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IN BRIEF

BILIARY TRACT

Standard of care for advanced biliary cancer should stay as gemcitabine plus a platinum-based agent

Cetuximab does not enhance the activity of the standard of care for advanced biliary-tract cancer (gemcitabine plus a platinum-based agent), according to the results of a phase II trial published in *The Lancet Oncology*. In the chemotherapy plus cetuximab group, median progression-free survival was 6.1 months and median overall survival was 11.0 months; in the chemotherapy alone group they were 5.5 months and 12.4 months, respectively.

Original article Malka, D *et al.* Gemcitabine and oxaliplatin with or without cetuximab in advanced biliary-tract cancer (BINGO): a randomised, open-label, non-comparative phase 2 trial. *Lancet Oncol.* doi:10.1016/S1470-2045(14)70212-8

IBD

Use of a gluten-free diet by patients with IBD and its effect on clinical symptoms

A cross-sectional questionnaire-based study performed in patients with IBD has found that many had tried a gluten-free diet. Even though only a small number of the patients reported a diagnosis of coeliac disease (0.6%) or noncoeliac gluten sensitivity (4.9%), 65.6% of those who had tried a gluten-free diet experienced improvement of gastrointestinal symptoms and 38.3% reported a positive effect on the number or severity of IBD flares.

Original article Herfarth, H. *et al.* Prevalence of a gluten-free diet and improvement of clinical symptoms in patients with inflammatory bowel diseases. *Inflamm. Bowel Dis.* doi:10.1097/MIB.000000000000077

NEUROGASTROENTEROLOGY

Role for the parasympathetic nervous system in the development of oesophageal pain hypersensitivity

Botha *et al.* have shown that deep breathing induces a physiological increase in parasympathetic tone that prevents oesophageal hypersensitivity from developing during acid infusion. Administration of intravenous atropine blocks the effect of deep breathing, which the authors say demonstrates a role for the parasympathetic nervous system in the development of oesophageal pain hypersensitivity.

Original article Botha, C. *et al.* Preliminary report: modulation of parasympathetic nervous system tone influences oesophageal pain hypersensitivity. *Gut* doi:10.1136/gutjnl-2013-306698

IBD

Phase II study reveals potential of etrolizumab as induction therapy for ulcerative colitis

Targeting integrins $\alpha 4\beta 7$ and $\alpha E\beta 7$ with etrolizumab could have potential as a treatment for ulcerative colitis. In a phase II study in patients with moderately-to-severely active ulcerative colitis, 21% of patients in the etrolizumab 100 mg group and 10% of patients in the 300 mg etrolizumab group achieved clinical remission at week 10. Clinical remission was not achieved by any patient in the placebo group. Phase III studies have now been planned.

Original article Vermeire, S. *et al.* Etrolizumab as induction therapy for ulcerative colitis: a randomised, controlled, phase 2 trial. *Lancet* doi:10.1016/S1040-6736(14)60661-9