

Functional gastrointestinal disorders and domestic abuse

An association has been demonstrated between patients with functional digestive disorders and previous physical, sexual or psychologic abuse. Perona *et al.* explored the prevalence of functional gastrointestinal disorders (FGIDs) among women reporting ongoing abuse to the police.

The study was conducted in Spain and consisted of a three-part questionnaire initially completed during an interview between a social worker and the woman reporting abuse, which evaluated a number of factors: the presence of frequent FGIDs (i.e., functional dyspepsia and irritable bowel syndrome); anxiety and/or depression levels; demographic and socio-economic data; and maltreatment-related variables. Participants were asked to complete an identical questionnaire within 7 days at home.

In total, 70 women participated who were suffering from current abuse severe enough to be reported to the police, of which the most frequent form was physical accompanied by psychologic abuse (47%). According to Rome II diagnostic criteria, 71% of the women suffered from an FGID. The onset of FGIDs was either simultaneous with the start of maltreatment or occurred shortly after, and 80% of women believed their digestive problems were related to the abuse they suffered.

The study revealed that most women reporting domestic violence to the police have symptoms indicative of common FGIDs, and suggested that a high level of psychologic distress is a mediator in the development of these symptoms. The authors highlight the importance of these results in the healthcare of maltreated women, as well as the implications for the treatment of women with FGIDs.

Original article Perona M *et al.* (2005) Prevalence of functional gastrointestinal disorders in women who report domestic violence to the police. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol* 3: 436–441

Capsule endoscopy for small-bowel polyp detection

Results from a prospective trial comparing the effectiveness of wireless capsule endoscopy (CE) with that of barium contrast series suggest that CE is a highly accurate technique for small-bowel polyp detection in patients with adenomatous

polyposis syndromes, many of which are associated with an increased risk of cancer.

On the basis of pathologic characteristics and genetic evaluation, 24 consecutive patients with either familial adenomatous polyposis ($n=20$) or Peutz–Jeghers syndrome ($n=4$) were enrolled. Small-bowel follow-through (SBFT) barium contrast series were initially performed, followed by CE a week later, in a blinded design. Polyp frequency and distribution were analyzed.

SBFT identified small-intestinal lesions in three patients (12%) with Peutz–Jeghers syndrome. CE also detected small-bowel polyps in these three patients, and in a further four patients with familial adenomatous polyposis (seven patients in total, 29%). CE also proved superior in whole-series analysis, detecting jejunal and ileal polyps missed by SBFT in 15% of asymptomatic familial adenomatous polyposis patients. In patients with Peutz–Jeghers syndrome, CE detected a greater number of lesions overall, and the authors suggest CE would be an effective routine surveillance modality in this patient population at high risk of gastrointestinal malignancies, without the cumulative radiation dose imposed by SBFT.

The main advantages of CE, in comparison with other approaches, are that it is painless, minimally invasive, allows the small bowel to be examined in its entirety and can be carried out without sedation in the outpatient setting. The authors speculate that innovations in CE such as active control of the capsule and the possibility of obtaining biopsy specimens might contribute further to its utility in gastrointestinal polyposis syndromes.

Original article Mata A *et al.* (2005) A prospective trial comparing wireless capsule endoscopy and barium contrast series for small-bowel surveillance in hereditary GI polyposis syndromes. *Gastrointest Endosc* 61: 721–725

Benefits of repeat capsule endoscopy for obscure gastrointestinal bleeding

Repeat capsule endoscopy (CE) was the subject of a recent retrospective study carried out in patients with obscure gastrointestinal bleeding (OGIB). The study sought to ascertain the reasons why repeat CE investigations are carried out, the diagnostic yield of the repeat test, and