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IN BRIEF

ACHALASIA

How does POEM compare to the surgical standard for treatment of achalasia?

Hungness *et al.* compared outcomes for 18 patients undergoing POEM and 55 patients undergoing laparoscopic Heller myotomy for achalasia treatment. Complication rates, duration of hospital stay and myotomy lengths were comparable between the two groups. Operative times and blood loss were reduced, and pain scores after 2 h were increased, in patients undergoing POEM. The authors conclude that perioperative outcomes are similar for the two techniques, but that long-term results are needed.

Original article Hungness, E. S. *et al.* Comparison of perioperative outcomes between peroral esophageal myotomy (POEM) and laparoscopic Heller myotomy. *J. Gastrointest. Surg.* doi:10.1007.s11605-012-2030-3

IBD

Effect of preoperative infliximab on postoperative complications in patients with ulcerative colitis

Previous clinical trials have failed to conclude whether preoperative infliximab increases early postoperative complications in patients with ulcerative colitis undergoing abdominal surgery. A meta-analysis including 13 studies and 2,933 patients has now confirmed that preoperative infliximab therapy has no significant effect on the rate of infectious or noninfectious complications in these patients ($P=0.81$ and $P=0.61$, respectively).

Original article Yang, Z. *et al.* Meta-analysis: effect of preoperative infliximab use on early postoperative complications in patients with ulcerative colitis undergoing abdominal surgery. *Aliment. Pharmacol. Ther.* doi:10.1111/apt.12060

NASH

A useful mouse model of NASH

Sugihara *et al.* compared the fatty liver Shionogi (FLS) mouse (which develops fatty liver without obesity) with the FLS-*ob/ob* mouse (which demonstrates several metabolic disorders and marked fat deposition in the liver) to see which model would be more useful for NASH research. The mice were fed a standard diet for 12, 24, 36 and 48 weeks and then sacrificed. FLS-*ob/ob* mice developed more severe steatosis and demonstrated increased oxidative stress compared with FLS mice, indicating that the FLS-*ob/ob* mouse is a more useful model for NASH.

Original article Sugihara, T. *et al.* The fatty liver Shionogi-*ob/ob* mouse: a new candidate for a non-alcoholic steatohepatitis model. *Hepatol. Res.* doi:10.1111/j.1872-034X.2012.01101.x

COLORECTAL CANCER

Magnesium intake and risk of colorectal cancer

A meta-analysis was conducted to assess the potential association between magnesium intake and risk of colorectal cancer (CRC). Eight prospective studies, including 338,979 participants and 8,000 patients with CRC, were included in the analysis. Results show that increased magnesium intake seems to be associated with a modest reduction in the risk of CRC.

Original article Chen, G.-C. *et al.* Magnesium intake and risk of colorectal cancer: a meta-analysis of prospective studies. *Eur. J. Clin. Nutr.* doi:10.1038/ejcn.2012.135