
Per oral jejunal biopsy in some gastrointestinal problems in children

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The vast majority of acute diarrhea are of short duration, either because they are self-limiting or because of the appropriate treatment that eradicates the etiologic agents. However, for reasons that are not well understood, diarrheal episodes persist and do not respond to treatment. The interaction of protein energy malnutrition, depressed immunity and infections appears to be another important factor in prolonging small intestinal mucosal injury. Most infants with severe protracted diarrhea have some degree of mucosal injury in their intestinal biopsy specimens. Morphological and functional regeneration of the small intestinal mucosa is impaired owing to protein depletion which results in generalized malabsorption and continued diarrhea. A vicious cycle is created which if not broken by the oral elemental diet or parenteral administration of essential nutrients will quite end in death. There is no doubt that peroral small bowel biopsy is essential in diagnosing food allergy, especially protein sensitive enteropathy. Demonstration of changes in intestinal morphology following challenge may be the only diagnostic clue for diagnosing celiac disease.