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GLUTEN SENSITIVE ENTEROPATHY

SUMMARY: Gluten sensitive enteropathy is inflammatory disease of the proximal small intestine which affects genetically predisposed persons as a consequence of taking glutes in food. It is far more common than previously supposed. Vast majority of patients are symptom-free and establishing correct diagnosis is thus challenging. Genetic and immunologic factors are key elements in immunopathogenesis although the full concept is not yet understood completely. Serological tests are important in identifying symptom-free individuals. Final diagnosis is established after the small intestine biopsy and clinical and histological recovery a year after the institution of the therapy. Subtotal villous atrophy is characteristic feature of the disease. Gluten-free diet is the corner stone of the therapy.

KEY WORDS: gluten sensitive enteropathy, gliadins.

