# Gut

Journal of the British Society of Gastroenterology which is a registered charity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Editor:</th>
<th>Michael J G Farthing</th>
<th>Special Sections Editor:</th>
<th>Ian Forgacs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associate Editors:</td>
<td>Michael J P Arthur, John Calam, Roger Chapman, Michael A Kamm, Thomas T MacDonald</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Editor:</td>
<td>Jackie Foulds</td>
<td>Editorial Assistants:</td>
<td>Michelle Dimler, Julia Neary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**EDITORIAL BOARD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(UK)</th>
<th>(France)</th>
<th>(Germany)</th>
<th>(UK)</th>
<th>(UK)</th>
<th>(UK)</th>
<th>(Italy)</th>
<th>(UK)</th>
<th>(The Netherlands)</th>
<th>(UK)</th>
<th>(The Netherlands)</th>
<th>(Austria)</th>
<th>(Belgium)</th>
<th>(UK)</th>
<th>(UK)</th>
<th>(UK)</th>
<th>(The Netherlands)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D Adams</td>
<td>J Galmiche</td>
<td>P Malfertheiner</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D Alderson</td>
<td>J Heathcote</td>
<td>J Neoptolemos</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Arvanitakis</td>
<td>S Hubscher</td>
<td>D Rachmilewitz</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G Bianchi Porro</td>
<td>P Jansen</td>
<td>D S Rampton</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Booth</td>
<td>J Jass</td>
<td>J Rask-Madsen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M Buchler</td>
<td>G Krejs</td>
<td>P Rutgeerts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E Butruk</td>
<td>S K Lam</td>
<td>G Sandle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J Dent</td>
<td>N Lemoine</td>
<td>D Thompson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G Dockray</td>
<td>O Lundgren</td>
<td>G Tytgat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

R G Newcombe (Statistical adviser) Editor British Medical Journal
EAGE POSTGRADUATE COURSE IN
CLINICAL ULTRASONOGRAPHY
FOR
GASTROENTEROLOGISTS
JUNE 6–9, 1996

The topics covered by the EAGE (European Association for Gastroenterology and Endoscopy) course in Clinical Ultrasonography for Gastroenterologists will include:

- clinical ultrasonography as a basis for decision-making in GI disease
- multiple section ultrasound anatomy of abdominal organs
- examination techniques – basic and advanced
- normal and pathological ultrasound findings in the abdomen
- intensive hands-on training in small groups
- replacement of abdominal CT-scanning by ultrasonography

LIMITED NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
THE COURSE WILL BE HELD IN ENGLISH
Course fee 1000DM
(approx. 450 pounds sterling)
includes hotel accommodation and meals.
Next course from Oct. 3rd-6th, 1996

Further information from:
Prof. L. Greiner,
Med. Klinik A
University Witten/Herdecke
Heusnerstr. 40
D-42283 WUPPERTAL
Nordrhein-Westphalia
Germany
Fax (49) 202 896 2740

Gastroenterological Problems from the Tropics
EDITED BY G C COOK

Over 3 million people travel to the tropics every year. Many return home with gastrointestinal and liver conditions which are difficult to diagnose, yet need rapid treatment. This unique guide covers the diagnosis and management of:

- travellers' and persisting diarrhoea
- cholera
- parasitic infections
- the salmonelloses and shigelloses
- amoebiasis
- schistosomiasis
- liver diseases
- paediatric problems
- surgical emergencies

Edited by one of the most experienced physicians in tropical medicine, with contributions from world renowned specialists, it is a must for all gastroenterologists and general physicians.

ISBN 0 7279 0902 9 152 pages April 1995
UK £14.95; Overseas £17.00 (BMA Members £13.95; 16.00)

Available from: BMJ Publishing Group,
PO Box 295, London WC1H 9TE.
Telephone 0171 383 6185/6245;
Fax 0171 383 6662

Essential knowledge for all surgeons

Invaluable for all trainee and qualified surgeons

Order your copy today

ISBN 0 7279 0885 5 100 pages January 1996
UK £29.95; Overseas £32.00 (BMA members £27.95; Overseas £30.00)

Order Form
Available from: BMJ Publishing Group, P.O. Box 295, London WC1H 9TE, medical booksellers or the BMJ Bookshop in BMA House
Tel: 0171 383 6185/6245 Fax: 0171 383 6662

Please send me ________ copy/ies of
Introduction to Minimal Access Surgery
Cheque enclosed (made payable to British Medical Journal) £

Name ____________________________ Debit my ____________________________
Address __________________________ Card No ____________________________
__________________________ Postcode ____________________________
__________________________ Expiry Date ____________________________
__________________________ Signature ____________________________

Gastroenterological Problems from the Tropics

* A unique basic guide to this important new area of surgery
* Clear guidance on the techniques, the pros and cons, and safety aspects
* Covers all of the key surgical areas including: colorectal surgery, gynaecology, urology, gastroenterology, cholecystectomy, and groin hernia repair
* Superbly illustrated with vivid colour photographs from the operating theatre, line diagrams, and radiographs
* Useful information on equipment, training, and future developments
* Edited by Timothy Brown, highly experienced in the field, and Miles Irving, President of the Association of Surgeons

Order your copy today

ISBN 0 7279 0885 5 100 pages January 1996
UK £29.95; Overseas £32.00 (BMA members £27.95; Overseas £30.00)

Order Form
Available from: BMJ Publishing Group, P.O. Box 295, London WC1H 9TE, medical booksellers or the BMJ Bookshop in BMA House
Tel: 0171 383 6185/6245 Fax: 0171 383 6662

Please send me ________ copy/ies of
Introduction to Minimal Access Surgery
Cheque enclosed (made payable to British Medical Journal) £

Name ____________________________ Debit my ____________________________
Address __________________________ Card No ____________________________
__________________________ Postcode ____________________________
__________________________ Expiry Date ____________________________
__________________________ Signature ____________________________

---

**5TH UEGW PARIS '96**

Paris, CNIT convention centre: 2 to 6 November 1996

- Deadline for submission of abstracts: 1 June 1996
- Deadline for advance registration: 1 September 1996

If you have not received the CALL FOR ABSTRACTS & PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME (including all necessary abstract forms and registration material), please contact:

SOCFI/UEGW 96: 14, rue Mandar, 75002 Paris, France
Fax: (33).1.40.26.04.44
The first chapter, which is devoted to 'Hepatitis', contains some very low key statements such as 'the surgeon plays a critical role when medical therapy is no longer possible...' and 'The clinical immunologist is responsible for performing the many immunologic assays required to identify and characterize different forms of chronic hepatitis.' This chapter might be satisfactory for undergraduate teaching but is not detailed enough for trainee specialists. In this and in some of the subsequent chapters it was not always clear which readership the editors had in mind when they started the project.

Chapter two, on hepatic failure, is also rather disappointing. A discussion of pathogenesis is confined to just one column and the text is very sparse. Phrases like 'Transaminases are usually elevated, often dramatically', and 'Thus the transplant team needs to be involved in a timely way for those patients deemed to be candidates'. These comments again suggested that the editors had not defined the level of expertise they expected from their readership and this was again evident in chapter 4 on portal hypertension. In this chapter there is considerable emphasis on the technique and indications for transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt (TIPS) procedures but little on the details of more conventional surgical procedures. There is no analysis of the problems of extrahepatic portal hypertension in which much of the TIPS or transplation are options, and no discussion on the value of devascularisation procedures in the bleeding patient.

The concept of inviting such a large number of consultants was very ambitious but this may have been the cause of some of the inconsistencies. Drug dosages, for example, are detailed in some chapters (hepatic failure), but are completely absent in others (portal hypertension). Surgical techniques are described extensively in some sections (hydatid disease) but are absent in others. Most of the important inconsistencies are found in the first few chapters and if the book was intended for fellow hepatologists then in my opinion the data (and the references) should have been much more complete.

However, the later chapters, especially those concerning pancreatic disease, are very good overviews on management and I particularly liked those on pancreatitis. Therefore despite my reservations I think that the book should be recommended as a useful addition to the library of the trainee gastroenterologist or surgeon.

E R HOWARD


This is an interesting book that I enjoyed reading, because unlike 99% of medical textbooks, the author challenges conventional views and makes the reader think. I am certainly persuaded that the function of the esophageal muscle has been largely ignored, compared with other components thought to play a part in esophageal disease and the radiological evidence of longitudinal muscle function, seems quite compelling.

The book is written in dogmatic style, rather like a lawyer making a case for the prosecution. He chooses to ignore the 'defence' evidence and this is both the strength and weakness of the text. The basis of Dr Stiennon's hypothesis is that the longitudinal muscle of the oesophagus is somehow responsible for just about every benign oesophageal disorder. I suspect that he is right about longitudinal muscle function and the subsequent effects of oesophageal shortening. Everything seems fine until the 'lawyer' has to sum up for the jury at the end of each chapter. It is here that the author strays from the evidence and in particular that which does not fit with his theory. The chapter on Barrett's oesophagus is particularly short sighted and uses the most tenuous literature review to support the author's notion that this is yet another condition explained entirely by longitudinal muscle action and that the Barrett's segment is no more than a cylinder of stomach, pulled up by the longitudinal muscle of the oesophagus.

While I agree with the author's scepticism regarding current theories of the pathogenesis of achalasia, I find them no more bizarre than his interpretation that diffuse oesophageal spasm and achalasia are manifestations of undiagnosed obstruction due to incarceration of the gastric fundus. I would be interested to know how patients with diffuse oesophageal spasm get their symptoms at night, when motor function is largely quiescent. It is when the author strays into the field of surgery, that he really gets my back up. Most of his comments about anti-reflux surgery and surgery for achalasia, are so misplaced that one wonders if he has ever read any of the surgical literature on the oesophagus in the past 40 years! There is no shortage of literature for instance, testifying to the poor performance of the Allison repair in the long term and by Dr Stiennon's theories, all Nissen fundoplications should result in gas-bloat syndrome. No explanation is offered why over 95% of these operations do not produce the syndrome.

This book should be read by 'oesophagologists', if only to challenge their existing views. I cannot recommend it, however, to a wider audience as a balanced account of the role of the longitudinal muscle in the pathogenesis of oesophageal disease. The author claims that many of our beliefs about oesophageal function and disease, stem from preconceived notions. He uses the analogy of 'The Flat Earth Society' to condemn these views as two dimensional in a three dimensional organ. I would remind readers, however, of T H Huxley's aphorism, that 'The great tragedy of science is the slaying of a beautiful hypothesis by an ugly fact'. At the moment, there are too many ugly facts to support Dr Stiennon's hypothesis.

D A ALDERSON

NOTES

Digestive endotherapy

The XIVth European Workshop on Digestive Endotherapy will be held on 18–20 June, 1996 in Brussels. Further information from: Administrative Secretariat, Conference Services sa, Avenue de l’Observatoire, 3, Box 17, B-1180 Brussels, Belgium. Tel: (32) 2 375 16 48; fax: (32) 2 375 32 99.

Abdominal imaging

A course on Abdominal Imaging will be held on 1–5 July 1996 in Wisconsin, USA. Further information from: Janice Ford Benner, University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, 3400 Spruce Street, 1 Silverstein Building, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA. Tel: (215) 662 6904; fax: (215) 349 5925.

Gastrointestinal pharmacology

A meeting sponsored by the Gastrointestinal (GI) Pharmacology Section of IUPHAR (International Union of Pharmacology) will be held 3–7 September 1996 in Sperlonga, Italy. The meeting is entitled New Approaches to Pharmacotherapy for Gastrointestinal Ulcerative and Inflammatory Disorders. Further information from: Dr Antonio Guglietta, Parke-Davis Research, 2800 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor, MI, 48105, USA. Tel: (313) 996 2911; fax: (313) 996 4333; e-mail: guglieta@aa.wl.com.

Clinical nutrition

The Leeds Course in Clinical Nutrition will be held on 3–6 September 1996. Further details from: Mrs Hilary L Thackray, Department of Continuing Professional Education, Continuing Education Building, Springfield Mount, Leeds LS2 9NG. Tel: 0113 233 3233; fax: 0113 233 3240.

Inflammatory bowel disease

An International Meeting on Inflammatory Bowel Disease will be held in Capri, Italy, on 19–21 September 1996. Further information from: Professor Renzo Caprilli, Cattedra Gastroenterologia, Universita de L'Aquila, Via S Sisto 22 E 67100 L'Aquila, Italy. Tel: 39 862 433407; fax: 39 862 433383.

Correction

An authors' error occurred in the paper by Dr RJ Scott and others (Gut 1995; 36: 731–6). The mutation described at nucleotide 5934, codon 1978 should be nucleotide 5960, codon 1978 causing a stop codon 61 codons later as shown in the accompanying Figure.

Figure 3: Sequence analysis of exon 15m showed a base pair deletion at position 5960, which was identified in patients who presented with colonic disease alone or extracolonic disease with or without colonic disease.
Gut
Journal of the British Society of Gastroenterology
which is a registered charity

Gut publishes original papers, short rapid communications, leading articles, and reviews concerned with all aspects of the scientific basis of diseases of the alimentary tract, liver, and pancreas. Case reports will only be accepted if of exceptional merit. Letters related to articles published in Gut or with topics of general professional interest are welcomed. Authors should include the names and addresses of four experts whom the authors consider suitable to peer review their work.

COMMUNICATIONS Three copies of the manuscript and figures should be addressed to the Editor, Gut, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR, UK (tel: 0171 383 6157; fax: 0171 383 6787 Email: 101317.465@compuserve.com). Manuscripts should follow the Vancouver conventions (see BMJ 1979; i: 932-5. Gut 1979; 28: 651-2). They should be in double spaced typewriting on one side of the paper only. The title page should include the name of the author with initials or distinguishing first name only, and the name and address of the hospital or laboratory where the work was performed. The paper must include a precise summary of the work of less than 200 words, which should be divided into six sections headed background, aims, patients (or subjects), methods, results, and conclusions. Keywords (maximum six) should be included. Use of abbreviation is discouraged. A separate covering letter signed by all authors must state that the data have not been published elsewhere in whole or in part and that all authors agree to publication in Gut. Previous publication in abstract form must be disclosed in a footnote. Papers must not be published elsewhere without prior permission of the Editorial Committee. If requested, authors shall produce the data upon which the manuscript is based for examination by the editor.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MANUSCRIPTS Manuscripts will only be acknowledged if an addressed postcard is enclosed.

ILLUSTRATIONS Photographs Unmounted photographs on glossy paper should be provided. Illustrations should not be inserted in the text but marked on the back with the figure numbers, title of paper and name of author. All photographs, graphs, diagrams should be referred to as figures and should be numbered consecutively in the text in Arabic numerals. The legends for illustrations should be typed on a separate sheet.

ETICS Ethical aspects will be considered in the assessment of papers (see the Medical Research Council's publications on the ethics of human experimentation, and the World Medical Association's code of ethics, known as the Declaration of Helsinki (see BMJ 1964; ii: 177)).

SI UNITS All measurements except blood pressure are expressed in SI units. In tables and illustrations values are given in SI units. For general guidance on the International System of Units and some useful conversion factors, see The SI for Health Professions (WHO, 1977). NB: Such conversion is the responsibility of the author.

REFERENCES These follow the Vancouver system—that is, references numbered consecutively in the text and listed numerically with journal titles abbreviated in the style of Index Medicus, Standard journal article. List up to six authors, then add et al.

CORRECTIONS other than printers' errors may be charged to the author.

REPRINTS Reprints will be available on payment of the necessary costs; the number of reprints required should be sent to the Publishing Manager on the form provided with the proof.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS All applications for advertisement space and rates should be addressed to the Advertisement Manager, Gut, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS Gut is published monthly. The annual subscription rates are £204 (USA $320). Reduced subscriptions of £79 available to trainees for one year (direct only). Orders should be sent to the Subscription Manager, Gut, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR. Orders can also be placed with any leading subscription agent or bookseller. (For the convenience of readers in the USA subscription orders, with or without payment, can be sent to: British Medical Journal, PO Box 408, Franklin, MA 02038, USA. All enquiries, however, must be addressed to the Publisher in London.) Subscribers may pay for their subscriptions by Access, Visa, or American Express by quoting on their order the credit or charge card preferred together with the appropriate personal account number and the expiry date of the card. All overseas copies of the journal are sent by accelerated surface post. If required, full air mail rates and enquiries for single copies already published should be addressed to the Publisher in London.

COPYRIGHT © 1996 Gut. This publication is copyright under the Berne Convention and the International Copyright Convention. All rights reserved. Apart from any relaxations permitted under national copyright laws, no part of the publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior permission of the copyright owners. Permission is not, however, required to copy abstracts of papers or articles on condition that a full reference to the source is shown. Multiple copying of the contents of the publication without permission is always illegal.

Second class postage paid, Rahway NJ. Postmaster: send address changes to: Gut, c/o Mercury Airfreight International Ltd Inc, 2323 Randolph Avenue, Avenel, NJ 07001, USA. ISSN 0017-5749.