
Reply

EDITOR,—In our publication an autoinfection has been discussed as a possibility but simultaneously considered as highly unlikely as the reinflection occurred as late as after 14 and 43 months, respectively.

The possibility of a common exogenous source cannot be ruled out but it seems rather unlikely and has also been discussed in our publication. The possibility of a contaminated water supply is extremely unlikely as water supplies in Vienna originate from Alpine sources and are renowned for their excellent quality.

The patients studied in our project were married couples without any other family members.

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Gastric emptying in patients with insulin dependent diabetes mellitus

EDITOR,—The paper by Nowak et al (Gut 1995; 37: 23–9) reports on the highly variable gastric emptying rates in patients with diabetes mellitus. The finding of accelerated (apart from the classic delayed) gastric emptying in humans with insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (IDDM) is in agreement with previous findings. The authors investigated the possible correlation between gastric emptying and chronic renal failure caused by diabetes. As the values obtained in this study have a very wide distribution, it can be concluded that the influence of chronic renal failure on gastric emptying cannot be estimated from its own results. However, chronic renal failure is associated with autonomic neuropathy, and autonomic neuropathy, who had autonomic diabetic neuropathy, evidenced by orthostatic hypotension, showed a significantly longer half time of gastric emptying than non-diabetic control subjects. Likewise, those patients who did not have evidence of diabetic neuropathy showed a significantly faster gastric emptying half time (accelerated gastric emptying) than non-diabetic controls. Finally, our study showed that the duration of diabetes was significantly correlated with the gastric emptying half time. It is suggested that short-term diabetes mellitus is associated with a slower rate of gastric emptying. Our findings lead to the speculation that short-term diabetes mellitus is associated with a slower rate of gastric emptying.

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Helicobacter pylori reinfection.

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