

INCIDENTAL SMALL BOWEL LYMPHANGIECTASIA ARE ASSOCIATED WITH LOWER SERUM PROTEIN, ALBUMIN AND TRIGLYCERIDES

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Poster

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Retrospective case-control study of 19 patients with incidental lymphangiectasia on capsule endoscopy found statistically significant reductions in total protein, albumin, and triglycerides compared with 21 matched controls with normal findings.

KEY POINTS

- Patients with incidental lymphangiectasia had mean total protein of 66.9 g/L versus 72.2 g/L in controls ($p=0.00967$), albumin 44.3 g/L versus 46.5 g/L ($p=0.032$), and triglycerides 1.38 mmol/L versus 1.99 mmol/L ($p=0.038$).
- Cholesterol, adjusted calcium, and lymphocyte levels were lower in the lymphangiectasia group but did not reach statistical significance.
- Two patients with widespread lymphatic changes secondary to systemic disease (disseminated mycobacterial infection and end-stage cirrhosis) were excluded from analysis.
- The authors suggest the historical assumption that incidentally noted lymphangiectasia are clinically insignificant may not be entirely accurate, but acknowledge correlation does not equal causation and a larger study is needed.
- This material may be relevant to gastroenterologists interpreting capsule endoscopy findings and researchers interested in intestinal lymphatic disorders.

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