**Association between celiac disease and cancer**

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**Background**

Celiac disease (CD) is a common food‑related disorder with a prevalence of ~1% worldwide. Failure to follow the only available treatment, a standard gluten‑free diet (GFD), increases the risk of adverse outcomes, such as cancer.

Our aim was to estimate the prevalence of malignancy in a cohort of patients with CD and to study its clinical features and evolution.

**Methods**

We carried out a retrospective study including patients with CD seen between 1993 and 2021. Cases complicated with cancer were included. Clinical Characteritics and outcomes of these patients were collected.

**Results**

Five of 104 CD patients had a diagnosis of cancer representing a prevalence of 4%. They were three women and two men, with an average age of 38.2 years. CD was diagnosed in childhood in 60% of cases. Delayed diagnosis of CD was found for all patients. Cases of cancer were: duodenal adenocarcinoma (n=1), breast cancer (n=2), gastric Malt lymphoma (n=1) and Hodgkin lymphoma (n=1). The mean time between diagnosis of CD and cancer was 8.2 years. In the cases of duodenal adenocarcinoma and Malt lymphoma, the diagnosis of CD and the cancer were simulatneous. The other patients had already been diagnosed with CD and were all non-compliant to the GFD. All patients were treated with chemotherapy in addition to surgery for breast cancer and duodenal adenocarcinoma cases. In our cohort, cancer-related mortality was 1.9%.

**Conclusion**

Malignancy in CD is relatively frequent and seem to be precipitated by delayed diagnosis and non-adherence to GFD, hence the importance of early diagnosis and compliance to GFD.