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IN BRIEF

IBS

AST-120 for the treatment of nonconstipating IBS

A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial was performed to evaluate the efficacy and safety of AST-120 in nonconstipating IBS. 115 patients were randomly allocated to receive AST-120 (2 g three times daily) or placebo. AST-120 was found to be safe and well-tolerated. Although AST-120 reduced pain and bloating, these beneficial effects might be limited in duration. Further studies of this novel agent are warranted.

Original article Tack, J. F. *et al.* Randomised clinical trial: the safety and efficacy of AST-120 in non-constipating irritable bowel syndrome—a double-blind, placebo-controlled study. *Aliment. Pharmacol. Ther.* doi:10.1111/j.1365-2036.2011.04818.x

INTESTINAL TRANSPLANTATION

Long-term nutritional outcomes after pediatric intestinal transplantation

Venick and colleagues believe that they have conducted one of the largest and most comprehensive long-term studies on nutritional outcomes in pediatric intestinal transplantation. 33 children were included in their single-center, retrospective study. Zinc, iron and copper were the most common micronutrient deficiencies post-transplantation. Predictors of weight gain and growth included short hospitalization, absence of rejection, low steroid dosage and infrequent hospitalization.

Original article Venick, R. S. *et al.* Long-term nutrition and predictors of growth and weight gain following pediatric intestinal transplantation. *Transplantation* doi:10.1097/TP0b013e31822f2b1b

CHRONIC PANCREATITIS

Quality of life after total pancreatectomy and islet autotransplant in children with chronic pancreatitis

Total pancreatectomy and islet autotransplant is known to aid pain relief in patients with chronic pancreatitis. Bellin *et al.* investigated the effect of this treatment approach on quality of life in pediatric patients. 19 patients were included in the study; they completed a health questionnaire before and after surgery. Quality of life was found to improve after surgery in pediatric patients.

Original article Bellin, M. D. *et al.* Quality of life improves for pediatric patients after total pancreatectomy and islet autotransplant for chronic pancreatitis. *Clin. Gastroenterol. Hepatol.* 9, 793–799 (2011)

IBD

Effectiveness of once-daily dosing with mesalamine for maintenance therapy in ulcerative colitis

5-Aminosalicylates are used as maintenance therapy in patients with ulcerative colitis. However, compliance rates are low. Ford *et al.* conducted a meta-analysis to investigate whether once-daily dosing with mesalamine, which might improve compliance, is as effective as conventional dosing schedules. They found that once-daily dosing is as effective as conventional dosing for preventing relapse, although no evidence indicated that compliance with once-daily dosing was better.

Original article Ford, A. C. *et al.* Once-daily dosing vs. conventional dosing schedule of mesalamine and relapse of quiescent ulcerative colitis: systematic review and meta-analysis. *Am. J. Gastroenterol.* doi:10.1038/ajg.2011.296