

Nature Reviews Gastroenterology & Hepatology **10**, 382 (2013); published online 18 June 2013;
 doi:10.1038/nrgastro.2013.112;
 doi:10.1038/nrgastro.2013.111;
 doi:10.1038/nrgastro.2013.110

IN BRIEF

DIARRHOEA

Zinc supplementation reduces diarrhoea-associated morbidity in young infants

Short-course zinc prophylaxis is known to reduce the incidence and severity of diarrhoea, but its effects have only been studied in children >12 months old. Malik *et al.* conducted a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial to investigate the effects of a short course of prophylactic zinc supplementation in infants aged 6–11 months. 272 infants from an urban resettlement colony in Delhi, India, were enrolled in the study, and were randomly allocated to receive either 20 mg zinc or placebo every day for 2 weeks. Zinc supplementation was found to reduce the number of episodes of diarrhoea and the number of days that a child had diarrhoea. The authors conclude that these findings could be important in populations with a high prevalence of wasting and stunting.

Original article Malik, A. *et al.* Short-course prophylactic zinc supplementation for diarrhea morbidity in infants of 6 to 11 months. *Pediatrics* doi:10.1542/peds.2012-2980

ENDOSCOPY

Promising tool for targeted delivery of drugs to the gastrointestinal tract

A novel ingestible electronic drug delivery and monitoring device has been developed. The device comprises a drug reservoir, a pH and temperature sensor, a microprocessor and wireless transceiver, a stepper motor and batteries. The researchers who developed the device conducted two consecutive observational studies in 20 healthy volunteers. The first study found that ingestion and passage of the capsule was safe and well tolerated; temperature and pH data were received from the transceiver. The second study found that remotely actuated expulsion of ^{99m}technetium-pertechnetate from the capsule was successful in 9 of 10 individuals. This first study in humans shows that this device could be a useful tool for targeted delivery of drugs to the gastrointestinal tract.

Original article van der Schaar, P. J. *et al.* A novel ingestible electronic drug delivery and monitoring device. *Gastrointest. Endosc.* doi:10.1016/j.gie.2013.03.170

IBD

Trichuris suis ova—safety and tolerability as a new treatment option for patients with Crohn's disease?

The embryonated eggs of the porcine whipworm *Trichuris suis* ova (TSO) might have a role in the treatment of IBD. William Sandborn and colleagues investigated the safety and tolerability of a single dose of TSO in patients with Crohn's disease. The researchers conducted a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, dose-escalation study in 36 patients. The patients received either 500, 2,500 or 7,500 viable embryonated TSO and were assessed 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 14 days after dosing. Patients were assessed again at 1, 2 and 6 months. The main findings from the study are that a single dose of TSO including up to 7,500 ova was well tolerated and that no short-term or long-term treatment-related adverse effects were noted.

Original article Sandborn, W. J. *et al.* Randomised clinical trial: the safety and tolerability of *Trichuris suis* ova in patients with Crohn's disease. *Aliment. Pharmacol. Ther.* doi:10.1111/apt.12366