dialysis Device, which removes dysfunctional albumin has been studied in a pig model of paracetamol-induced acute liver failure. If initiated 2 h after irreversible liver failure, device treatment resulted in a 67% reduced risk of death compared with a control device. A 54% reduction in overall severity of endotoxaemia and delays in the development of vasoplegia were also observed with the novel device.

Original article Lee, K. C. L. *et al.* Extracorporeal liver-assist device to exchange albumin and remove endotoxin in acute liver failure: results of a pivotal pre-clinical study. *J. Hepatol.* doi:10.1016/j.jhep.2015.04.020

FUNCTIONAL DYSPESIA

Effects of antidepressants on functional dyspepsia

The effects of antidepressant therapy on functional dyspepsia were assessed in a double-blind, randomized controlled trial. Adequate response relief was reported by 40%, 53% and 38% of those given placebo, amitriptyline and escitalopram, respectively. Patients with ulcer-like functional dyspepsia were threefold more likely to report response relief with amitriptyline than placebo. Neither drug affected gastric emptying or meal-induced satiety, but both improved overall quality of life.

Original article Talley, N. J. *et al.* Effect of amitriptyline and escitalopram on functional dyspepsia: a multi-center, randomized, controlled study. *Gastroenterology* doi:10.1053/j.gastro.2015.04.020

IBS

Risk of IBS increases after bacterial infection

In 2011, a Shiga-like toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) strain caused an outbreak of haemorrhagic enterocolitis in Germany. The prevalence of IBS increased from 9.8% before infection, to 23.6% at 6 months and 25.3% at 12 months after infection ($n=389$). In those without previous IBS symptoms, incidence of new IBS was 16.9%. Mesalazine treatment during infection was identified as a protective factor against IBS development.

Original article Andresen, V. *et al.* Post-infectious irritable bowel syndrome (PI-IBS) after infection with Shiga-like toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) O104:H4: a cohort study with prospective follow-up. *United European Gastroenterol. J.* doi:10.1177/2050640615581113