



Disorder of gastric motility and promoting effect of cisapride in patients with liver diseases

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Abstract

AIM: There are a variety of digestive symptoms such as upper abdominal pain, early satiety, nausea, vomiting and heartburn in patients with cirrhosis or liver cancer. The purpose of the study is to further understand the pathogenic mechanism of above mentioned symptoms.

METHODS: We have studied the liquid gastric emptying in 20 normal volunteers and 50 patients with cirrhosis or liver cancer by B mode ultrasonography and the promoting effect of single dose

cisapride. All subjects drank 500 mL water.

RESULTS: The half gastric emptying time ($T_{1/2}$) was 13.90 ± 4.30 min in normal subjects and 39.36 ± 12.30 min in patients with cirrhosis, 40.50 ± 8.91 min in liver cancer patients. A significantly delayed gastric emptying was found in patients with cirrhosis or liver cancer than in control subjects ($P < 0.01$). The $T_{1/2}$ in patients can be shortened to 24.37 ± 11.37 min 30 min after administration of 10 mg cisapride ($P < 0.05$).

CONCLUSION: The severely delayed gastric emptying in patients with chronic liver diseases is one explanation on the digestive symptoms in the patients and cisapride is very useful for relieving symptoms.

Key words: Gastric motility; Cisapride; Liver diseases

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