Letters to the Editor

Histological criteria for childhood coeliac disease

I am writing to confirm the findings by Dr MN Marsh on high mitotic indices in small intestinal mucosal biopsy of patients with gluten-sensitive enteropathy.

I would like to emphasise that in our series a high mitotic index has been one of the most useful pointers in differentiating coeliac disease from other causes of "flat mucosa," including that of cow's milk intolerance. The three important morphological criteria used by us in childhood coeliac disease are as follows: (a) a flat mucosa with elongated crypts (the latter is absent in most cases of cow's milk intolerance), giving the mucosa an appearance of a normal or occasionally increased thickness (> 550 μm); (b) infiltration of the surface enterocytes by an increased number of lymphocytes (emperipolesis) and a mitotic index of the lymphocytes of greater than 0.3%; (c) abnormal fat absorption pattern, characterised by accumulation of fat blobs in the supranuclear spaces of the surface enterocytes, which is easily detected by any special fat stain.

F RAAFAT
Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children,
Hackney Road,
London E2 8PS

Reference


The in vitro responses of Bacteroides fragilis to Moxalactam, Cefotaxime, Cefmetazole, Josamycin and erythromycin

Although the sensitivity of Bacteroides fragilis to Moxalactam, Cefotaxime, Cefmetazol....

Technical method

Requests for reprints to: Dr GWH Stamp, Department of Pathology, University of Liverpool, Duncan Building, Royal Liverpool Hospital, Prescot Street, Merseyside L69 3BX, England.