

coeliac disease.<sup>1</sup> Duodenal biopsies (D2) should be performed only after a positive serological test or a negative test with a high clinical suspicion by gastroenterologist. Previous studies have demonstrated that random D2 biopsies are not cost effective.<sup>2</sup> We aimed to analyse whether current practice is now in keeping with guidelines.

**Methods** This was a retrospective review of the electronic records of 422 patients who had had duodenal (D2) biopsies in 1 year. Furthermore, we collated the annual number of duodenal biopsies from 2009 to 2018 to determine if the new guidelines had made an impact.

**Results** The indications for endoscopy were iron deficiency anaemia (IDA) (68%), low ferritin (3%), weight loss, loose stool and non-specific gastrointestinal symptoms (29%). Only 1 patient with a negative tTG had a positive biopsy.

Prior to D2 biopsy, 192(45%) patients had no previous TTG or D2 biopsy. Of these, 9 had a positive biopsy and were subsequently found to be tTG positive. 203 (48%) patients had biopsies despite a negative tTG. 31 (7%) had previous normal D2 biopsies (12 also negative TTG).

The excess cost incurred for processing biopsies after a negative TTG was £12,180. £9882 would have been saved by carrying a TTG test in subjects having a negative biopsy.

The number of biopsies over 10 years remained largely unchanged with a low of 412 in 2012 and a high of 522 in 2018 with a median of 437 biopsies per year.

**Conclusion** A significant proportion of duodenal biopsies are still done in patients with a negative TTG and/or previous normal D2 biopsy. Following BSG guidelines, would have saved over £20,000 in 1 year. We suggest an IT based solution where an alert is triggered to check tTG at the same time as a referral is made for endoscopy. Furthermore, D2 biopsy samples can be delayed until a tTG is checked if not done prior to endoscopy. Finally, a point of care tTG could be utilised in GP surgeries or endoscopy units to minimise any delay. These measures will be put forward to the CCG.

## REFERENCES

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## Nutrition

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### CHEMOGENETIC ANALYSIS OF HOW RECEPTORS FOR SHORT CHAIN FATTY ACIDS REGULATE THE GUT-BRAIN AXIS

Natasja Barki\*, Daniele Bolognini, Laura Jenkins, Brian Hudson, Andrew Tobin, Graeme Milligan. *University of Glasgow, Glasgow, UK*

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**Introduction** Short chain fatty acids are produced mainly by the gut microbiota. They mediate a variety of biological effects by acting on a two of G protein-coupled receptors. These receptors are expressed by various cell types,

including in the gut. The exact contribution of free fatty acid 2 receptor (FFA2) in regulating gut physiology is unclear. Bolognini *et al*<sup>1</sup>, recently employed a novel FFA2-Designer Receptor Exclusively Activated by Designer Drugs (DREADD) to study the physiological role of FFA2. Now we describe and further explore the physiological roles of FFA2 with a novel agonist, 4-methoxy-3-methyl-benzoic acid (MOMBA) for the FFA2-DREADD variant following transgenic expression in mice.

**Methods** Following an extensive screening of more than 1200 small molecules, MOMBA was identified as a potential agonist for the hFFAR2-DREADD receptor. (1) The selectivity of MOMBA was assessed with  $\beta$ -arrestin-2 recruitment assay in HEK293 cells expressing hFFA2-DREADD and hFFA2-eYFP. The effect of FFA2 activation on the release of enteroendocrine hormones (GLP-1 and PYY) was assessed on (2) isolated crypts and (3) intact colonic segments. Isolated crypts and intact colon segments were challenged with different test compound. Supernatants were subsequently collected and GLP-1 and PYY concentration was measured by ELISA. (4) Furthermore, role of FFA2 in sensory signalling was investigated by measuring intracellular calcium [ $Ca^{2+}$ ] in isolated nodose ganglion (NG) and dorsal root ganglion (DRG).

**Results** (1) MOMBA is selective for hFFA2-DREADD (2) MOMBA (1mM-0.001mM) induces a FFA2 specific concentration dependent increase in GLP-1 secretion in colonic crypts. (3) Intraluminal infusion of MOMBA also resulted in a FFA2 mediated increase in GLP-1 and PYY secretion from intact colon. Furthermore, (4) MOMBA induced a  $G_q$  mediated increase in [ $Ca^{2+}$ ] in cells isolated from DREADD mice. Conversely, C3 induced a  $G_i$  mediated increase in these cells.

**Conclusion** MOMBA specifically activates hFFA2-DREADD, hence providing a novel tool ligand to further study the physiological and pathophysiological roles of FFA2 within the gut, as well as other cell types that express this receptor.

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### EFFECTS OF A BOWEL PREPARATION DIET ON THE GUT MICROBIOME

Gerum Gashaw Gebeyehu\*, Alessandra Frau, Rachael Slater, Luke Flain, Chris Probert. *University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK*

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**Introduction** Prior to colonoscopy, patients undergo a bowel preparation regimen to clear bowel contents and optimize view of the bowel wall. In the UK, the bowel preparation regimen may involve patients undertaking either a 3-day low-fibre/low-residue diet (LRD) or a 1 day clear liquid diet (CLD) before their procedure. The day before their procedure, all patients are required to take a laxative. A low-fibre diet has been associated with reduced gut microbiome richness and diversity. A low-fibre diet has also been associated with a *Bacteroides* enterotype and an enrichment of *Alistipes* and *Parabacteroides* genera. A transition from a high-fibre to a low-fibre diet has been shown to result in changes in the gut microbiome within 24 hours. We present the results of an