World Journal of Diabetes

World J Diabetes 2021 November 15; 12(11): 1812-1968





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The WID is now abstracted and indexed in Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE, also known as SciSearch®), Current Contents/Clinical Medicine, Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition, PubMed, and PubMed Central. The 2021 Edition of Journal Citation Reports® cites the 2020 impact factor (IF) for WJD as 3.763; IF without journal self cites: 3.684; 5-year IF: 7.348; Journal Citation Indicator: 0.64 Ranking: 80 among 145 journals in endocrinology and metabolism; and Quartile category: Q3.

RESPONSIBLE EDITORS FOR THIS ISSUE

Production Editor: Lin-YuTong Wang, Production Department Director: Yu-Jie Ma; Editorial Office Director: Jia-Ping Yan.

NAME OF JOURNAL

World Journal of Diabetes

TSSN

ISSN 1948-9358 (online)

LAUNCH DATE

June 15, 2010

FREOUENCY

Monthly

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Lu Cai, Md. Shahidul Islam, Jian-Bo Xiao, Manfredi Rizzo

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

https://www.wignet.com/1948-9358/editorialboard.htm

PUBLICATION DATE

November 15, 2021

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World | Diabetes 2021 November 15; 12(11): 1967-1968

DOI: 10.4239/wjd.v12.i11.1967 ISSN 1948-9358 (online)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letter to editor 'Gastroenteropathy in gastric cancer patients concurrent with diabetes mellitus'

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Author contributions: All authors wrote and edited the manuscript.

Conflict-of-interest statement: The authors declare they have no conflicts of interest.

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Provenance and peer review:

Invited article; Externally peer reviewed

Specialty type: Endocrinology and metabolism

Country/Territory of origin: China

Peer-review report's scientific

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Abstract

The present letter to the editor is related to the study titled "Diabetic gastroenteropathy: An underdiagnosed complication". Diabetic gastroenteropathy contributes to a decline in quality of life. In addition, gastroenteropathy is generally observed in patients with concurrent gastric cancer and diabetes mellitus before surgery, and the occurrence of the symptoms might be due not only to cancer but also to the complications of diabetes mellitus.

Key Words: Gastric cancer; Gastroenteropathy; Diabetes mellitus; Letter to the Editor; Commentary

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Core Tip: This letter to the editor serves to analyze the relationship among gastric cancer, diabetes mellitus (DM), and gastroenteropathy, and the occurrence of the symptoms might be due not only to cancer but also to the complications of DM. In our clinical center, some of the symptoms of gastroenteropathy were in remission after gastrectomy. The reason might be radical resection of the malignant tumor. Another reason we hypothesized was DM remission after gastrectomy.

Citation: Cheng YX, Tao W, Zhang W, Peng D. Letter to editor 'Gastroenteropathy in gastric cancer patients concurrent with diabetes mellitus'. World J Diabetes 2021; 12(11): 1967-1968

URL: https://www.wjgnet.com/1948-9358/full/v12/i11/1967.htm

DOI: https://dx.doi.org/10.4239/wjd.v12.i11.1967

quality classification

Grade A (Excellent): 0 Grade B (Very good): 0 Grade C (Good): C Grade D (Fair): 0 Grade E (Poor): E

Received: June 11, 2021

Peer-review started: June 11, 2021 First decision: July 15, 2021

Revised: July 24, 2021 Accepted: September 30, 2021 Article in press: September 30, 2021 Published online: November 15,

2021

P-Reviewer: Hasan B, Kawabata H

S-Editor: Fan JR L-Editor: Filipodia P-Editor: Fan JR



TO THE EDITOR

We read the review by Concepción Zavaleta et al[1] titled of "Diabetic gastroenteropathy: An underdiagnosed complication" with great interest[1]. This review systematically concluded that the pathophysiology and management of diabetic gastroenteropathy were poorly performed in patients with diabetes mellitus (DM). Although the diagnosis was not exactly accurate, after consultation and discussion in a multidisciplinary manner with experts, the core of treatment in diabetic gastroenteropathy was to delay the disease process and to restore gastrointestinal function, with blood glucose controlled by nutrition management.

We agree with the opinion in this review. It was similarly reported by previous studies that gastrointestinal discomfort in DM patients, especially gastroparesis, was associated with factors including hyperglycemia, vagal dysfunction, Cajal interstitial cells, and oxidative stress[2,3]. Gastroparesis could significantly contribute to the decline in quality of life, and nutritional status was affected by the discomfort, which included abdominal distension, vomiting, and diarrhea.

In our clinical center, we found that gastroenteropathy was generally observed in patients with concurrent gastric cancer (GC) and DM before surgery, and the occurrence of the symptoms might be due not only to cancer but also to the complications of DM. Fortunately, some of the symptoms of gastroenteropathy were in remission after gastrectomy. The reason, which could be easily estimated, was radical resection of the malignant tumor. Another reason we hypothesized was DM remission after gastrectomy, which was considered to be oncometabolism surgery in previous studies[4]. Since gastroenteropathy is considered one of the complications of DM, with the remission of DM, the symptoms of gastroenteropathy might decrease or disappear.

To our knowledge, no previous studies have analyzed the relationship among GC, DM, and gastroenteropathy. A previous study reported that the patients who underwent gastrectomy with Roux-en-Y construction showed better type 2 DM remission[5], but no study has focused on gastroenteropathy after gastrectomy. Thus, gastroenteropathy in GC patients concurrent with DM should be a focus, and a larger sample size and multicenter randomized controlled trials are needed in future studies.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We acknowledge all the authors whose publications are referred in our article.

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