

## CHAPTER 27

# GASTROINTESTINAL MANIFESTATIONS OF DIABETES

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## SUMMARY

Although most attention has traditionally focused on the stomach, diabetes can affect the entire gastrointestinal (GI) tract, as implied by the term diabetic *enteropathy*. This chapter details the epidemiology and summarizes the salient features of the pathophysiology, clinical features, and management of diabetic enteropathy.

Diabetic enteropathy may be asymptomatic or manifest with upper (i.e., heartburn, dysphagia, dyspepsia, gastroparesis) or lower GI symptoms (i.e., diarrhea, constipation, and fecal incontinence). GI symptoms are not uncommon (abdominal pain experienced in 7.6%, vomiting in 1.7%) in patients with diabetes presenting for care. However, in community studies, the prevalence of GI symptoms is, for the most part, either not different or only slightly higher in type 1 and type 2 diabetes than in people without diabetes. For example, 17% of persons with type 1 diabetes and 14% of those without diabetes had constipation in one study.

Limited data are available on the epidemiology, particularly risk factors, and natural history of these specific GI manifestations among patients with diabetes in the community. For example, the risk of developing gastroparesis over 10 years was 5% in type 1 diabetes and 1% in type 2 diabetes versus <1% in persons without diabetes. GI dysmotility in diabetes is multifactorial: extrinsic and intrinsic (i.e., enteric) neural dysfunction, hyperglycemia, and hormonal disturbances have been implicated. Delayed gastric emptying in diabetes is often asymptomatic and is associated with impaired glycemic control.

Approaches to manage diabetic enteropathy primarily focus on correcting the motor disturbance, symptom relief, managing complications, and improving glycemic control. However, there is no evidence that improving glycemic control is beneficial in diabetic enteropathy. From a public health perspective, further studies to better understand the risk factors for diabetic enteropathy and the relationship between diabetic enteropathy and impaired glycemic control and to develop novel approaches to managing diabetic enteropathy are critical.

Type 1 diabetes is associated with gluten-sensitive enteropathy (also known as celiac disease [CD]). CD is very common (approximately 5%) in patients with type 1 diabetes, is often overlooked clinically, and may be asymptomatic while patients accrue health consequences, including growth retardation, bone demineralization, and eventually, symptoms. CD is readily detectable, and at the very least, those looking after patients with type 1 diabetes should have a very low threshold for testing. Screening at initial diabetes diagnosis and yearly for at least 5 years later should be considered in children and at least once in adults. Conversely, there is also a twofold increase in type 1 diabetes in patients with a prior diagnosis of CD (hazard ratio 2.4, 95% confidence interval 1.9–3.0).

Gastric autoantibodies are common in type 1 diabetes and can lead to progressive loss of parietal cell mass and hypochlorhydria (low stomach acid) in a significant percentage of patients. It behooves the physician to be aware of this association and vigilant of its consequences as the patient ages.

In summary, studies suggest the prevalence of selected GI symptoms (e.g., constipation) are greater in individuals with diabetes than in controls. For other symptoms, the prevalence is generally not different in persons with diabetes compared to those without. Further studies are necessary to accurately estimate the prevalence of GI symptoms in people with diabetes and to identify the risk factors for these symptoms.

## INTRODUCTION

Although most attention has traditionally focused on the stomach, diabetes can affect the entire gastrointestinal (GI) tract, as implied by the term diabetic *enteropathy*. This chapter details the epidemiology and summarizes the salient features of the pathophysiology, clinical features, and management of diabetic enteropathy.

This chapter does not address the relationship between diabetes and certain chronic liver diseases and gallstone disease, which can be found in Chapter 26 *Liver and Gallbladder Disease in Diabetes*. In addition, this chapter does not discuss pancreatitis leading to diabetes, which is covered in Chapter 6 *Other Specific*

*Types of Diabetes*, or pancreatitis in those with diabetes, which is very infrequent, but for which diabetes may be a risk factor (1,2). Information on diabetes and cancers, including those of the GI tract, is presented in Chapter 29 *Cancer and Diabetes*.

## DATA RESOURCES AND THEIR LIMITATIONS

There are no national studies on the epidemiology of GI symptoms and sensory motor disturbances in diabetes. The understanding of these issues is primarily derived from the Rochester Epidemiology Project and other community-based studies that are described in the individual sections.

The Rochester Epidemiology Project resides in Olmsted County, Minnesota. The Olmsted County population comprises approximately 100,000 persons, of whom 96% are white; sociodemographically, the community is similar to the U.S. white

population (3). In Olmsted County, 80% of the population resides within 5 miles of Rochester, and residents receive their medical care almost exclusively from two group practices, Mayo Medical Center and Olmsted Medical Center. Annually, more than 80% of the entire population is attended by one or both of these practices, and nearly everyone is seen at least once during any given 3-year period (3). A unique medical record linkage system, the Rochester Epidemiology Project, enables this population to be enumerated, allowing samples to be drawn.

Studies from Australia were primarily conducted in randomly selected adults age  $\geq 18$  years who were on the electoral rolls for Penrith and the Blue Mountains areas west of Sydney, Australia (4,5) and in another cohort of randomly selected subjects from the mailing list of Diabetes Australia, a nonprofit organization that provides informational support to some 100,000 individuals with diabetes (6). While the Olmsted County studies included people with type 1 and 2 diabetes, the studies from Australia were predominantly conducted in people with type 2 diabetes.

## FUNCTIONAL GASTROINTESTINAL DISTURBANCES AND SYNDROMES

### GASTROINTESTINAL SYMPTOMS: PREVALENCE AND RISK FACTORS

Studies conducted in selected patient groups, often at tertiary referral centers, suggest that GI symptoms are common in persons with diabetes. However, these studies are prone to selection and other biases. In community studies, which avoid these biases, the prevalence of GI symptoms is, for the most part, either not different or only slightly higher than in people without diabetes (Tables 27.1–27.3).

Thus, in the Rochester Diabetic Neuropathy Study, only 1% of diabetes patients had symptoms of gastroparesis, and only 0.6% had nocturnal diarrhea (Table 27.1) (7). In another study from Olmsted County, Minnesota, the prevalence of upper or lower (i.e., irritable bowel syndrome, constipation, and fecal incontinence) GI symptoms was not significantly different between individuals

with either type 1 or type 2 diabetes and age-matched controls (Table 27.1) (8). However, laxative use, and hence the combination of constipation and/or laxative use, was more common in persons with type 1 diabetes (27.0%) than controls (19.0%) but similar in those with type 2 diabetes (17.0%) and controls (15.0%) (Table 27.2) (8). Calcium channel blockers, female sex, and higher psychosomatic symptom scores were associated with constipation and/or laxative use (8). While the prevalence of constipation and/or laxative use was more common in type 1 diabetic individuals than controls, the higher prevalence was influenced by sex and psychosomatic symptom checklist score. The latter is a measure of physical symptoms (e.g., low back pain, high blood pressure) that might be related to stress. In males, but not females, with type 1 diabetes, constipation and/or laxative use were more prevalent than in sex-matched controls even after adjusting

for psychosomatic symptom checklist score and regardless of the use of constipating drugs.

Two studies (i.e., from Olmsted County and a Finnish population) reported that people with type 1 diabetes had a lower prevalence of heartburn (8,9). In contrast, a study from Australia found that the prevalence of several upper and lower GI symptoms was higher in 423 patients with predominantly (95%) type 2 diabetes than in controls (Table 27.1 and Table 27.3) (4).

Taken together, these data suggest that GI manifestations are common among patients with diabetes presenting for care. However, in the general population, the prevalence of GI manifestations is not substantially higher among people with diabetes compared to matched controls, perhaps partly because the prevalence of GI symptoms, mostly attributable to functional GI disorders (e.g., irritable

**TABLE 27.1.** Community-Based Epidemiologic Studies of Gastrointestinal Symptoms in Diabetes

YEARS (REF.)	RESPONDENTS	RESPONSE RATE (NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS)	KEY FINDINGS	
			Upper GI	Lower GI
1986 (7)	Residents of Rochester, Minnesota, with diabetes	44% (102 type 1 diabetes, 278 type 2 diabetes)	Gastroparesis: 0% type 1 diabetes 1% type 2 diabetes	Diarrhea: 0.6% overall 1% type 1 diabetes 0.4% type 2 diabetes
1982–1984 (9)	All residents in a hospital district in Finland with diabetes and a randomly selected control group	92%–100% (89 type 1 diabetes, 481 type 2 diabetes, 635 controls)	Symptoms of nausea and vomiting were not different between cases with diabetes and controls.	Diarrhea was not different from controls.
1995 (8)	Samples of Olmsted County, Minnesota, residents with type 1 and type 2 diabetes and corresponding age- and sex-stratified controls	59% (138 type 1 diabetes, 217 type 2 diabetes, 388 controls)	No difference in proportions with stomach symptoms was found between diabetes and controls; less heartburn was reported by type 1 diabetes patients.	Constipation: 17% type 1 diabetes vs. 14% controls 10% type 2 diabetes vs. 12% controls Diarrhea: 0% for all groups Fecal incontinence: 0.7% type 1 diabetes vs. 1.2% controls 4.6% type 2 diabetes vs. 1.8% controls
1999 (4,5)	Sex-stratified sample of 15,000 people in Sydney, Australia	60% for entire sample (423 of 8,555 respondents had diabetes, 95% had type 2 diabetes)	Small differences were detected with the highest adjusted odds ratio for vomiting, 1.7% vs. 1.1% (OR 2.51). When upper gut dysmotility symptoms were evaluated, the results were 18.2% vs. 15.3% (OR 1.75).	Diarrhea or constipation: 15.6% diabetes vs. 10% controls Fecal incontinence: 2.6% diabetes vs. 0.8% controls
NR (6)	Two surveys of subjects with type 2 diabetes on the mailing list of Diabetes Australia at a 3-year interval	64% returned second survey (892 type 2 diabetes in first survey)	Not applicable	Similar symptom prevalence for first (second) surveys Abdominal pain: 7.6% (8.3%) Constipation: 25.7% (23.7%) Diarrhea: 2.6% (2.2%) Fecal incontinence: 7.2% (diabetes) vs. 7.2%
1995–2006 (31)	Follow-up of 1,413 subjects (269 with type 1 diabetes, 409 type 2 diabetes) and 735 controls matched for age and sex in Olmsted County, Minnesota	87% (1,226 subjects) authorized review of medical records; questionnaires at interviews were not performed.	Over 10 years, gastroparesis developed in 5.2% (type 1 diabetes), 1% (type 2 diabetes), and 0.2% (controls). Higher risk (HR 4.4, 95% CI 1.1–17) was found in those with type 1 versus type 2 diabetes.	

All surveys used a mailed questionnaire. CI, confidence interval; GI, gastrointestinal; HR, hazard ratio; NR, not reported; OR, odds ratio.

SOURCE: References are listed within the table.

bowel syndrome), among people without diabetes in the community is relatively high and approaches 10% (10).

### FUNCTIONAL GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS

Gastrointestinal dysmotility in diabetes is multifactorial: a role for extrinsic (i.e., sympathetic and parasympathetic) neural dysfunction, hyperglycemia, hormonal disturbances, and even intrinsic (i.e., enteric) neural dysfunction, which results from loss of excitatory and inhibitory neurons and interstitial cells of Cajal, have

been implicated (11). Studies in animal models demonstrate that neural dysfunctions are attributed to several mechanisms (e.g., hyperglycemia, oxidative stress) (12). The specific GI disturbances contributing to gastroparesis, diarrhea, dysphagia and heartburn, constipation, abdominal pain, and fecal incontinence are covered in subsequent sections.

In addition to these factors, it is also important to consider the role of psychological factors in the perception of GI symptoms. Indeed, anxiety and

depression are significantly associated with the reporting of GI tract symptoms in the community and in case series (8,13,14,15). Likewise, anxiety and depression are not related to the severity of gastric retention and independently predict symptom severity in diabetic gastroparesis (14,15). This may also partly explain the similar prevalence of symptoms between people with diabetes and controls in population-based studies (8,9).

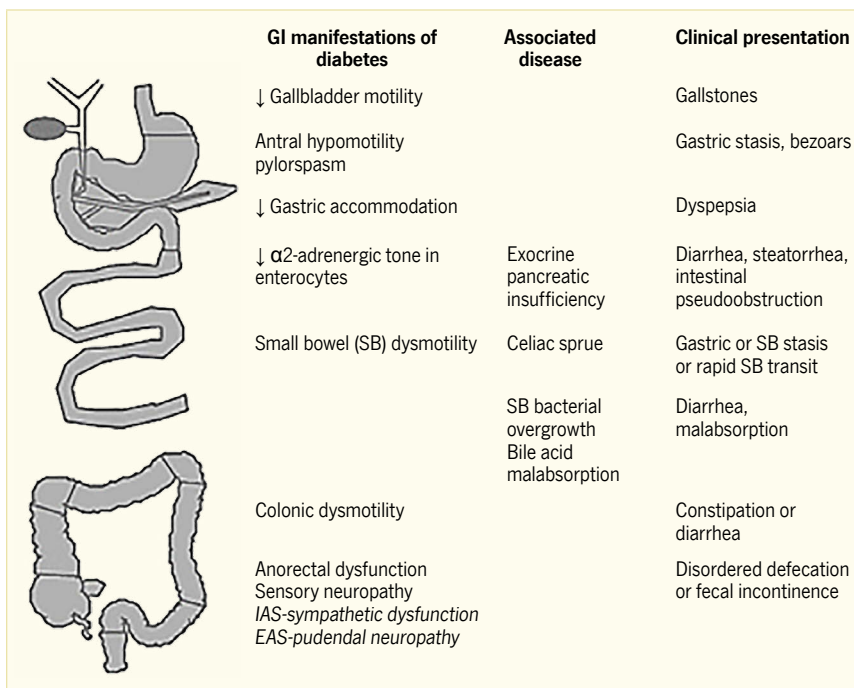
**TABLE 27.2.** Prevalence of Gastrointestinal Tract and Neurological Symptoms Among Residents of Olmsted County, Minnesota, With Diabetes Compared With Their Respective Community Controls

SYMPTOMS	PREVALENCE (%)			
	Type 1 Diabetes		Type 2 Diabetes	
	Patients (n=138)	Controls (n=170)	Patients (n=217)	Controls (n=218)
Irritable bowel syndrome				
Rome criteria (Ref. 131)	10.9	7.6	5.1	8.3
Manning <i>et al.</i> criteria (Ref. 132)	8.0	8.8	5.5	7.8
Constipation				
Symptoms only	16.7	13.5	10.1	11.5
Symptoms and/or laxatives	27.0	19.0	17.0	15.0
Dyschezia	2.9	3.5	2.3	2.3
Diarrhea	0	0	0	0
Fecal incontinence	0.7	1.2	4.6	1.8
Nausea and/or vomiting	11.6	10.6	6.0	5.5
Dyspepsia	18.8	20.6	13.4	17.4
Heartburn				
Symptoms only	11.6	22.9	19.8	24.3
Symptoms and/or antacids	18.8	36.5	24.0	36.2
Peripheral neuropathy symptoms (overall)	50.0	47.1	65.9*	50.5
Numbness	34.8	28.2	41.5*	21.6
Muscular weakness	33.3	31.2	54.4*	43.6
Autonomic neuropathy symptoms (overall)	9.4	5.9	7.8	7.3
Insufficient sweating	6.5	1.8	5.5	5.5
Gustatory sweating	3.6	4.1	2.3	2.8

\* p<0.05 (univariate association, subgroup with diabetes versus corresponding controls)

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**FIGURE 27.1.** Pathophysiology of Diabetes Enteropathy in Humans



EAS, external anal sphincter; GI, gastrointestinal; IAS, internal anal sphincter; SB, small bowel.

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**Dyspepsia and Gastroparesis**

**Definition.** Gastroparesis is a syndrome characterized by delayed gastric emptying (GE), absence of mechanical obstruction, and upper GI symptoms (i.e., early satiety, postprandial vomiting, bloating, and upper abdominal pain). Consistent with the concept of a paralyzed stomach, the term gastroparesis should preferably be restricted to patients with markedly delayed GE. When the delay in GE is not severe, the term diabetic dyspepsia is perhaps more appropriate. Dyspepsia is characterized by one or more, generally postprandial, upper GI symptoms (i.e., bloating, postprandial fullness, and upper abdominal pain).

**Pathophysiology.** Patients with diabetes may have accelerated or delayed GE, increased and reduced gastric sensation, and impaired gastric accommodation (Figure 27.1) (16). Antral hypomotility and/or pylorospasm, which can result from a vagal neuropathy, can delay GE (17). The mechanisms of rapid GE in diabetes are less well understood. While impaired gastric accommodation resulting from a vagal neuropathy (18) may increase gastric pressure and thereby accelerate GE of liquids, the relationship between impaired gastric accommodation and rapid GE has not been substantiated. Small intestinal dysmotility, more frequently characterized by reduced than by increased motility (19), may also contribute to gastric stasis in diabetes.

Acute hyperglycemia can suppress antral motility and migrating motor activity (i.e., the intestinal “housekeeper”) (20,21,22) and delay GE in healthy subjects and in persons with type 1 diabetes (23,24,25,26). However, the effects of acute hyperglycemia on GE are modest. Indeed, even in type 1 diabetes, severe acute hyperglycemia (i.e., 16–20 mmol/L [288–360 mg/dL] vs. 4–8 mmol/L [72–144 mg/dL]) prolonged the GE t<sub>1/2</sub> by only 17 minutes (i.e., from 124 to 141 minutes) (24). While strict glycemic control improves neural, renal, and retinal functions in diabetes, the impact on GE is unclear (27). In addition to hyperglycemia, medications (e.g., opiates) and electrolyte

**TABLE 27.3.** Prevalence of Gastrointestinal Symptoms, by Diabetes Status, Sydney, Australia, 1999

Symptom	PREVALENCE (%)		UNADJUSTED ODDS RATIO (95% CI)	ADJUSTED† ODDS RATIO (95% CI)
	Diabetes* (N=423)	No Diabetes (N=8,185)		
Abdominal pain or discomfort	13.5	10.8	1.30 (0.97–1.73)	1.63 (1.21–2.20)
Early satiety	5.2	4.3	1.22 (0.79–1.91)	1.62 (1.02–2.56)
Postprandial fullness	8.6	5.2	1.72 (1.21–2.45)	2.07 (1.43–3.01)
Bloating	12.3	11.4	1.09 (0.81–1.46)	1.51 (1.11–2.07)
Heartburn	13.5	10.8	1.30 (0.97–1.73)	1.38 (1.03–1.86)
Nausea	5.2	3.5	1.51 (0.97–2.35)	2.31 (1.45–3.68)
Vomiting	1.7	1.1	1.58 (0.73–3.44)	2.51 (1.12–5.66)
Dysphagia	5.4	1.7	3.33 (2.12–5.23)	2.71 (1.69–4.36)
Diarrhea or constipation	15.6	10.0	1.69 (1.29–2.21)	2.04 (1.54–2.71)
Anal blockage	7.7	5.0	1.60 (1.10–2.32)	1.80 (1.22–2.66)
>3 bowel movements per day	8.4	5.3	1.64 (1.14–2.34)	1.84 (1.27–2.66)
<3 bowel movements per week	4.3	3.6	1.19 (0.73–1.93)	1.80 (1.08–3.00)
Lumpy or hard stools	7.4	5.5	1.36 (0.93–1.98)	1.66 (1.22–2.46)
Loose or watery stools	10.0	5.4	1.95 (1.40–2.72)	2.34 (1.65–3.31)
Urgency	9.3	5.2	1.88 (1.33–2.65)	2.22 (1.55–3.17)
Fecal incontinence	2.6	0.8	3.39 (1.77–6.47)	2.74 (1.40–5.37)
<b>Symptom complex</b>				
Esophageal symptoms‡	15.4	11.5	1.40 (1.06–1.83)	1.44 (1.09–1.91)
Upper dysmotility symptoms§	18.2	15.3	1.24 (0.96–1.59)	1.75 (1.34–2.29)
Any bowel symptom	26.0	18.9	1.51 (1.21–1.89)	1.84 (1.45–2.33)
Diarrhea symptoms¶	15.6	10.0	1.67 (1.27–2.19)	2.06 (1.56–2.74)
Constipation symptoms#	11.4	9.2	1.26 (0.92–1.72)	1.54 (1.12–2.13)

All symptoms and symptom complexes were rated often or very often. CI, confidence interval.

\* Patients had self-reported diabetes based on a physician diagnosis.

† Adjusted for age and sex.

‡ Heartburn, dysphagia, or both

§ Early satiety, postprandial fullness, bloating, nausea, or vomiting

|| Self-reported diarrhea or constipation, loose or watery stools, >3 bowel movements per day, urgency, fecal incontinence, <3 bowel movements per week, lumpy or hard stools, or anal blockage

¶ >3 bowel movements per day, urgency, or loose or watery stools

# <3 bowel movements per week, lumpy or hard stools, or anal blockage

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imbalances due to diabetic ketoacidosis (e.g., hypokalemia) and uremia may also aggravate impaired motor function in diabetic patients. Iatrogenic gastroparesis may result from treatment with amylin or glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) analogs (28,29,30).

**Epidemiology.** Only one population-based study, which was conducted in 227 residents with type 1 diabetes, a random sample of 360 residents with type 2 diabetes, and an age- and sex-stratified random sample of 639 nondiabetic residents from Olmsted County, has evaluated the risk of developing

gastroparesis in diabetes (Table 27.1) (31). Over a 10-year time period, the risk of developing gastroparesis was 5.2% in persons with type 1 diabetes (hazard ratio [HR] 33, 95% confidence interval [CI] 4.0–274, adjusted for age and sex versus controls), 1% in those with type 2 diabetes (HR 7.5, 95% CI 0.8–68, adjusted for age and sex versus controls), and 0.2% in controls. The risk of gastroparesis in type 1 diabetes was significantly greater than in type 2 diabetes (HR 4.4, 95% CI 1.1–17). Gastroparesis was documented by physician diagnosis, by evaluating GE with scintigraphy, or by symptoms and retained food at endoscopy. However,

because gastroparesis was identified only in people who presented for care, people who had an asymptomatic delay in GE may not have been identified in this study. Table 27.4 provides the risk factors for diabetic gastroparesis identified in this study (31). Among persons with type 1 diabetes, only heartburn predicted the incidence of gastroparesis.

Longitudinal studies from Australia suggest that similar to functional GI disorders, GI symptom turnover also occurs in diabetes. Turnover refers to appearance and disappearance of symptoms over time. In one study, considerable turnover in GI symptoms was observed 3 years after the initial assessment in patients with type 2 diabetes (6). However, appearance and resolution was balanced; hence, overall prevalence was comparable at follow-up. Several factors, but not glycemic control, predicted symptom change; these factors varied among symptoms. In another cohort of 139 diabetic subjects, of whom approximately 50% had type 1 diabetes and 5% had severe autonomic dysfunction, symptom turnover varied between 15% and 25% in the diabetic group and was not significantly different from controls (32). Symptom turnover was not associated with glycemic control or autonomic neuropathy but, rather, with depression (i.e., appearance and disappearance of depression were associated with gain and loss of GI symptoms, respectively).

**Natural History.** Minimal data are available on the natural history of diabetic gastroparesis. From clinic-based literature, the natural history of diabetic gastroparesis may result in nutritional compromise, impaired glucose control, and a poor quality of life, independent of other factors, such as age, tobacco use, alcohol use, or type of diabetes (33). From a group of 86 patients assessed at a tertiary referral center, 20 patients, of whom 16 had type 1 diabetes, were reevaluated 12 years later, and 13 patients (12 had type 1 diabetes) were reevaluated approximately 25 years after the first study (34,35). While GE was not significantly different 25 years after the baseline assessment,



**TABLE 27.4.** Cumulative Incidence and Predictors of Developing Gastroparesis Over 10 Years in Patients With Type 1 Diabetes, Olmsted County, Minnesota, 1995–2006

CHARACTERISTICS	NUMBER OF PATIENTS STUDIED	CUMULATIVE INCIDENCE (%) (95% CI)	HAZARD RATIO (95% CI)*
Age (years)			
<40	71	8.5 (1.1–15)	1.2 (0.7–2.2)†
≥40	62	7.2 (0.1–14)	1.0 (ref)
Sex			
Men	59	2.1 (0–6.2)	0.2 (0.02–1.2)
Women	74	12.2 (3.9–20)	1.0 (ref)
Diabetes duration (years)			
≤20	56	11.1 (1.4–20)	0.9 (0.6–1.3)‡
>20	77	6.0 (0.1–12)	1.0 (ref)
Per year			0.98 (0.92–1.05)
Heartburn	15	26.7 (0.5–46)	6.6 (1.7–25)
No heartburn	118	5.2 (0.6–9.6)	1.0 (ref)
Acid regurgitation	38	14.4 (0–27)	2.5 (0.6–9.6)
No acid regurgitation	90	6.2 (0.8–11)	1.0 (ref)
Nausea	15	14.4 (0–31)	1.9 (0.4–9.5)
No nausea	118	7.0 (1.8–12)	1.0 (ref)
Vomiting	5	0	NE
No vomiting	124	8.5 (3.0–14)	
Dyspepsia	25	9.1 (0–20)	10 (0.2–5.0)
No dyspepsia	108	7.6 (2.0–13)	1.0 (ref)
Straining	6	0	NE
No straining	127	8.3 (2.9–13)	
Hard or lumpy stools	21	4.8 (0–13)	0.8 (0.1–6.5)
No hard or lumpy stools	112	8.5 (2.7–14)	1.0 (ref)
Loose stools	8	16.7 (0–42)	1.5 (0.2–12)
No loose stools	125	7.4 (2.3–12)	1.0 (ref)
Abdominal pain	25	9.1 (0–20)	1.0 (0.2–5.0)
No abdominal pain	108	7.6 (2.0–13)	1.0 (ref)
Peripheral neuropathy	66	11.9 (3.7–20)	3.1 (0.6–15)
No peripheral neuropathy	62	3.9 (0–9.0)	1.0 (ref)
Numbness	46	14.0 (2.9–24)	2.6 (0.6–11)
No numbness	82	4.5 (0–9.3)	1.0 (ref)
Muscular weakness	44	15.9 (3.2–27)	4.1 (0.99–17)
No muscular weakness	84	4.1 (0–8.6)	1.0 (ref)
Autonomic neuropathy	13	16.7 (0–35)	2.6 (0.5–14)
No autonomic neuropathy	115	7.3 (1.9–12)	1.0 (ref)
Insufficient sweating	9	22.2 (0–45)	3.3 (0.6–19)
No insufficient sweating	119	7.1 (1.9–12)	1.0 (ref)
Facial sweating	5	0	NE
No facial sweating	123	8.6 (3.0–14)	

CI, confidence interval; NE, not estimable due to zero category counts; ref, reference group.

\* Adjusted for age, sex, and disease duration.

† Hazard ratio per 10 years of age

‡ Hazard ratio per 5 years of disease duration

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correlation between initial and subsequent assessments was limited, as evidenced by a correlation coefficient of 0.56 (34).

Two studies have evaluated the association between diabetic gastroparesis and mortality or morbidity. In a study of 86 patients with diabetes, of whom 56% had delayed emptying of solids and 28%

had delayed emptying of liquids, approximately 25% had died by follow-up at least 9 years later. Gastroparesis was not associated with mortality after adjustment for other disorders (36). However, this study did not ascertain the relationship between diabetic gastroparesis and other medical conditions. A second study compared three parallel cohorts of patients with

diabetes (i.e., 94 with symptoms and delayed GE, 94 with classic symptoms of delayed GE but normal scintigraphy, and 94 with no symptoms of gastroparesis) (37). In this study, diabetic gastroparesis was associated with cardiovascular disease, hypertension, retinopathy, and increased hospitalization. Compared to patients with GI symptoms alone, patients with diabetic gastroparesis also had more hospital days (25.5 vs. 5.1 per 1,000 patient-days). Mortality was statistically nonsignificantly higher in the group with diagnosed gastroparesis. In the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Gastroparesis Clinical Research Consortium, the incident death rate (IDR) was 0.015 deaths per person-year. The IDRs were significantly higher in diabetic patients compared with idiopathic cases (0.0266 vs. 0.0094) and in those with delayed compared to normal gastric emptying (0.0189 vs. 0.0031) (38).

Thus, among patients with GI symptoms, the GE assessment can identify patients with a worse prognosis. Whether this increased morbidity is driven by gastroparesis is unknown. Data on long-term natural history in the community are lacking.

**Diagnostic Tests.** Diagnostic testing is guided by symptom pattern and severity. Since delayed GE may predispose to hypoglycemia in type 1 diabetes (39), consideration should be given to evaluating emptying even in patients with unexplained hypoglycemia without GI symptoms.

In patients with upper GI symptoms, an upper GI endoscopy is necessary to exclude peptic ulcer disease, celiac disease (CD), and neoplasms, any of which can cause gastric outlet obstruction. Upper endoscopy may reveal gastric food, which suggests antral hypomotility. Delayed GE can be documented by scintigraphy or by finding a large amount of retained food in the stomach. Barium x-rays of the small intestine or enterography with computed tomography should be considered only when the clinical features raise the possibility of small intestinal obstruction.

During GE scintigraphy, postprandial scans at 1 hour can identify accelerated GE, while scans at 2 and 4 hours distinguish normal function from delayed GE with a sensitivity of 90% and a specificity of 70% (40). For solid-phase testing, most centers use a  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$  sulfur colloid-labeled egg sandwich as the test meal, with imaging at 0, 1, 2, and 4 hours. The Society of Nuclear Medicine and the American Neurogastroenterology and Motility Society recommend a 4-hour test using a radiolabeled EggBeaters® meal with jam, toast, and water (41). Sometimes there is a discrepancy between test results, i.e., patients have retained food at endoscopy but normal GE by scintigraphy. This discrepancy may be explained by day-to-day variations in GE, the use of medications (e.g., opioids) that can delay GE before either study, ingestion of food before an endoscopy, or differences between the gastric motor mechanisms responsible for antral motility and emptying of smaller particles during scintigraphy (i.e., type 2 antral motor activity) and indigestible larger particles (i.e.,  $\geq 3$  mm size) ingested with meals, which are emptied by the antral component of the migrating motor complex during fasting or sleeping.

Gastric emptying breath tests (GEBT) offer an alternative approach for measuring solid phase GE. The meal includes *Spirulina platensis* or the medium chain triglyceride octanoate enriched with  $^{13}\text{C}$ , which is a stable isotope. After GE and duodenal digestion,  $^{13}\text{C}$  is released from the substrate, exhaled, and measured by isotope ratio mass spectrometry, allowing GE  $t_{1/2}$  to be calculated (42,43,44). In contrast to scintigraphy, GEBT does not require elaborate detection equipment or entail radiation exposure and can be performed at the point of care, as in the office or bedside, because the collected breath samples are collected simply with a straw and sealable container, and the excreted  $^{13}\text{CO}_2$  is stable. A  $^{13}\text{C}$ -spirulina GEBT has been approved for use in the United States by the Food and Drug Administration.

GE can also be measured by a nondigestible capsule, SmartPill® wireless motility capsule, which records luminal pH, temperature, and pressure during GI transit, providing a measure of GE time. In the pivotal study, GE measured by a capsule and by scintigraphy at 4 hours were significantly correlated with a coefficient of 0.73 (45). Compared to scintigraphic emptying at 4 hours, the capsule had 86% sensitivity and 92% specificity for diagnosing gastroparesis. After initial testing to identify disturbances of transit, more detailed testing with intraluminal techniques (i.e., antro-pyloroduodeno-jejunal manometry) may be useful for characterizing motor dysfunctions and guiding therapy (16). Autonomic function tests are useful for identifying autonomic dysfunctions (e.g., vagal neuropathy) that are associated with gastroparesis. Reduced variability of the cardiac RR interval provides a simple screening assessment of vagal dysfunction (46).

**Management.** The principles of gastroparesis management are to address fluid and nutritional requirements, improve glycemic control, and treat symptoms. These measures have been summarized in guidelines (47).

### Diarrhea

**Definition.** Diabetic diarrhea is defined by loose and frequent stools, generally more than three bowel movements daily in patients with diabetes.

**Epidemiology.** Some, but not all, population-based studies, which have been exclusively based on type 2 diabetes (4,5) or combined both patients with type 1 diabetes and type 2 diabetes (8), reported a higher prevalence of diarrhea in patients with diabetes than in nondiabetic controls (Table 27.1). For example, in a sample of 423 patients with predominantly (95%) type 2 diabetes, 15.6% reported diarrhea or constipation versus 10% of nondiabetic controls (4). A systematic review of all English-language observational studies and trials from inception through April 2010 highlighted the known link between metformin and diarrhea (48). For example, among 5,021 participants in

five randomized controlled trials, the incidence of diarrhea was higher for subjects treated with metformin (15%–24%) than for those treated with thiazolidinediones (3%–8%) (48). Likewise, the incidence was higher for metformin (2.5%–50%) than for sulfonylureas (0%–13%) treatment (48). No systematic assessments have been conducted of the clinical features, risk factors, or natural history of diabetic diarrhea.

**Diagnostic Tests.** If diarrhea cannot be attributed to metformin or ingestion of incompletely absorbed carbohydrates, further assessment should be considered, particularly in type 1 diabetes. Drugs used in diabetes may also result in diarrhea (49). The association between type 1 diabetes and CD is considered separately in this chapter. A 24-hour stool collection to quantify stool weight and fat content should be performed to identify fat malabsorption. While CD and bacterial overgrowth can cause malabsorption, testing for these conditions should be considered even when stool examination does not reveal malabsorption. A duodenal aspirate to assess for bacterial overgrowth and duodenal biopsies to exclude CD can be obtained at upper GI endoscopy. While lactulose or glucose hydrogen breath tests are widely used to identify bacterial overgrowth, their use is limited, since rapid delivery of the substrate to the colon can also give rise to an early breath hydrogen peak (50).

**Management.** Diabetic diarrhea is treated symptomatically with loperamide, preferably administered 30 minutes before meals, in the dose range of 2–16 mg per day. Consumption of artificial sweeteners that contain the osmotically active sugar substitute sorbitol should be reduced. Second line approaches are clonidine, 0.1 mg orally (51) or by patch in patients who do not experience significant postural hypotension. Amitriptyline, which has anticholinergic effects, may reduce intestinal cramping and transit. Octreotide (25–50  $\mu\text{g}$  subcutaneously 5–10 minutes before meals) delays small intestinal transit (52) and may also reduce secretory diarrhea associated with rapid intestinal transit

(53). Octreotide may reduce small bowel bacterial overgrowth in chronic intestinal pseudoobstruction (54); however, this study assessed for bacterial overgrowth by breath testing. Indeed, by delaying small intestinal transit, octreotide may predispose to bacterial overgrowth.

### Constipation

**Definition.** Constipation is defined by bowel symptoms: infrequent bowel movements, hard stools, excessive straining during defecation, a sense of anorectal blockage during defecation, the need for anal digitation during defecation, and a sense of incomplete evacuation after defecation (55). Although diarrhea may alternate with constipation, these bowel disturbances usually occur in isolation.

**Pathophysiology.** In general, primary constipation results from colonic motor dysfunction or a defecatory disorder (i.e., disordered rectal evacuation). Similar to idiopathic chronic constipation, patients with diabetes and constipation may have colonic dysmotility and/or anorectal dysfunctions (i.e., impaired relaxation of the anal sphincter or pelvic floor during defecation) (56). Patients with colonic dysmotility have an impaired colonic contractile response to a meal and delayed colonic transit (57). Patients with reduced rectal sensation may not perceive the desire to defecate. Compared to euglycemia, acute hyperglycemia inhibited the colonic contractile response to gastric distention and proximal colonic contraction elicited by colonic distention in healthy subjects (58). However, acute hyperglycemia did not significantly affect fasting or postprandial colonic tone, motility, compliance, and sensation, or rectal compliance and sensation in healthy people (59). Secondary causes of constipation include medications; calcium channel blockers were associated with an increased risk of constipation in a community-based study (8).

**Epidemiology.** The epidemiology of constipation is presented in the section *Gastrointestinal Symptoms: Prevalence and Risk Factors*.

**Diagnostic Tests.** Anorectal manometry and rectal balloon expulsion are initial tests and generally suffice to diagnose or exclude defecatory disorders (60). After excluding or managing defecatory disorders, consideration should be given to evaluating colonic transit by radiopaque markers or by scintigraphy. In one community-based study of 10 patients with diabetes and constipation, three had prolonged 24-hour colonic transit, and three had abnormal evacuation. Overall colonic transit was slower in diabetic patients with constipation than controls (56). Intraluminal assessments of colonic phasic motility (by manometry) and tone (by barostat) are only available in highly specialized centers and provide a refined assessment of colonic motor dysfunction in patients with slow transit constipation.

**Management.** With one exception (i.e., the use of pyridostigmine) (61), these recommendations for managing constipation in diabetes are adapted from recommendations for managing idiopathic constipation; no specific trials have been conducted in diabetic patients with constipation. The pelvic floor disorders are preferably managed with pelvic floor retraining by biofeedback therapy rather than laxatives; magnetic resonance imaging or barium proctography are only required in selected patients (60). Pelvic floor retraining by biofeedback therapy is the cornerstone for managing defecatory disorders; laxatives are used as an adjunct to pelvic floor retraining. In the absence of pelvic floor dysfunction, fiber supplementation and pharmacological agents (i.e., osmotic and stimulant laxatives) are the mainstays for chronic constipation (60,62). The cholinesterase inhibitor pyridostigmine has been shown to accelerate colonic transit and improve symptoms (61).

### OTHER CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS

#### *Dysphagia and Heartburn*

Esophageal dysmotility, typically characterized by impaired peristalsis with simultaneous contractions, may cause dysphagia and may be related to cardiovascular autonomic neuropathy in diabetes (63). Two studies (i.e., from Olmsted County and a Finnish population)

reported that people with type 1 diabetes had a lower prevalence of heartburn (8,9). Case series suggest that gastroesophageal reflux and dysfunctional esophageal peristalsis are correlated to the duration of type 2 diabetes (64). In another study, erosive esophagitis was more prevalent in type 2 diabetic patients with than without peripheral neuropathy (65). Diabetes was also an independent risk factor for Barrett's esophagus in the population. Indeed, type 2 diabetes was associated with a 49% increase in the risk of Barrett's esophagus, independent of other known risk factors, including obesity (odds ratio 1.49, 95% CI 1.16–1.91). This association was stronger in women than men (66). Diabetes may predispose to gastroesophageal reflux either directly or through obesity. Obesity predisposes to gastroesophageal reflux, by disrupting the gastroesophageal junction reflux barrier (67,68,69) and independently via injurious effects of increased abdominal visceral fat (70). Also, delayed GE may conceivably predispose to GE reflux in diabetes.

#### *Fecal Incontinence*

Fecal incontinence refers to uncontrolled leakage of liquid or solid stool in the absence of a temporary diarrheal illness (e.g., acute gastroenteritis). The incidence, prevalence, and risk factors of fecal incontinence in diabetes are unknown. Loose stools and anorectal dysfunctions contribute to fecal incontinence in diabetic diarrhea. Compared to patients with diabetes without fecal incontinence and healthy controls, patients with diabetes and fecal incontinence have a higher threshold for rectal perception of balloon distention (i.e., reduced sensation) (71,72). A sympathetic neuropathy may impair internal anal sphincter functional and anal resting pressures, while a pudendal neuropathy may result in reduced anal squeeze pressure (73,74,75). Reduced rectal sensation has also been reported. Regulating stool consistency is the initial approach for managing fecal continence. In addition, pelvic floor retraining with biofeedback therapy can improve rectal sensation and enhance coordination between perception of rectal distention and contraction of the external anal



sphincter (72). However, biofeedback therapy is less effective in patients with markedly reduced rectal sensation. A descending colostomy may be required and may improve the quality of life in patients with severe diarrhea associated with fecal incontinence.

### Abdominal Pain

Diabetic patients are susceptible to the usual causes of abdominal pain. Diabetes is associated with an increased prevalence of gallstones and of mesenteric ischemia caused by generalized atherosclerosis (76). Thoracolumbar radiculopathy may

result in pain in a dermatome distribution that does not cross the midline. Tests and management are guided by the specific features of pain and associated symptoms.

## ASSOCIATION OF TYPE 1 DIABETES WITH IMMUNE-RELATED GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS

### CELIAC DISEASE IN TYPE 1 DIABETES

This section reviews the association between CD and type 1 diabetes. Much of the CD in persons with type 1 diabetes is minimally or not at all symptomatic. The prevalence of type 1 diabetes in patients with CD is summarized. In addition, data on the impact of the detection and treatment of CD on the management of type 1 diabetes are reviewed. It is important for clinicians, epidemiologists, and others involved in the care and management of patients with type 1 diabetes to recognize the common association with CD.

There are few data on the prevalence of CD or even celiac autoimmunity in patients with latent autoimmune diabetes of adults (LADA) and type 2 diabetes. One very small study identified no increased risk of CD markers in patients with LADA and type 2 diabetes (77). A second smaller study suggested an increase in antigliadin antibodies in patients with LADA compared to type 2 diabetes; however, no significant differences were made with any of the celiac-specific serology of tissue transglutaminase (TTG) immunoglobulin A (IgA) antibodies or endomysial antibodies (78).

#### Definition, Genetics, and Immune Response

CD is primarily an enteropathy that occurs in individuals with a genetic predisposition who are on a gluten-containing diet. The disease usually responds to gluten withdrawal; though, complete resolution is not universal, especially when subjects are detected as adults.

The known genetic predisposition primarily includes the human leukocyte antigen (HLA) type DQ2 or DQ8, encoded

by DQA1\*05XX:DQB1\*02XX or DQA1\*03XX:DQB1\*0302. The HLA genes are considered essential for the disease, but not sufficient. Additionally, other non-HLA genes have been associated with risk for CD, and some of these genes also overlap those associated with type 1 diabetes (Table 27.5). (Please see Chapter 12 *Genetics of Type 1 Diabetes* for more information on genes associated with type 1 diabetes risk.) Each of these gene loci accounts for a very small contribution to the actual risk, and all collected contribute no more than 10% of familial risk of CD. Insufficient data have been collected to identify the precise polymorphisms and their functional consequences associated with these non-HLA markers for CD susceptibility, though incorporation of the non-HLA gene polymorphisms can improve prediction of disease risk (79).

In CD, the immune response to gluten and especially to incompletely digested immunogenetic peptides that are transformed via targeted deamidation of specific glutamines to glutamic acid enable a potent cellular and humoral immune response. The primary drivers of the cellular immune response to gluten that occurs in CD are gluten-responsive CD4 T cells resident in the lamina propria of the intestine. These CD4 cells recognize gliadin peptides and most especially deamidated gliadin peptides when presented by antigen-presenting cells expressing DQ2 or, more rarely, DQ8. This cellular response results in the release of cytokines that drives an inflammatory cascade that produces the lesion characteristic of CD (80). This results in substantial damage to the small intestinal architecture and reduction in absorptive capacity, increased net secretion, and other consequences of inflammation. The humoral response is

characterized by IgA and immunoglobulin G (IgG) antibodies directed against native and deamidated gliadin, as well as IgA antibody to the widely expressed autoantigen TTG. Selective IgA deficiency is substantially more common in CD, and CD is more common in selective IgA deficiency (81). In IgA deficiency, the TTG antibodies are of the IgG isotype. In addition to the adaptive immune response, a potent innate immune response occurs to other protein components of wheat (82). This involves a stress response of the enterocyte, activating CD8 intraepithelial lymphocytes that become cytotoxic in concert with interleukin (IL)-15 (83). In addition, other changes in the mucosa occur, including increased expression of surface transferrin receptor, which also functions as a soluble IgA receptor and may permit transcellular transport of gliadin molecules.

CD has been associated with type 1 diabetes, but not with type 2 diabetes. While some first thought that hidden CD might trigger diabetes, it has since become clear that the association is due to shared genetic and perhaps overlapping environmental triggers (Table 27.5) (84). CD appears to be seen primarily in the DQ2+ subjects and much less so in the DQ8+ patients with type 1 diabetes (85).

Combined, the inflammatory responses in CD result in dramatic alteration of the architecture of the small intestine characterized by mixed cellular infiltration of the lamina propria with lymphocytes, macrophages, eosinophils, plasma cells, leading to crypt hyperplasia and cytotoxic CD8 T cells in the epithelium, producing shortening and eventually flattening of the villi (86). These changes predominately affect a variable length of the proximal

**TABLE 27.5.** Genetic Risk Loci Shared Between Celiac Disease and Type 1 Diabetes

CHROMOSOME	CHROMOSOME POSITION	SNP	GENE(S)	P-VALUE	CELIAC DISEASE ODDS RATIO	RISK ASSOCIATED WITH TYPE 1 DIABETES
<b>Similar risk for type 1 diabetes and celiac disease</b>						
2	204510823	rs4675374	<i>CTLA4</i>	5.79x10 <sup>-9</sup>	1.14	↑
18	12799340	rs1893217	<i>PTPN2</i>	2.52x10 <sup>-10</sup>	1.17	↑
3	46210205	rs130989 / rs644196	<i>CCR1,2,3,5,9</i> <i>CCRL2</i>	3.26x10 <sup>-17</sup>	1.30	↑
6	90983333	rs10806425	<i>BACH2</i>	3.89x10 <sup>-10</sup>	1.13	↑
4	123334952	rs1315196	<i>IL-2</i>	2.18x10 <sup>-27</sup>	0.74	↓
6	32713862	rs2187668	<i>HLA</i>	<1x10 <sup>-50</sup>	Required	↑↑↑
12	111884608	rs3184504	<i>SH2B3</i>	1.33x10 <sup>-7</sup>	1.21	↑
<b>Opposite risk effects</b>						
2	102437000	rs917997	<i>IL18RAP</i> <i>IL18R1</i> <i>IL1RL1</i> <i>IL1RL2</i>	1.11x10 <sup>-15</sup>	1.19	↓
12	110892139	rs653178	<i>SH2B3</i>	7.15x10 <sup>-21</sup>	1.20	↓
1	190803436	rs2816316	<i>RGS1</i>	2.2x10 <sup>-17</sup>	0.80	↑
6	159465977	rs1738074	<i>TAGAP</i>	6.7x10 <sup>-9</sup>	1.21	↓
6	138014761	rs2327832	<i>TNFAIP2</i>	4.46x10 <sup>-19</sup>	1.23	↓

Data were collected from studies in Europe, United States, and United Kingdom. SNP, single nucleotide polymorphism.

SOURCE: References 79, 133, 134, and 135

small intestine (87). This injury increases permeability and impacts absorption, as well as secretion. In addition, the inflammation can result in discomfort, pain, obstruction, ulceration, and even perforation. Beyond the small intestine, manifestations of malabsorption can include metabolic bone disease, iron deficiency, anemia, coagulopathy from vitamin K deficiency, and peripheral neuropathy from vitamin B12, vitamin B6, vitamin E, or copper deficiency. Other systemic manifestations include dermatitis herpetiformis, peripheral neuropathy, male and female infertility, recurrent miscarriages, cerebellar ataxia, and severe cognitive impairment, hyposplenism, predisposition to infection, or predisposition to malignancies. The malignancies include enteropathy-associated lymphoma, small bowel adenocarcinoma, and those outside of the small intestine, including esophageal cancer, melanoma, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and nasopharyngeal carcinoma (88).

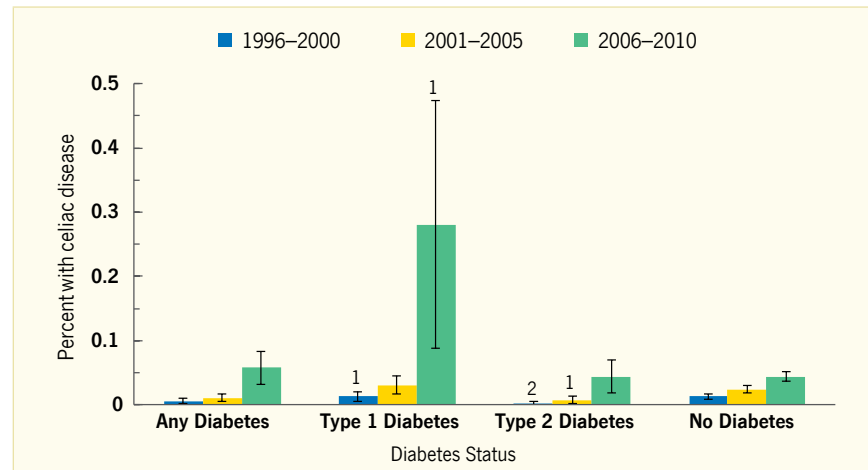
**Epidemiology**

CD affects 0.71% of the U.S. population age ≥6 years (89) and similar or greater numbers in most global locations studied (90). Studies undertaken in the general population, as well as in groups at risk for CD, have demonstrated that CD affects approximately 1% of non-Hispanic whites. Most patients with CD in the United States, as many as 83%–93%, remain undetected (89). The proportion of CD among hospital discharge diagnoses is less than 0.1%, though it is higher—0.28%—in patients who also have a diagnosis of type 1 diabetes (Figure 27.2). This proportion has risen significantly from previous years according to a new analysis of data from the National Hospital Discharge Surveys 1996–2010 performed for *Diabetes in America, 3rd edition* (Figure 27.2). Of note, CD was defined based on International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9), code 579.0, and the standard errors are relatively underestimated because of the complex sampling design of the National Hospital Discharge Survey.

CD is also quite common in patients with family history of CD, affecting 3%–20% of the first-degree relatives (91,92). The risk for family members varies according to the precise relationship to the index case and increases with the number of affected relatives (93). The prevalence of CD is significantly higher in various segments of the population, including patients with type 1 diabetes, but not those with type 2 diabetes. The association between type 1 diabetes and CD has been known for over 50 years, with excellent evidence that CD affects 4%–10% of people with type 1 diabetes. Numerous studies have confirmed this increased prevalence compared with the general population in non-Hispanic white populations (Table 27.6). While much of the data on the prevalence of CD in type 1 diabetes have been collected in non-American populations, several studies support this level of association in the North American population; few of these studies are population-based, with most being derived from referral populations attending academic centers (Table 27.6) (94,95). There are some

exceptions to this high level of association. One small study of type 1 diabetes patients that included African Americans did not find a high frequency of CD (Table 27.6) (96). Many studies have been cross-sectional, based on a single screening test either at the time of diagnosis of diabetes or at some unspecified time point later. A few studies have followed children over time. One such study from Denver had one of the highest cumulative frequencies of TTG (>11%) in a large cohort of nondiabetic high-risk children (97). While a substantial proportion of the CD is detected at the time of diabetes diagnosis, as many as 40% of total cases occur in the years following diagnosis (98). The mean age of diagnosis of CD in children is approximately 10 years, while diagnosis of type 1 diabetes occurs significantly earlier. The likelihood of developing CD may be related to an early age of diagnosis of diabetes (99).

**FIGURE 27.2.** Percent of Hospital Discharges Listing Celiac Disease, by Diabetes Status, U.S., 1996–2010



Celiac disease is defined as International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, code 579.0. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals. Confidence intervals were most likely underestimated because the National Hospital Discharge Survey sampling variables were not available, and consequently, it was not possible to take into account the complex sampling design.

<sup>1</sup> Relative standard error 30%–40%

<sup>2</sup> Relative standard error 40%–50%

SOURCE: National Hospital Discharge Surveys 1996–2010

**TABLE 27.6.** Epidemiologic Studies of Celiac Disease in Type 1 Diabetes

LOCATION, YEARS (REF.)	STUDY POPULATION	NUMBER IN STUDY	NUMBER AFFECTED
<b>United States</b>			
1980–1990 (136)	Cohort children	211	10 EMA positive, 3/4 biopsy confirmed
NR (137)	Referral population with type 1 diabetes (adults)	185	9 EMA positive, 4/5 biopsy confirmed
1996–1998 (138)	Consecutive cohort children referral	218	17 EMA positive (7.7%), biopsy confirmed 4.6%
1996–1997 (139)	Consecutive cohort of asymptomatic diabetic children	612	5.4% EMA positive 8.2% TTG-IgA positive
1994–2004 (94)	Population-based cohort adults and children	158	11 biopsy confirmed CD (7%)
NR (96)	Cohort African American children, New York	34	1 TTG-IgA positive, biopsy negative
NR (112)	Asymptomatic diabetic children	58	48 TTG/EMA positive
<b>Canada and Mexico</b>			
Canada, 1995–1997 (140)	Cohort	236	19 EMA positive, 12/17 biopsy proven
Canada, 1998–1999 (141)	Cohort children	233	19 elevated TTG and EMA, 18 biopsy proven (1 clinically diagnosed)
Mexico, NR (142)	Cohort adults with diabetes in Mexico City	84	9 positive for TTG-IgA (10.7%), 5.9% biopsy confirmed
<b>Europe and rest of world</b>			
Switzerland, Germany, 1983–1986 (143)	Children	1,032	17 AGA positive, 2 diagnosed by biopsy
Sweden, 1976–1998 (144)	Community cohort, children	115	6 EMA positive, 2 diagnosed prior
Italy, 1993–1999 (98)	Children	274	15 EMA positive at initial test and 10 more during ongoing follow-up
United Kingdom, 1998–2006 (145)	Cohort children	556	22 TTG/EMA positive
United Kingdom, NR (113)	Referral population, age >16 years with diabetes	1,000	33 TTG/EMA positive
India, 2002–2008 (146)	Consecutive cohort	189	21 TTG-IgA positive and biopsy confirmed 11.1%, 2 diagnosed prior
Libya, 2008 (85)	Consecutive cohort, children	218	24/218 had biopsy-confirmed CD

AGA, anti gliadin antibody; CD, celiac disease; EMA, endomysial antibody; IgA, immunoglobulin A; NR, not reported; TTG, tissue transglutaminase.

SOURCE: References are listed within the table.

CD is more common in family members of people who have type 1 diabetes than in the general population (Table 27.7).

**Risk of Type 1 Diabetes in Patients With a Diagnosis of Celiac Disease.**

As alluded to above, epidemiologic studies suggest that patients who already have a diagnosis of CD may be at increased risk of subsequently developing type 1 diabetes. One particularly large study from Sweden, which followed more than 9,000 children with a diagnosis of CD, found that risk of subsequent

type 1 diabetes before these children attained the age of 20 years was more than doubled compared to those without diagnosed CD. The same patients were also at increased risk of ketoacidosis or diabetic coma. This suggests that families of patients diagnosed with CD earlier in childhood need to be aware of a potential risk of type 1 diabetes or at least be aware of how it can present. However, the absolute risk of developing type 1 diabetes is not high (Table 27.8) (100).

**Prevention**

There are no specific data on the prevention of CD in patients with type 1 diabetes. Rather, a broader focus on prevention of CD has recently demonstrated that delaying the timing of first gluten in the diet from 6 months to 12 months in an infant diet does not impact the likelihood of development of CD (101). It may delay its onset, but by 5 years, both groups have attained a similar prevalence of CD. A second study, also in infants, examined whether introducing gluten in small quantities overlapping with breastfeeding would reduce the likelihood of childhood CD (102). Not only was this not successful, but there may even have been a slight increase in infant CD in girls.

Both studies did not identify any protective effect of breastfeeding on the occurrence of CD in those genetically at risk for the disease; however, these studies do not address whether CD can be prevented in diabetes.

**Diagnosis**

CD primarily damages the small intestine, and while classically this results in symptoms or signs of malabsorption (e.g., diarrhea, steatorrhea, weight loss, failure to thrive, multiple vitamin/mineral deficiencies), it often produces much more subtle GI symptoms due to the altered handling of secretions, producing diarrhea, inflammation that produces pain, rarely obstruction/perforation, and pancreatitis. First presentation

**TABLE 27.7.** Frequency of Celiac Disease Among Family Members of Those With Type 1 Diabetes

LOCATION, YEARS (REF.)	STUDY POPULATION	SCREEN POSITIVE PARTICIPANTS (%)	KEY FINDINGS
Germany, NR (147)	Children of patients with type 1 diabetes	32/913 (3.5%)	Prevalence increased with age
Germany, NR (148)	First-degree relatives (485 parents; 382 siblings; 15 children) of type 1 diabetes patients	28/882 (3.2%)	Not increased compared with controls
United States, 1996–1997 (139)	Asymptomatic relatives of diabetic children (n=577)	15/577	2.6% EMA positive
United States, 1996–1997 (139)	Asymptomatic relatives of diabetic children (668 children and 312 adults)	33/980	3.4% TTG-IgA positive
Germany, NR (149)	Children of patients with type 1 diabetes	63/1,511 children (4.3%)	Based on seropositivity by age 8 years; associated with DR3, low birth weight infants

DR3 is defined by the carriage of the HLA DRB1\*03 genotype. EMA, endomysial antibody; NR, not reported; TTG-IgA, tissue transglutaminase immunoglobulin A.

SOURCE: References are listed within the table.

**TABLE 27.8.** Risk of Subsequent Type 1 Diabetes Before Age 20 Years in Relation to Celiac Disease

CHARACTERISTICS	NUMBER OF PATIENTS STUDIED	TYPE 1 DIABETES			KETOACIDOSIS OR DIABETIC COMA		
		Events	Hazard Ratio (95% CI)	P-Value	Events	Hazard Ratio (95% CI)	P-Value
No celiac disease	45,680	199	1.0		45	1.0	
Any celiac disease	9,243	96	2.4 (1.9–3.0)	<0.001	22	2.3 (1.4–3.9)	0.001
Age at first recorded celiac disease diagnosis (years)							
0–2	7,090	77	2.2 (1.7–2.9)	<0.001	19	2.3 (1.3–3.9)	0.004
3–20	2,153	19	3.4 (1.9–6.1)	<0.001	3	2.9 (0.7–12.2)	0.143
Sex							
Male	3,889	37	1.9 (1.3–2.9)	0.001	8	1.5 (0.7–3.4)	0.301
Female	5,354	59	2.7 (2.0–3.8)	<0.001	14	3.3 (1.7–6.6)	0.001

Events refers to the number of positive events before end of follow-up (diagnosis of type 1 diabetes or ketoacidosis/diabetic coma). Estimates derived from Cox regression internally stratified for sex, age, year of study entry, and county of residence (e.g., children with celiac disease diagnosed before age 3 years were at 2.2-fold increased risk of developing subsequently type 1 diabetes before age 20 years). CI, confidence interval.

SOURCE: Reference 100, copyright © 2006 American Diabetes Association, reprinted with permission from The American Diabetes Association

may be with consequences seemingly far removed from the GI tract, such as neuropathy, ataxia, cognitive impairment, bone disease, arthralgias, skin lesions—classically, dermatitis herpetiformis—and mouth ulcers (Table 27.9) (81).

CD is usually detected by testing for IgA antibodies directed against TTG. Many serum testing strategies for CD include a measurement of total IgA. If IgA is found to be deficient, then IgG antibodies are sought. IgA deficiency occurs in 5% of patients with CD (81). The diagnosis is confirmed by obtaining biopsies from the proximal small intestine, usually accomplished by upper endoscopy. Typically, four biopsies are obtained from the second part of the duodenum and two biopsies from the duodenal bulb (103). The diagnosis is made on a combination of serologic testing, biopsy, and response to a gluten-free diet (GFD). There is much controversy regarding avoidance of biopsy for the diagnosis of CD. The European Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition has advocated that in cases of a high positive serology (i.e., TTG IgA more than 10 times the upper limit of normal), CD could be confirmed if a separate blood sample provides a positive endomysial antibody and carriage of the appropriate at-risk HLA susceptibility genotype, as well as a response of symptoms to a GFD. Intestinal biopsies, while still recommended for the confirmation of CD, are subject to sampling and interpretation error. Documenting a response to a GFD by histologic improvement is not often performed and is considered unnecessary to confirm the initial diagnosis. However, some practitioners will routinely rebiopsy an adult with CD to ensure that healing is occurring.

In type 1 diabetes, as in other circumstances, a positive TTG antibody test alone is not sufficient to confirm CD. Indeed, those with low-level positives may revert to negative despite remaining on a gluten-containing diet (104). There is insufficient evidence to support starting a GFD in patients with even sequentially positive TTG antibodies, though persistently

high titer TTG is a strong predictor of CD (105). The positive predictive value varies substantially. HLA type is unlikely to be helpful in that a large proportion of patients with type 1 diabetes will carry the same HLA susceptibility for CD; though, it should be noted that 50% of type 1 diabetes patients do not carry DQ2, and their risk of CD is 10 times lower than those with at least one copy of the high-risk haplotype. The need for biopsy confirmation of the diagnosis of CD is especially important in those without symptoms of CD (106).

### Management

The treatment of CD requires a GFD—the avoidance of wheat, barley, and rye. Occasionally, patients are also sensitive to oats, though they are the exception.

Once CD is detected, treatment is justified in all patients given the increased risk of long-term complications (107). Symptomatic patients will respond to a GFD (Table 27.10). Even patients who do not report any symptoms at the time of diagnosis can subsequently report benefit with the GFD (108). In those with type 1 diabetes, CD is often discovered as part of a screening program and may have few symptoms. The treatment with a GFD presents special challenges to add to the disease management burden of type 1 diabetes. The reported compliance with GFD varies but is less than perfect (Table 27.11) (109). While virtually none of these studies are from the United States, differences in community support and the recent popularity of the GFD may make treatment easier to achieve.

**TABLE 27.9.** Manifestations of Celiac Disease

1.	Classic malabsorption: diarrhea, steatorrhea, weight loss, fat soluble vitamin deficiencies (D, E, A, and K), deficiencies of iron, B12, zinc, and copper
2.	Monosymptomatic gastrointestinal presentations: anemia, diarrhea, constipation, lactose intolerance, and vomiting
3.	Rare gastrointestinal manifestations: intestinal lymphoma, adenocarcinoma of the small intestine, intussusception, perforation, obstruction
4.	Extraintestinal manifestations: peripheral neuropathy, ataxia, cognitive impairment, oral ulcers, dermatitis herpetiformis, osteomalacia, premature osteoporosis, short stature, brittle type 1 diabetes, delayed menarche

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**TABLE 27.10.** Symptoms of Celiac Disease in Children With Type 1 Diabetes

LOCATION, YEARS (REF.)	NUMBER OF PATIENTS STUDIED	SYMPTOMS AT DIAGNOSIS (%)	EFFECT OF GFD ON SYMPTOMS
Finland, NR (150)	18	95	Improved
Germany, 1994–1999 (151)	9	33	Improved
Denmark, 1997–2003 (152)	28	85	Improved
United Kingdom, 1998–2006 (145)	22	76	Improved
Israel, 1983–2008 (153)	68	26	Not provided

Symptoms of celiac disease include diarrhea, bloating, abdominal pain, and weight loss. GFD, gluten-free diet; NR, not reported.

SOURCE: References are listed within the table.

**TABLE 27.11.** Adherence to the Gluten-Free Diet in Pediatric Patients With Type 1 Diabetes

LOCATION, YEARS (REF.)	NUMBER OF PATIENTS STUDIED	ADHERENCE (%)
United Kingdom, 1994–1996 (154)	7	100
Australia, NR (155)	20	30
Italy, 2005 (156)	21	80
Australia, 1989–1999 (157)	52	60

NR, not reported.

SOURCE: Reference 109 and references listed within the table



**Effect of Gluten-Free Diet on Growth and Nutritional Status**

In general, studies showed some improvement in body mass index or weight in patients treated with GFD, but there is quite variable response of symptoms and effect on quality of life in patients adopting the GFD (Table 27.12). No substantial benefit on quality of life was noted as a result of the double diagnosis, though it was a source of additional concern for parents of doubly affected children (110). Some data on so-called asymptomatic patients were reported by Paavola *et al.*, but this study was not specific for type 1 diabetes patients (111). While it is well accepted that CD is associated with diminished bone health in both adults and children, there are relatively few data in those with type 1 diabetes. A single study has suggested that the diminished bone density found at the time of detection of CD improves with a GFD (112).

**Effect of Gluten-Free Diet on Diabetes Control and Complications**

It has been suggested that a GFD may have subtle consequences on glycosylated hemoglobin (A1c) and increased total insulin dose needed. This may be due to improved carbohydrate digestion and absorption. The impact on A1c has either been no effect or a beneficial effect (Table 27.13). Studies have usually compared patients before and after institution of a GFD.

The risk of vascular complications may be greater in patients with CD, though it is not yet known whether the detection and treatment of CD in these doubly affected patients impact the likelihood of development of vascular disease (84,113,114). One small study of 21 patients by Malalasekera *et al.* (115) demonstrated that institution of a GFD led to reduction in urinary microalbuminuria. A very small study of 19 subjects by Skovbjerg *et al.* (116) suggested that CD was more common in patients with nephropathy compared to those diabetic

individuals without nephropathy. One paper suggested lower values of cholesterol and triglycerides in the patients with CD and type 1 diabetes compared to those with type 1 diabetes alone (117). Further studies on the role of CD with type 1 diabetes in vascular risk factors are needed.

**Role of Gluten in Triggering Diabetes**

Two-thirds of prospective cohort studies have suggested that early cereal introduction at age 3 months or earlier is associated with increased risk of islet cell autoimmunity in newborns (118,119). However, the BABYDIET trial showed that delaying gluten introduction until age 12 months in those at risk of type 1 diabetes does not appear to protect from the development of diabetes-related autoimmunity or diabetes itself (118).

**INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASES**

Inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) are immune-based disorders affecting the small and large intestine. IBD incorporates both Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis.

**TABLE 27.12.** Impact of Gluten-Free Diet for Celiac Disease Detected in Patients With Type 1 Diabetes

LOCATION, YEARS (REF.)	STUDY POPULATION	NUMBER FOLLOWED	KEY FINDINGS	COMPLIANCE
<b>North America</b>				
United States, started in 1998 (158) and 1999 (105)	Cohort children	71	Low BMI, lower BMD, ferritin, and vitamin D over time. No effect of delay in GFD.	
United States, NR (112)	Asymptomatic diabetic children	11	Improvement in A1c after GFD; also bone mineral density	
Canada, 2009–2010 (110)	Cohort children	28	No effect on quality of life, increased worry in parents	
<b>Europe and rest of world</b>				
Austria, 1996; Czech Republic, 1996; Hungary, 1996; Portugal, 1998; Netherlands, 1997; Slovakia, 1995; Slovenia, 1996 (159)	Cohort children	98	No difference at baseline, less weight gain in CD boys	
United Kingdom, 1998–2006 (145)	Cohort children	22	13/17 had gastrointestinal symptoms at time of detection, much more than CD-negative diabetes; improved BMI and weight in GFD compliant.	57.1% compliant
United Kingdom, NR (113)	Referral population; age >16 years with diabetes	33	Positive patients had more vascular complications than negative patients; also, compliant patients reduced A1c and nephropathy.	
United Kingdom, 1994–1998 (160)	Cohort of screen-found CD in children	11	Lower BMI, SDS, and A1c in CD-positive; improved A1c and BMD	
Germany, 1994–1999 (151)	Cohort children	9	Increase in height and improvement in A1c	

All surveys used mailed questionnaires. A1c, glycosylated hemoglobin; BMD, bone mineral density; BMI, body mass index (kg/m<sup>2</sup>); CD, celiac disease; GFD, gluten-free diet; NR, not reported; SDS, standard deviation scores.

SOURCE: References are listed within the table.

**TABLE 27.13.** Growth and Glycemic Control in Patients With Type 1 Diabetes With Treatment of Celiac Disease

LOCATION, YEARS (REF.)	NUMBER OF PATIENTS STUDIED	GROWTH AT DIAGNOSIS OF CD		EFFECT OF GFD ON GROWTH		GLYCEMIC CONTROL (A1C)	
		Weight	Height	Weight	Height	At Diagnosis	On a GFD
Finland, 1994–1999 (150)	18	↓	→	↑	→	→	→
Germany, Austria, 1985–2002 (161)	127	↓	↓	→	→	↓	→
Australia, 1989–1999 (156)	21	↓	↓	↑	→	-----	→
Denmark, 1997, 2002–2003 (152)	28	↓	↓	↑	↑	→	→
United States, NR (112)	30	↓	→	↑	↑	-----	-----
United Kingdom, 1998–2006 (145)	22	→	-----	↑	→	-----	-----
Austria, Germany, 1995–2009 (162)	183	↓	↓	→	→	→	→
Israel, 1983–2008 (153)	68	→	→	→	→	→	→
Germany, 1994–1999 (151)	9	→	→	→	↑	→	→
Australia, 1990–2010 (163)	129	-----	-----	-----	-----	↓	↓*

↓, decreased; →, no change; ↑, increased; -----, no data; A1c, glycosylated hemoglobin; CD, celiac disease; GFD, gluten-free diet; NR, not reported.

\* Compared to those nonadherent to a GFD.

SOURCE: References are listed within the table.

These conditions are associated with inflammatory injury of usually the distal small intestine and/or colon. Ulcerative colitis only affects the large intestine. IBD and type 1 diabetes share some genetic predispositions (120). Despite that, there is only a weak positive association between ulcerative colitis and type 1 diabetes, and in particular, this is seen for pediatric IBD. The odds ratio for diabetes in pediatric-onset IBD is 2.7 (95% CI 1.1–6.6) (121). In two larger datasets, the IMS Health Integrated Queens Database and the Market Scan Commercial Claims and Encounters Database, no association was seen between IBD and type 1 diabetes (122). A secondary association was reported from the Multigeneration Registry Study in Sweden showing that the risk of type 1 diabetes was increased modestly in offspring of parents with ulcerative colitis with a standardized incidence ratio of 1.23, though this was less than that of CD at 2.73 (123).

The treatment, especially for ulcerative colitis, often is based on the use of corticosteroids. Studies that report the development of diabetes in patients with ulcerative colitis generally have little data measuring the actual risk. While it is well recognized that the chronic use of corticosteroids substantially increases the risk of diabetes, there are relatively few case-control studies and very few data for patients with IBD. In one case-control

series of 55 adult patients with active Crohn's disease, treatment with systemic corticosteroids substantially increased the risk of hyperglycemia (124), though the confidence intervals overlapped 1.0. There are very few data regarding the risk of diabetes in patients with IBD treated with corticosteroids.

#### AUTOIMMUNE GASTRITIS

Autoimmune gastritis can also be associated with type 1 diabetes because of a common genetic background or tendency to autoimmunity (125,126). Autoimmune gastritis is a T cell-mediated disease marked by the presence of autoantibodies directed against the H<sup>+</sup>/K<sup>+</sup> ATPase in the parietal cells of the stomach. This tissue-specific autoimmunity can result in reduction of acid production in the stomach, hypochlorhydria, and iron deficiency. The gastric mucosa can become atrophic. Consequent to the loss of ability of the parietal cells to produce acid, the neuroendocrine cells of the stomach reduce the negative regulation that is exerted by the acid pH via somatostatin, thereby leading to unrestrained gastrin secretion. Hypergastrinemia may be seen in 7% of patients with type 1 diabetes (127). Vitamin B12 deficiency is uncommon, though it can occur in patients with markers for pernicious anemia (127).

This hypersecretion of gastrin leads to hypertrophy of enterochromaffin cells in the stomach, which in turn can lead to carcinoid development (128). The loss of parietal cell mass leads to reduced digestive acid that is needed for effective cleavage of vitamin B12 from food sources and also reduces intrinsic factor production. Both lead to vitamin B12 deficiency (i.e., pernicious anemia) (125). The acid-producing cells of the stomach also produce pepsinogen, which is activated by low pH to aid in digestion.

#### Diagnosis

Atrophic gastritis can be detected by the identification of parietal cell antibodies (PCAs) or, more recently, the ATP4A autoantibody (129) in the serum, low serum pepsinogen I, the demonstration of atrophy of the gastric body mucosa on endoscopic biopsies, and often by very high levels of gastrin in the fasting state. Autoantibodies may exist long before the results of loss of parietal cell mass and function become apparent in the form of iron and vitamin B12 deficiency. While noninvasive tests may suggest atrophic gastritis, biopsies are needed for confirmation and to distinguish from other forms of gastritis. Other consequences, such as small intestinal bacteria overgrowth and calcium malabsorption, may also occur.

**Autoimmune Gastritis in Type 1 Diabetes**

Several cross-sectional studies have documented a three to five times increased prevalence of autoimmune gastritis in patients with type 1 diabetes compared with healthy controls from the general population (Table 27.14). Much less data are available on the natural history of autoimmune gastritis in type 1 diabetes (127), however, suggesting that many patients with PCA may not progress to parietal cell organ failure. Pernicious anemia, the classic endpoint of autoimmune gastritis, may take years or decades to become evident.

Duration of diabetes, independent of age, does not appear to be associated with likelihood of atrophic gastritis. Females have somewhat greater risk than males, though studies do not always agree. African Americans seem to be equally likely to have PCA as whites (130).

**TABLE 27.14.** Epidemiologic Studies of Autoimmune Gastritis in Type 1 Diabetes

LOCATION, YEARS (REF.)	STUDY POPULATION	NUMBER IN STUDY	PARIETAL CELL ANTIBODY	KEY FINDINGS
<b>United States</b>				
NR (164)	Referral population with type 1 diabetes (age 2–30 years)	771	9% PCA positive, F>M	6/11 PCA positive had achlorhydria
NR (165)	Cohort children	211	10 PCA positive, 3/4 biopsied	
NR (130)	Consecutive cohort children and adults	1,696	186 PCA positive (11%)	Equal in blacks; slight female predominance
<b>Europe and rest of world</b>				
Finland, NR (166)	Referral population, diabetic children	147	8 PCA positive	Hypochlorhydria
Belgium, 1998–2000 (126)	Community cohort, adults	229	69 PCA positive	Associated with <i>H. pylori</i> , HLA, hypergastrinemia, iron deficient anemia
United Kingdom, NR (167)	Children and adults	366	48 PCA positive	Mixed group
Spain, 2001–2006 (127)	Cohort adults	168	44 PCA positive	11 also had low PI, 96% DQ2

DQ2 is defined by the carriage of the gene pair DQA1:05.DQB1:02. HLA, human leukocyte antigen; NR, not reported; PCA, parietal cell antibody; PI, pepsinogen I.

SOURCE: References are listed within the table.

**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

A1c . . . . . glycosylated hemoglobin	HR . . . . . hazard ratio
CD . . . . . celiac disease	IBD . . . . . inflammatory bowel disease
CI . . . . . confidence interval	IDR . . . . . incident death rate
GE . . . . . gastric emptying	IgA . . . . . immunoglobulin A
GEBT . . . . . gastric emptying breath tests	IgG . . . . . immunoglobulin G
GFD . . . . . gluten-free diet	LADA . . . . . latent autoimmune diabetes of adults
GI . . . . . gastrointestinal	PCA . . . . . parietal cell antibody
HLA . . . . . human leukocyte antigen	TTG . . . . . tissue transglutaminase

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS/ FUNDING**

Dr. Bharucha was supported by a grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (DK068055). Dr. Murray was supported by a grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (DK057892).

**CONVERSIONS**

Conversions for glucose values are provided in *Diabetes in America Appendix 1 Conversions*.

**DUALITY OF INTEREST**

Drs. Bharucha, Locke, and Murray reported no conflicts of interest.

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