

PSYCHOLOGICAL MORBIDITY AND ATOPY DIFFERENTIATE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DIAGNOSED WITH DISORDERS OF GUT-BRAIN INTERACTION IN CHILDHOOD VS ADULTHOOD

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UEG Week Copenhagen 2023

Poster

Colorectal

October 15, 2023

A UK general practice study of 1.27 million patients found that disorders of gut-brain interaction are diagnosed much more commonly in adults (31%) than in childhood (1.3%), with mean age at first diagnosis of 45 years.

KEY POINTS

- Among 16,663 patients with IBS or functional dyspepsia who were followed from childhood through adulthood, the mean age at first diagnosis was 45 years overall, 40 years for IBS, and 49 years for functional dyspepsia.
- Childhood diagnoses (mean age 14 years) were associated with higher rates of eczema (39% vs 34%), recurrent abdominal pain (0.6% vs 0.1%), and type I diabetes (1.2% vs 0.7%) compared to adult-onset cases.
- Of patients diagnosed in childhood, 19% received a further diagnosis as adults; these patients were less likely to be female (27% vs 40%) and had higher lifetime rates of anxiety (24% vs 12%) and depression (38% vs 18%).
- The authors conclude that disorders of gut-brain interaction may be lifelong conditions and recommend smooth transition from paediatric to adult care.

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