

DIAGNOSIS OF EOSINOPHILIC ENTERITIS USING DOUBLE-BALLOON ENTEROSCOPY

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Double-balloon enteroscopy with small intestinal biopsy identified significantly higher eosinophil counts in five patients with suspected eosinophilic enteritis compared to 14 controls undergoing biopsy for other indications.

KEY POINTS

- All five patients with suspected eosinophilic enteritis presented with abdominal pain and diarrhea, four had small intestinal edema on CT, and all had elevated peripheral blood eosinophils (median 13% versus 2.4% in controls).
- Median eosinophil count in small intestinal biopsy specimens was 77 per high-power field (range 15-213) in the eosinophilic enteritis group versus 23 (range 3-111) in the non-eosinophilic enteritis group ($P < 0.01$).
- Using a threshold of 50 or more eosinophils per high-power field, all eosinophilic enteritis patients had at least one positive specimen, while only two of 14 control patients exceeded this threshold.
- A threshold of 20 or more eosinophils per high-power field yielded nearly two-thirds positive specimens in the control group, suggesting a high false positive risk at this lower cutoff.
- The authors conclude that double-balloon enteroscopy-guided small intestinal biopsy may be useful for diagnosing eosinophilic enteritis and that peripheral eosinophilia may help guide patient selection for the procedure.

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