Conclusion YF476 is a promising new medical treatment for type I gastric neuroendocrine tumours. It appears to be well tolerated with no observed toxicity. Further trials of YF476 involving more prolonged treatment regimes are therefore warranted in this condition.

Competing interests None declared.

How commonly is gastric cancer missed at endoscopy: a UK primary care based study

doi:10.1136/gutjnl-2012-302514a.99

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Introduction Meta-analysis of published single hospital series including 1977 subjects suggests that 14% of gastric cancer (GC) subjects have had an upper gastrointestinal endoscopic (OGD) up to 3 years previously that failed to diagnose their GC (50% in the 12 months before diagnosis and 50% 1–3 years before diagnosis).

Methods All patients with GC in the THIN general practice database covering 5 million UK subjects were examined. A nested case-control study was performed with cases subjects who underwent OGD 1–5 years prior to their OGD that diagnosed GC and controls subjects who did not undergo OGD 1–5 years prior to their diagnostic OGD.

Results 5473 GC were available for analysis (3402 males (62%), mean age 71 years), with follow-up of 46 779 subject years. 169 (3.1%, 98 males (58%), mean age 71 years) had an OGD which failed to diagnose GC between 1 and 5 years prior to diagnosis of GC, out of whom 128 (2.3%) had OGD between 1 and 3 years before and 41 (0.7%) had an OGD between 3 and 5 years before diagnosis. There were 56 primary care consultations with symptoms pertaining to oesophageo-gastric cancer between 1 and 5 years prior to diagnosis of GC (dysphagia (n) 51, anaemia 9, weight loss 12, dysphagia 3), of which all underwent OGD. No subject who had an OGD that did not diagnose cancer was on proton pump inhibitor (PPI) therapy in the year prior to OGD and 49 (0.9%) of subjects were on PPI therapy in the year prior to being diagnosed with GC. Logistic regression analysis of subjects who had an OGD that failed to diagnose cancer and those that did not, failed to identify any specific predictive factors (age 1.0 (0.99–1.01), p=0.99, sex 0.84 (0.61–1.14), p=0.26, related to an OGD that failed to diagnose GC.

Conclusion Missing GC at OGD is, reassuringly, less than half as common as previous much smaller studies in secondary care have suggested. PPI therapy does not contribute to missing GC at OGD. Advances in endoscopy and selection bias in previous studies may account for these differences.

Competing interests None declared.

Increased at risk screening and recognition of atypical presentation does not fully explain the 6.5-fold increase in paediatric coeliac disease (CD) incidence in the last 20 years in SE Scotland

doi:10.1136/gutjnl-2012-302514a.99

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Introduction Current diagnostic practice for paediatric CD in the UK includes increased screening of family members and at-risk groups for example, diabetes mellitus.

Aims To identify all incident cases of CD in SE Scotland over the 20-year period of 1990–2009 to assess trends in incidence, symptomatology, age at diagnosis and the impact of active screening of at-risk groups. Utility of routine laboratory tests at diagnosis was also evaluated (2005–2009 diagnoses only).

Methods A retrospective review of case notes, pathology databases, endoscopy and patient records was performed for all children diagnosed with CD <16 years from 1990 to 2009 on duodenal biopsy in SE Scotland (at-risk population group of 233 000 aged <16 years). Data were age-sex standardised and analysed in 5-year epochs, with Poisson regression models used to calculate changes in incidence over time.

Results 266 biopsy positive children were diagnosed from 1990 to 2009 with an increase in incidence from 1.8 (95% CI 1.1 to 2.7) to 11.7 (95% CI 9.8 to 13.9) per 100 000 children aged <16 years during the 1990–1994 and 2005–2009 epochs respectively (p<0.001). The median age (IQR) at diagnosis also increased significantly from 29 (16–53) months to 90 (53–132) between these epochs (p<0.0001) and non-classical presentation (children with a mono-symptomatic presentation and those with extra-intestinal symptoms for example, fatigue, pallor, irritability) increased significantly from 5% to 21% respectively (p=0.008). Additionally, 7% of children were diagnosed through targeted screening in 1990–1994 compared to 23% in 2005–2009 (p=0.002). When cases identified via active screening or with non-classical symptoms were removed, a significant rise from 1.51 (95% CI 0.91 to 2.38) in 1990–1994 to 6.59 (95% CI 5.17 to 8.28) in 2005–2009 (p=0.006) remained. Routine blood investigations demonstrated that over 25% were anaemic and over 50% were iron deficient at presentation in 2005–2009.

Conclusion The incidence of paediatric CD has increased 6.5-fold over the last 20 years in SE Scotland. Children are older at diagnosis, presenting with fewer classical and more varied symptoms, and with iron deficiency anaemia the commonest laboratory abnormality. We show that both increased screening of at-risk groups and a lower threshold for serological screening (as a result of greater presentations) would also be required in the future.

Competing interests None declared.

The clonal origins of gastric adenocarcinoma

doi:10.1136/gutjnl-2012-302514a.100

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Introduction We have previously shown that entire fields of dysplasia in the human stomach are derived from a single mutated, metastatic gland. This suggests that intestinal metaplasia (IM) can be considered a field defect within which dysplasia can arise and this would indicate that adenocarcinomas derived from such dysplasia would also be clonal. Recent work published by our laboratory has indicated that familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP)–associated colorectal adenomas as well as some sporadic lesions and dysplasia within Barrett’s oesophagus are polyclonal. There is therefore a need to ascertain the clonality of gastric adenocarcinomas (GA).

Competing interests None declared.