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Summary

LIQUID AND SOLID GASTRIC EMPTYING FREQUENTLY DIFFER IN PATIENTS WITH DYSPEPSIA AND MAY BOTH CONTRIBUTE TO GASTROPARESIS SYMPTOMS

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In 302 dyspeptic patients, liquid and solid gastric emptying measurements often differed, with more than 45% showing disturbances in at least one test and only weak correlation between the two modalities.

KEY POINTS

- Among 302 consecutive dyspeptic patients tested with 13C-acetate breath test for liquid gastric emptying and 13C-octanoic acid breath test for solid gastric emptying, 67 patients (22.2%) had delayed gastric emptying in at least one test.
- Concordant results occurred in 57.6% of subjects, while 42.4% had discrepant findings between the two tests, with the weak correlation (R=0.165, p=0.002) suggesting liquid and solid gastric emptying are regulated differently.
- In patients with delayed gastric emptying in at least one test, emptying time correlated significantly with gastroparesis symptom severity (R=0.242, p=0.024), particularly with nausea and vomiting.
- Both gastric emptying times were inversely correlated with age and similar between men and women.
- The findings suggest liquid and solid gastric emptying measurements may be complementary in identifying different pathomechanisms in dyspeptic patients.

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