gluten sensitivity compared with those with celiac disease ($P < .001$). Antigliadin antibody IgA was detected in 1 child with gluten sensitivity and in 11 children with celiac disease ($P < .001$). HLA-DQ2 was present in all children with celiac disease and in 7 (46%) of the 15 children with gluten sensitivity. Results of small bowel biopsies of gluten-sensitive children revealed 9 (82%) of 11 had normal mucosa, and 2 (18%) of 11 had Marsh stage 1 mucosa (increased intraepithelial lymphocytes).

CONCLUSIONS. Children with gluten sensitivity lack reliable serologic or genetic markers of the disease, as is the case in adults with gluten sensitivity. However, similar to previous observations in adult gluten-sensitive patients, this study found that native antigliadin antibody IgG positivity and presence of HLA-DQ2 are more common in children with gluten sensitivity compared with control subjects.

REVIEWER COMMENTS. Antigliadin antibodies are commonly present in any patient with a disrupted gastrointestinal barrier, and they have actually fallen out of favor in the diagnosis of celiac disease. Thus, antigliadin antibody IgG positivity in nonceliac gluten-sensitive patients should be considered with caution. No biomarker for gluten sensitivity exists, and gluten sensitivity remains a clinical diagnosis. Other studies suggest that fermentable, oligo-, di, monosaccharides and polyols (FODMAPs) may be the symptom-inducing components of wheat, and not gluten itself. Carefully crafted prospective, double-blind studies are needed to further characterize gluten sensitivity and to clarify whether FODMAPs are involved.

Fructose Intolerance/Malabsorption and Recurrent Abdominal Pain in Children


PURPOSE OF THE STUDY. The goal of this study was to determine the incidence of fructose malabsorption in children who present with chronic or recurrent abdominal pain and whether a low-fructose diet improves their symptoms.

STUDY POPULATION. Study participants were recruited after retrospective chart review of consecutive patients from 2007 to 2009 without a specific etiology identified for chronic abdominal pain. A total of 222 children ages 2 to 19 years (64% female) who had been evaluated by a pediatric gastroenterologist for persistent abdominal pain completed the study.

METHODS. All enrolled participants underwent a breath hydrogen test (BHT) after a fructose ingestion dose of 1 g/kg (maximum: 25 g). A breath hydrogen value of ≥20 ppm from baseline was considered positive for fructose malabsorption. These participants, with the aid of a dietitian, underwent a low-fructose diet with subjective follow-up assessment of clinical symptoms.

RESULTS. A total of 121 (55%) of 222 participants had a positive fructose BHT result. All 121 participants completed a 2-month low-fructose diet, with 77% ($P < .0001$) experiencing clinical improvement. Fifty-four percent of the fructose-negative BHT participants reported resolution of symptoms without a low-fructose diet although this finding did not reach statistical significance ($P = .37$).

CONCLUSIONS. Not only is fructose malabsorption a common underlying etiology for pediatric functional abdominal pain, but intervention with a low-fructose diet is highly successful.

REVIEWER COMMENTS. The approach to evaluate an “adverse food reaction” should be to determine whether it is immune or nonimmune mediated. Although the history for fructose malabsorption will undoubtedly be inconsistent for an IgE-mediated anaphylaxis food reaction, the labeling of a patient with “functional abdominal pain” is equally unsatisfying for the family. Of note, many of the “high-fructose” foods are also the same foods causing oral allergy syndrome, an IgE-mediated process occurring after ingestion of raw fruits that share similar proteins to pollen allergens. Although a fructose BHT may not be readily available, this article provides an excellent fructose food avoidance table that should be considered a valuable resource for both pediatricians and allergists who are evaluating children with adverse food reactions resulting in abdominal pain or underlying chronic functional abdominal pain.

Challenge-Proven Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug Hypersensitivity in Children


PURPOSE OF THE STUDY. The goal of this study was to determine the frequency of true nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drug hypersensitivity (NSAID-H) and whether there were any factors in the history that could predict NSAID-H in children.

STUDY POPULATION. The study population included 58 children, aged 4 months through 17.8 years, with suspected NSAID-H based on a history of acute reactions, including urticaria/angioedema, bronchospasm, laryngeal edema,