

Nature Reviews Gastroenterology & Hepatology 9, 65 (2012);
 published online 17 January 2012;
[doi:10.1038/nrgastro.2011.267](https://doi.org/10.1038/nrgastro.2011.267);
[doi:10.1038/nrgastro.2011.269](https://doi.org/10.1038/nrgastro.2011.269);
[doi:10.1038/nrgastro.2011.270](https://doi.org/10.1038/nrgastro.2011.270);
[doi:10.1038/nrgastro.2011.268](https://doi.org/10.1038/nrgastro.2011.268)

IN BRIEF

HEPATITIS

HBV infection increases risk of pancreatic cancer

A large, case–control study conducted in China has shown that HBV infection increases the risk of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC). Qiwen *et al.* assessed hepatitis B status in 943 patients with confirmed PDAC and 1,128 matched controls. Individuals with chronic HBV infection (positive for hepatitis B surface antigen) had an increased risk of PDAC (odds ratio of 1.6). Furthermore, HBV status and history of diabetes mellitus were found to interact when assessing PDAC risk.

Original article Qiwen, B. *et al.* Hepatitis B virus status and risk of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma: a case–control study from China. *Pancreas* doi:10.1097/MPA.0b013e31822ca176

UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT

Is lymphocytic esophagitis an emerging condition?

The true prevalence of lymphocytic esophagitis has not been thoroughly examined. Of 129,252 individuals assessed, 119 were diagnosed with lymphocytic esophagitis (~0.1%, predominantly older women). The clinical and endoscopic characteristics of lymphocytic esophagitis overlapped considerably with those of eosinophilic esophagitis, but the clinical importance of this emerging condition is yet to be determined.

Original article Haque, S. & Genta, R. M. Lymphocytic esophagitis: clinicopathological aspects of an emerging condition. *Gut* doi:10.1136/gutjnl-2011-301014

ULCERATIVE COLITIS

Intestinal microbiota manipulation is effective in children with ulcerative colitis

Rectal infusion of *Lactobacillus reuteri* ATCC 55730 could be a new therapy for children with active distal ulcerative colitis, according to work by Oliva and colleagues. 40 children with mild-to-moderate ulcerative colitis were randomly assigned to receive either a rectal enema containing *L. reuteri* ATCC 55730 or placebo for 8 weeks, in addition to oral mesalazine. In the 31 children who completed the study, mucosal inflammation and levels of proinflammatory cytokines (IL-1 β and TNF) were decreased in those who received the lactobacillus rectal enema.

Original article Oliva, S. *et al.* Randomised clinical trial: the effectiveness of *Lactobacillus reuteri* ATCC 55730 rectal enema in children with active distal ulcerative colitis. *Aliment. Pharmacol. Ther.* doi:10.1111/j.1365-2036.2011.04939.x

PANCREATIC CANCER

Pancreatic cancer risk alleles identified in Chinese populations

No effective markers are available for screening for pancreatic cancer risk. In this genome-wide association study, Wu *et al.* report five new susceptibility loci—on chromosomes 21q21.3, 5p13.1, 22q13.32 and 10q26.11—for pancreatic cancer in Chinese individuals (981 patients initially, with replication of the findings in a further 2,603 patients from hospitals across China).

Original article Wu, C. *et al.* Genome-wide association study identifies five loci associated with susceptibility to pancreatic cancer. *Nat. Genet.* doi:10.1038/ng.1020