REFLUX HYPERSENSITIVITY VS FUNCTONAL HEARTBURN. FOCUSING ON CHARACTERISTICS OF PATIENTS WITH REFLUX HYPERSENSITIVITY ACCORDING TO SYMPTOMS PERCEPTION MARKERS WITH A SPECIAL INTEREST IN PPI RESPONSE

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A study of 2659 patients with reflux symptoms found that reflux hypersensitivity patients with concordant positive symptom index and symptom-associated probability differ from those without concordance and show increased PPI responsiveness compared to functional heartburn.

KEY POINTS

- Among 2659 patients, final diagnoses were functional heartburn 21.8%, reflux hypersensitivity 29.3% (definite 14.3%, indefinite 15%), GERD 36%, and inconclusive GERD 12.9%.
- Patients with reflux hypersensitivity showed significantly increased acid exposure time, total reflux episodes, proximal reflux extent, and esophagogastric junction type 2/3 compared to functional heartburn patients.
- Definite reflux hypersensitivity (both symptom index and symptom-associated probability positive) showed statistically significant increased PPI response versus functional heartburn (p=0.031), while the classical definition (either positive) did not.
- PPI responsiveness was frequent in both reflux hypersensitivity (47.6%) and functional heartburn (41.5%) and did not statistically discriminate between them unless a stricter diagnostic definition requiring concordance was adopted.
- This material is relevant to gastroenterologists evaluating patients with typical reflux symptoms and normal acid exposure who are considering reflux hypersensitivity versus functional heartburn diagnoses.

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