**Introduction** We have previously shown how the Allred scoring system may be used to semi-quantify expression of nuclear biomarkers in the Barrett’s (BE) to oesophageal adenocarcinoma (OA) sequence. Recently, a number of digital image analysis (DIA) platforms have been clinically validated for quantification of immunohistochemistry (IHC) in breast tissue. This study aims to compare pathologists scores (PS) with DIA for the quantification of nuclear biomarkers in BE to OA sequence.

**Methods** Paraffin embedded specimens were selected from 34 patients. Pathology grade (PG) was scored as 1 (non-dysplastic BE; n = 5), 2 (low grade dysplasia; n = 5), and 4 (OA; n = 14). Sections were immunostained with antibodies PLK1-M, PLK1-L and Geminin. Intensity (I-PS) (0 to 3+) and extent (E-PS) (0; < 1% = 1; 1–10% = 2; 10–33% = 3; 33–66% = 4; > 66% = 5) of staining were scored by 2 GI pathologists, and mean PS calculated. Intensity and proportions of +ve staining were digitally quantified using Ariol® software. Analysis classifiers were trained to identify thresholds of positive (brown/DAB) and negative (blue/Hx) nuclei (Figure A) in the areas of interest. Background tissue was digitally excluded. Mean intensity (I-DIA) and mean counts for DIA positive (red) and negative (green) nuclei (Figure B) were quantified to calculate percentage positivity (E-DIA) and compared with I-PS, E-PS and total Allred score (A-PS) using Pearson correlation coefficient.

**Results** Significant correlation was seen between E-DIA and A-PS (r = 0.76, p = 0.006; r = 0.73, p = 0.008; r = 0.94, p = 0.0004) with all biomarkers (PLK1-M; PLK1-L; Geminin). PLK1-L showed additional correlation between DIA and PS for intensity (r = 0.985, p = 0.02) and extent (r = 0.95, p = 0.90). Geminin showed additional correlations between DIA and PS for extent (r = 0.99, p = 0.0008) and PG (r = 0.97, p = 0.03). Following training, Ariol® analysis took a mean of 4mins (Range 3–5) per tissue region highlighted.

**Conclusion** This study has demonstrated how DIA may be used to quantify expression of nuclear biomarkers. Significant correlation between DIA with Allred score was seen with all biomarkers, but only PLK1-L correlated with intensity and Geminin with PG. Background staining ignored by pathologists was found to be a confounder for DIA, particularly with PLK1-M. Nonetheless, DIA has great potential to enhance current grading and risk stratification systems for BE, and help select patients for targeted therapies dependent on biomarker expression.

**Disclosure of Interest** None Declared

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**Disclosure of Interest** None Declared
pathology of 28 IMC (28%) and 69 HGD (71%). Finally the time from first RFA to developing malignancy was a mean of 182 (42–733) days.

**Conclusion** In this cohort, there is a 4.7% chance of developing EAC, 2.8% of patients could not complete planned endotherapy and an 8.5% chance of death from non-oesophageal diseases. These outcomes are independent of the demographic, pathologic and endoscopic variables studied.

**Disclosure of Interest** None Declared

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**PTU-145** INCREASED INCIDENCE OF EOSINOPHILIC OESOPHAGITIS IN A NEW ZeALAND POPULATIon: A REtROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS

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**Introduction** Eosinophilic oesophagitis (EO) is the diagnosis in 10–15% of dysphagic patients in European and New Zealand studies, most frequent in men aged less than 50 years. It is precipitated by aero-allergens. Diagnosis requires >20 eosinophils per hpf on oesophageal biopsies. We investigated its incidence in a New Zealand population where the genetic profile is similar (92% European descent) but the environmental exposure to flora very different.

**Methods** A retrospective review of 871 patients investigated by gastroscopy from 2006–11 at Dunedin hospital. Age, sex, endoscopic findings and whether biopsies were recorded from the endoscopy database. Histology was determined from the hospital PAS system and equivocal cases reviewed by a consultant histopathologist. Sex and age differences were interrogated with chi-squared and P < 0.05 was considered significant.

**Results** Average age of all patients was 68.7 years, 57.1% male. Common diagnoses were normal (27.7%), oesophagitis (21.7%), cancer (11.2%), dysmotility (7.3%), peptic strictures (5.0%). 20 patients (12 male, mean age 45.5 years) had EO. 5 of these had endoscopic abnormalities (2 x ridges, 2 x Schatzki rings, 1 x furrows). 351 patients (40.9%) had oesophageal biopsies, but only 86 of 434 where the underlying cause was not evident ie no cancer, oesophagitis or peptic stricture. EO incidence was 2.3% of all patients, 5.7% of those biopsied but 23.2% of those where an alternative diagnosis was not evident. Annual incidence varied from 1.1 to 4%. The frequency of biopsies was greater in 2011 (73.6%) than previous years (26.9–44.1%) but the number of cases identified did not differ significantly (3.4–9.0% of those biopsied).

**Abstract PTU-145 Table 1** Variation of Frequency of Biopsy and EO with Age and Sex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Biopsied</th>
<th>Eosinophilic oesophagitis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>224 (45.1%)*</td>
<td>12 (2.4%: 5.4% of those biopsied)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>133 (35.6%)</td>
<td>8 (2.1%: 6.0% of those biopsied)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 50 years old</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>42 (43.8%)</td>
<td>12* (12.5%: 28.6% of those biopsied)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 50 years old</td>
<td>771</td>
<td>313 (40.6%)</td>
<td>8 (1.0%: 2.6% of those biopsied)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*P < 0.05
**P < 0.0001

**Conclusion** EO appears less frequent in a New Zealand dysphagic population than in previous Northern hemisphere studies although this might be due to fewer biopsies where no macroscopic abnormality was seen. Biopsies are more frequent in men than women but EO no more likely. Biopsies are not more frequent in younger patients (< 50 y.o) but EO is much more frequent. The exact incidence of EO and reasons for discrepancies with previous studies merit further investigation.

**Disclosure of Interest** None Declared

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**PTU-146** INCIDENCE AND PREDICTORS OF EOSINOPHILIC OESOPHAGITIS IN DYSPHAGIA: A PROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS

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**Introduction** Eosinophilic oesophagitis (EO) causes dysphagia: 10–15% in European and US studies. It is diagnosed by finding >20 eosinophils per hpf in oesophageal biopsies. We prospectively examined the incidence and clinical indicators of EO in a New Zealand population.

**Methods** Interim analysis of demographics, symptoms and associated diseases by questionnaire prior to endoscopy in 75 consecutive patients with dysphagia. Endoscopic findings were recorded with histology.

An initial analysis was performed to investigate whether age and gender of patients and symptoms (duration of dysphagia, intermittent or progressive symptoms, level of dysphagia, weight loss, choking, reflux odynophagia or a history of allergy) were associated with a final diagnosis of EO using chi squared or Fisher’s exact test as appropriate then logistic regression used to determine the final model.

The sensitivity and specificity of endoscopic changes (furrows, ridges and rings) was determined separately and significance determined by Fisher’s exact test.

Statistical significance was taken as P < 0.05. Ethics approval was obtained.

**Results** 75 patients, mean age 56 (range 15–94 years), 31 male (41%), had gastroscopy because of dysphagia. 64 (85.3%) completed the questionnaire and 67 (89.3%) had endoscopic biopsies. 12 (16%) had EO, mean age 36.7 years (range 18–62), 8 male. Endoscopic abnormalities suggestive of EO were seen in 7 EO patients (sensitivity 38.9%, specificity 91.2%; P < 0.01).

Allergy/atopy (hayfever, asthma, eczema, coeliac) was no more common in EO (54.5%) than those without (49.0%). The level of dysphagia was not pharyngeal in 5 EO patients. Duration of dysphagia was at least 6 months in all bar one EO patient (range 26–1248 weeks). Weight loss of 7–10 kg was reported by 4 EO patients. No patient responding to PPI therapy had EO. The strongest predictor of EO was age under 50 (OR 20.0 95% CI 3.4–117.8) with male sex also being significant (OR 6.7 95% CI 1.4–32.3). No other factor was statistically significant.

**Conclusion** EO is present in a dysphagic New Zealand population with a relatively high incidence. It is more common in younger males but there was no obvious association with allergy. Although endoscopic changes associated with EO were highly specific they were not sufficiently sensitive to depend upon. We would recommend oesophageal biopsies in all patients presenting with dysphagia without obvious cause at endoscopy.

**Disclosure of Interest** None Declared