

spare the child from costly, invasive techniques.

Patients & Methods

A total of 93 consecutive cases, with malabsorption, presenting with different complaints: chronic diarrhea, chronic abdominal pain, abdominal bloating, anemia, growth retardation....etc, were evaluated for having celiac disease. Their ages ranged from 1- 18years. All those patients were referred to the Iraqi center for gastrointestinal diseases in Baghdad, during the period from Sept. 2001-Apr 2002. After fulfilling the routine initial clinical and Lab evaluation, they have undergone an endoscopic small intestinal biopsy and serological evaluation for celiac disease.

Biopsies were interpreted histopathologically according to the gluten-sensitivity spectrum described as follows ⁽⁷⁾: Marsh 0: normal, Marsh I: there is intraepithelial lymphocytes (IELs), Marsh II: IELs+ hyperplasia of crypts, Marsh III: influx of inflammatory cells, hyperplasia of crypts and villous atrophy, III A: partial villous atrophy (PVA)-(villous / crypt ratio< 1:1)
III B: subtotal villous atrophy (SVA), villi are clearly atrophic, but separated villi are still recognizable.
III C: total villous atrophy (TVA), villi are rudimentary or absent.

Diagnosis of CD was only been made by demonstration of Marsh III lesion in small intestinal biopsy ⁽⁷⁾.

Serological testing included:

- Enzyme immunoassay kit for detection of human anti-tissue transglutaminase IgA in serum (Biohit-Finland)

Values <10 AU (arbitrary unit) were regarded -ve, 10-15 weak +ve, >15 +ve.

- Enzyme immunoassay kits for detection of both Anti-gliadin IgG and IgA antibodies in serum (Biohit-Finland)

In<2yr of age: a titer <50 regarded as -ve, 50-100 weak +ve, >100 +ve

- Single radial immunodiffusion test (SAIDT) plates (Sanofi Diagnostic Pasteur, Inc-USA): for measurement of total IgA level in serum.

Analysis between different variables was done using Chi-square test and student T-test. The level of significance was considered when P-value <0.05.

Results

A total of 93 patients with different complaints suggestive of malabsorption were evaluated for the diagnosis of CD (51 males), their ages ranged from 1 yr- 18 yrs. Fifty eight were diagnosed as having celiac disease according to histopathological picture (28 males, male/female ratio:0.93), their ages ranged from 18 mo- 18yrs, with a mean of 9.5yrs.