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Summary

THE PHENOTYPE AND TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR MESENTERIC LYMPH NODE CAVITATING SYNDROME IN COELIAC DISEASE: A CASE SERIES AND SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

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UEG Week Vienna 2024 | Poster

Small Intestine & Nutrition

October 13, 2024

Mesenteric lymph node cavitating syndrome in coeliac disease carries 44% mortality, with strict gluten-free diet associated with better outcomes in a case series and systematic review of 50 patients.

KEY POINTS

- MLNCS is a rare complication of coeliac disease characterized by central necrosis within enlarged mesenteric lymph nodes, diagnosed by CT scan.
- In a systematic review of 44 patients, common features included persistent villous atrophy (90%), weight loss (82%), hyposplenism (80%), and refractory coeliac disease (16%).
- Overall mortality was 44%, associated with cachexia, lymphoma, and infectious complications; of 40 patients on strict gluten-free diet, 28 had partial or complete symptom improvement.
- Of 21 patients treated with steroids, 12 died; the authors note the role of immunosuppression remains unclear and requires further investigation.
- This case series and systematic review may be relevant to gastroenterologists managing patients with coeliac disease and unexplained systemic symptoms or refractory disease.

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