Conclusion In this study organic causes for chronic diarrhoea were identified in 26%. Given that BAM had similar prevalence to coeliac disease in patients with chronic diarrhoea, we would advocate BAM investigations early within the diagnostic pathway.

Disclosure of Interest None Declared.

REFERENCE

Abstract

Diagnosis (total n = 89) Patients (%)  
Diarrhoea-predominant Irritable Bowel Syndrome 43 (48)  
Functional diarrhoea 28 (31)  
Inflammatory Bowel Disease 8 (9)  
Bile Acid Malabsorption 5 (6)  
Lactose intolerance 4 (4)  
Coeliac 3 (3)  
Lymphocytic Colitis 2 (2)  
Pancreatic Insufficiency 1 (1)  
Small Bowel Bacterial Overgrowth 1 (1)

Disclosure of Interest None Declared.

Introduction Chronic watery diarrhoea is a common referral, with a host of possible aetiologies. To help establish a diagnosis a number of international guidelines have been created, defining diagnostic pathways. Bile acid malabsorption (BAM) is a potential cause, with high prevalence previously demonstrated by our group.

Methods A total of 92 consecutive patients referred to a tertiary referral centre with chronic diarrhoea, defined as more than 3 loose or liquid bowel movements a day for at least 4 weeks were evaluated (Group A). Demographic data, subsequent investigations and diagnostic yields of these tests were collected. All patients underwent haematological, biochemical and immunological testing prior to subsequent investigations. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS with Fisher’s exact test used to compare categorical data.

Results Medical records were identified in 89 of the 92 patients referred (mean age 50 years, range 18–86 years). Of these patients, 23 (26%) had an organic cause for their diarrhoea identified (Table 1), with 6 having dual pathology. Inflammatory bowel disease was the most prevalent condition identified, with the prevalence of BAM being comparable to that seen for coeliac disease (p = 0.72). When evaluating diagnostic yields for BAM in Groups A and B, prevalence was significantly higher in the D-IBS cohort (42% vs 6%, p < 0.001).

Conclusion In this study organic causes for chronic diarrhoea were identified in 26%. Given that BAM had similar prevalence to coeliac disease in patients with chronic diarrhoea, we would advocate BAM investigations early within the diagnostic pathway.

Disclosure of Interest None Declared.

REFERENCE
Kurien M et al. Small Bowel Bacterial Overgrowth 1 (1) Pancreatic Insufficiency 1 (1) Lymphocytic Colitis 2 (2) Coeliac 3 (3) Inflammatory Bowel Disease 8 (9) Functional diarrhoea 28 (31) Diarrhoea-predominant Irritable Bowel Syndrome 43 (48)  

Introduction Bile acid malabsorption: prevalence comparable to coeliac disease in patients with chronic diarrhoea. Gut: first published as 10.1136/gutjnl-2013-304907.668 on 4 June 2013. Downloaded from http://gut.bmj.com/ on September 13, 2023 by guest. Protected by copyright.