
COVERING THE COVER

Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease is associated with abnormal ventricular repolarization indices

Association between TpeI and Tpe/QT in ECG and ventricular arrhythmias are well known and described in literature. Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) is a common disease with a prevalence as high as 20% in the world. The disease can manifest in various symptoms which can be grouped into typical, atypical and extra-esophageal symptoms. Those with the highest specificity for GERD are acid regurgitation and heartburn. GERD is associated with autonomic system disorders. In this manuscript, authors investigated ECG changes about ventricular repolarization in GERD patients. They found TpeI and Tpe/QT ratio were higher in GERD patients comparison to the control group which may lead to increased risk for ventricular arrhythmias. See 1023.

Islamic fasting leads to an increased abundance of *Akkermansia muciniphila* and *Bacteroides fragilis* group: A preliminary study on intermittent fasting

Gut microbiota is interesting and very popular subject in last years. There are a lot of studies about interactions between nutrition, life style and many other things. However gut microbiota interaction with time-restricted feeding has not investigated widely. In this manuscript, authors investigated 9 subjects during Ramadan which consist 17 hours of fasting per day during a 29 day period. They founded Islamic fasting which represents intermittent fasting lead to an increase in *A. muciniphila* and *B. fragilis* groups which were considered as healthy gut microbiota members. We need further studies to see effect of time-restricted feeding on gut microbiota. See 1032.

Role of Non-invasive markers in prediction of esophageal varices and variceal bleeding in patients of alcoholic liver cirrhosis from central India

Cirrhosis, also known as liver cirrhosis or hepatic cirrhosis, is a condition in which the liver does not function properly due to long-term damage. Liver cirrhosis has many possible causes; sometimes more than one cause is present in the same person. Globally, 57% of cirrhosis is attributable to either hepatitis B (30%) or hepatitis C (27%). Alcohol consumption is another major cause, accounting for about 20% of the cases. Acute variceal bleeding the major cause of upper gastrointestinal (GI) bleeding in cirrhotic patients, accounting for 70% of cas-

es. Also it is one of the major causes of death in cirrhotic patients. Mortality during the first episode is estimated to 15–20%. Therefore it is important to determinate those patients. The gold standart of diagnosis for esophageal varices and variceal bleeding is endoscopic examination. However the lack of the endoscopy centers or transportation difficulty made this determination in those patients are limited. In this manuscript, authors investigated the using non-invasive calculating systems to predict varices and variceal bleeding in cirrhotic patients. They found CTP score, FIB-4, APRI, and PC/SD ratio were significant for variceal bleeding. FIB-4 and PC/SD may be useful for predicting esophageal varices and risk of variceal bleeding in alcoholic liver cirrhosis. Non-invasive markers in prediction of esophageal varices and variceal bleeding would define patients who needs endoscopic investigation and would decrease mortality. We need further studies in this matter. See 1038.

Use of SpyGlass for peroral cholangioscopy in the diagnosis and treatment of hepatobiliary diseases in over five years follow-up: A single centre experience

Initially introduced in 1975, using the mother baby system, cholangioscopy has been used in evaluating indeterminate biliary strictures and lesions as well as treating biliary stones. However those “two scope systems” are expensive, fragile and require two endoscopists to maneuver. The single-operator cholangioscopy (SOC) system (SpyGlass; Direct Visualization System) has been available since 2005 and may offer an easy use to the physicians.

In this issue of Turkish Gastroenterology Journal, authors investigated the using of SpyGlass in patients with biliary tract stricture or filling defects. They founded the procedure was considered successful in a total of 39 with 41 patients (95.1%) receiving diagnostic and 33 patients (80.5%) receiving therapeutic benefits. The sensitivity and specificity for SVDS guided biopsies and brush cytology were 80% and 87.5%; 26.6% and 75%, respectively. Complications related to the procedure occurred in a total of three patients (7.3%), two with cholangitis and one with perforation of gall bladder.

Widely used of this system has been shown effective and successfull, as we seen in this manuscript. See 1046.