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Summary

LONGITUDINAL SCREENING OF ANTI-TTG IGA IN A DUTCH POPULATION COHORT ALLOWS CHARACTERIZATION OF LONG-TERM UNDIAGNOSED CELIAC DISEASE INDIVIDUALS

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Endoscopy | Small Intestine & Nutrition | Immunology

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Serology-based screening in a Dutch population biobank identified 296 seropositive individuals, with 65% previously undiagnosed, revealing a celiac disease prevalence of 1.1% in the northern Netherlands.

KEY POINTS

- Of 296 seropositive participants, 206 had likely celiac disease (>10x ULN) and 249 reported no prior disease, indicating substantial underdiagnosis.
- Seropositives showed higher thrombocyte and mononuclear cell counts, lower MCH and MCV, and lower cholesterol levels compared to controls, but differences were clinically modest.
- Seropositives did not score higher on ROME III discomfort questions than controls and self-reported few symptoms, contrasting with self-reported celiac disease participants who scored similarly to IBS and IBD patients.
- 134 participants were seropositive at all three assessments over 10+ years, and 37 developed seropositivity in adulthood, indicating adult-onset celiac disease.
- Symptoms and clinical parameters alone could not predict seropositivity without HLA typing, unlike IBS where symptoms are predictive.
- The presenter emphasized that diagnostic follow-up and gluten-free diet trials are needed to determine whether undiagnosed seropositive individuals would experience improved quality of life with treatment.

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