Proton Pump Inhibitors: To use or not to use... *That* is the question!



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Disclosures

Jenifer R Lightdale, MD is a consultant for Covidien, Perrigo and Mead Johnson.

Carlo Di Lorenzo, MD is a consultant for QOL, Inc. and Epstein Associates.

Jose Garza, MD has nothing to disclose.

Benjamin D. Gold, MD is Scientific/Medical Advisory Board Member for Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, Nestle Nutrition USA; Consultant for Nutricia North America, Prometheus Laboratories and Horizon Pharma.

Rachel Rosen, MD has nothing to disclose.

Henry Lin, MD has nothing to disclose.

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Amy Manela has nothing to disclose.

Rick Weimer has nothing to disclose.

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Presenter and Disclosure Information

Put Information here.



Introduction

- There has been a tremendous rise in use of proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) in children over past 15 years¹
 - Particularly an issue in infants <12 months of age ²
- Preponderance of evidence that PPIs do not
 - reduce GER symptoms in infants ^{3, 4} or
 - decrease infant crying and irritability 5

- 1. Ruigomez A et al. Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol 2011;23:232-7.
- 2. Orenstein SR. Curr Gastroenterol Rep 2013;15:353.
- 3. Davidson G et al. J Pediatr 2013;163;692-8.
- 4. Van der Pol RJ et al. Pediatr 2011;127:925-35.
- 5. Gieruzczak-Bialek D et al. J Pediatr 2015;166:767-70.



Introduction

- PPIs are extremely effective at acid suppression¹
 - Preferred treatment for a number of acid related disorders 2
 - Relatively safe medications ³
- However, there are growing concerns over risks associated with PPI utilization
- Important to know pediatric indications
 - To use vs. when not to use PPIs
 - Recommended durations of use



^{1.} Romano C et al. Curr Clin Pharmacol 2011;6:41-7.

^{2.} Tighe M et al. Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2014;24:11:CD008550.

^{3.} Czinn SJ, Blanchard S. Paediatr Drugs 2013;15:19-27.

Introduction

- Aim of this talk is to discuss evidence-basis for using versus not using PPIs
 - In infants
 - In older children and adults



Learning Objectives

- To review evidence-based indications for treating infants and older children with PPI
- To discuss the risks of treatment, as well as why, when, and how to stop treatment
- To review current evidence for extra-esophageal associations with reflux disease
- To review new understandings of reflux related disorders



Evidence-Based Indications for Treatment with PPIs



CASE

- 4-month old infant with frequent spit-ups
 - Effortless, not associated with crying
 - Occurs after every feed
 - Fusses between 7-8pm every night prior to sleep
 - Sleeps from 8pm to 2am
 - Weight and length are each at the 50th percentile



Section Objectives

To understand:

- Difference between GER and GERD
- Management of infants with regurgitation
- Erosive esophagitis as an indication for using PPI
- Other indications for using PPIs
 - PPI REE
 - GI Bleeding
 - NSAID prophylaxis
 - H. pylori
- What to do when PPIs don't work

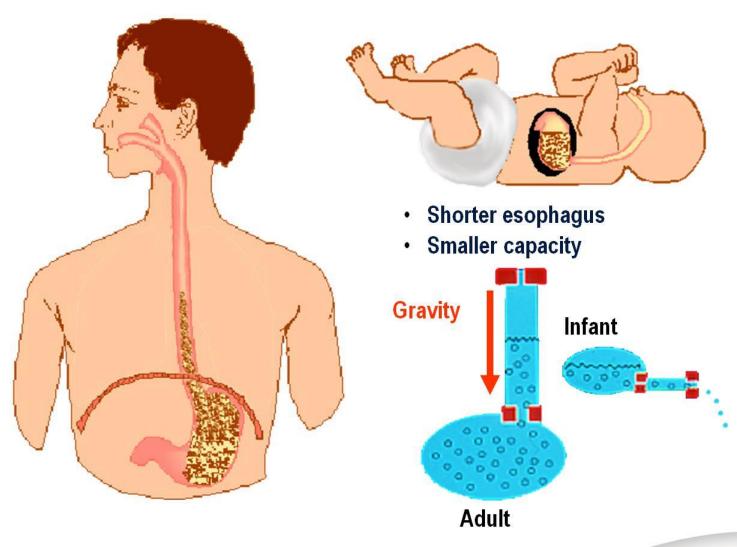


GER vs. GERD

- Gastroesophageal reflux (GER)
 - A physiologic phenomenon that occurs at all ages to allow depressurization of the stomach
- Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) in pediatric patients
 - A pathological condition that is present when reflux of gastric contents causes troublesome symptoms and/or complications



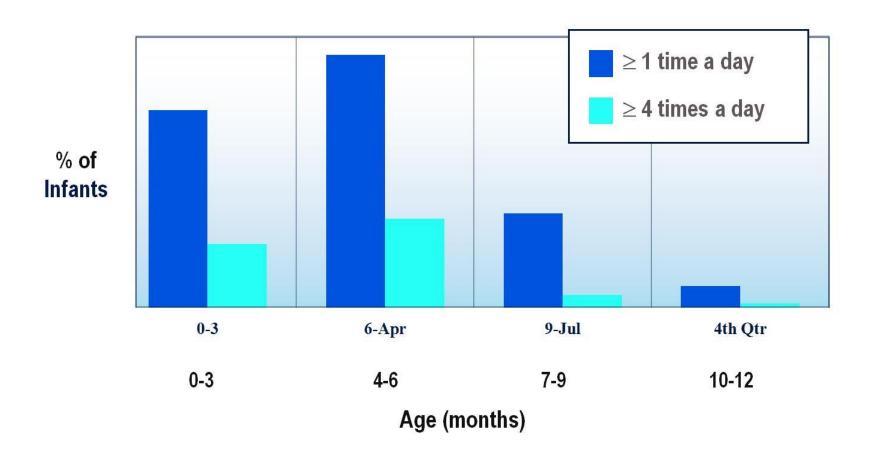
Esophageal Capacitance





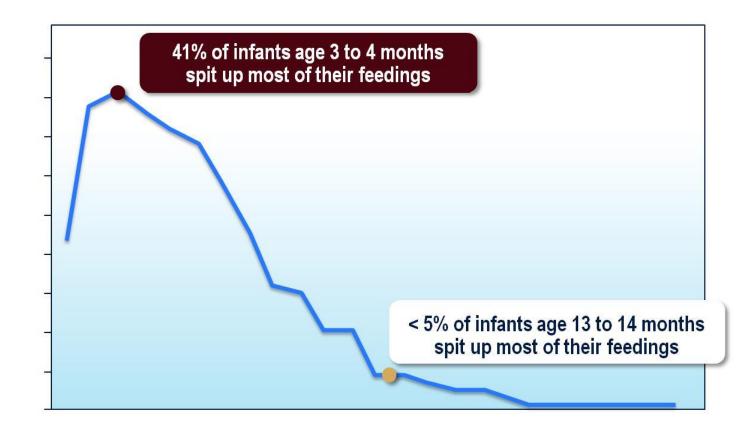


Prevalence of Regurgitation in Infancy



Natural History of GER in Children Up to Two Years of Age

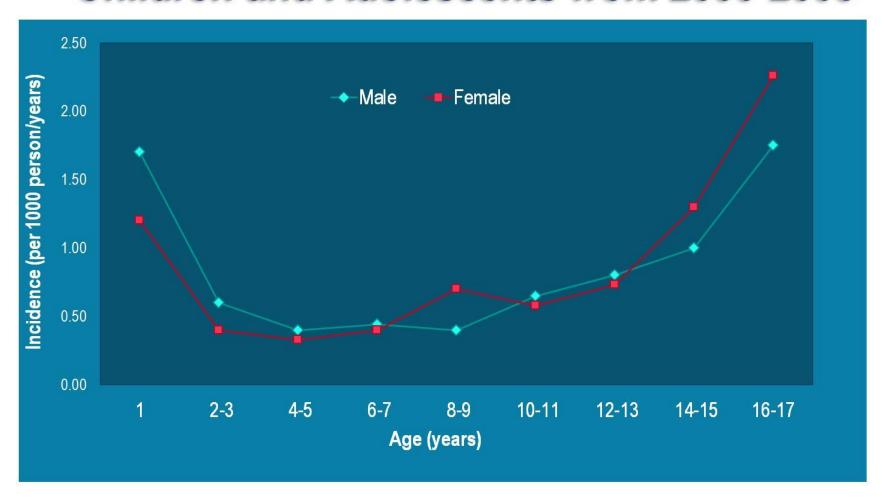




Age (months)



Estimated Incidence Rates of GERD in Children and Adolescents from 2000-2005



Preponderance of Evidence that Treating Infants for GERD with PPI Does Not Reduce Crying and Irritability

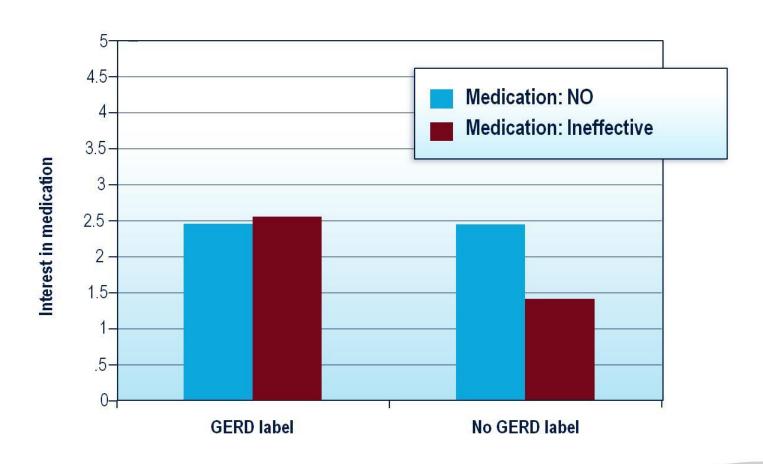
- Minimal evidence supports the contention that acid reflux may cause irritability in infants
- Variations in parental perception of excessive crying/sleep disturbance complicate interpretation



Rudolph C et al. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr* 2001;32:S1-31. Feranchak AP et al. *Clin Pediatr* 1994;33:654-62. Chadwick LM et al. *J Paediatr Child Health* 1997;33:388-93. Heine RG et al. *Arch Dis Child* 1995;73:121-5. Photo courtesy of Susan R. Orenstein, MD.



Influence of "GERD" Label on Parents' Decision to Medicate Infants

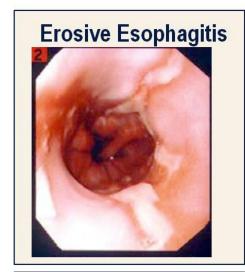


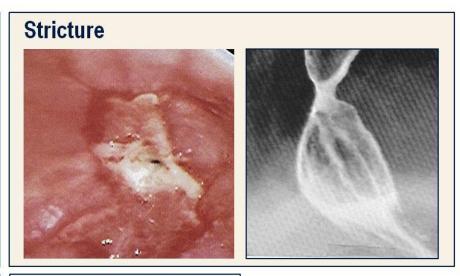
Insufficient Evidence to Associate GERD with a Number of Other Conditions

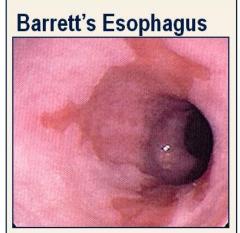
- Pathological apnea
- Acute life threatening events (ALTE)

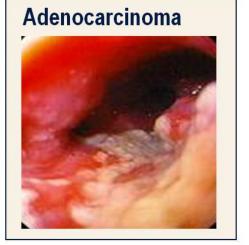


GERD-Related Complications





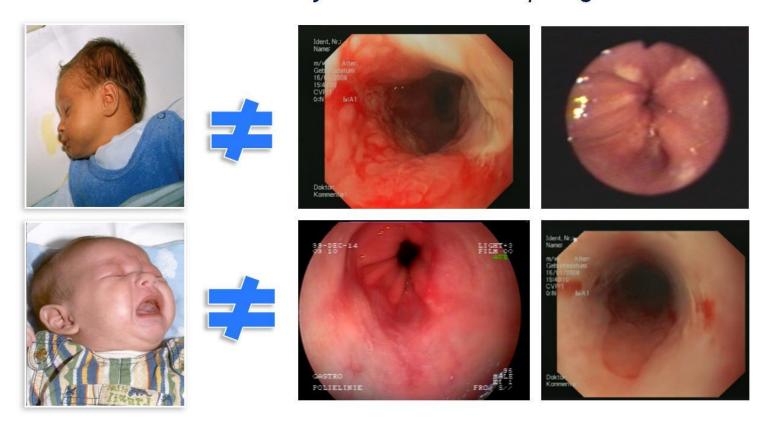






Correlation of Symptoms and Injury

In infants, symptoms are not reliable to predict the presence or severity of erosive esophagitis.



Heine et al. *J Paediatr Child Health* 2006;42(3):134-9.
Orenstein et al. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2006; 101(3):628-40.
Salvatore et al. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr* 2005;40(2):210-5.
Endoscopic views courtesy of Benjamin D. Gold, MD.



Efficacy/Safety of Once-Daily Esomeprazole for Treatment of GERD in Neonatal Patients

Objective To evaluate the efficacy and safety of proton pump inhibitors in infants aged <1 year with gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).

Study design In this randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled multicenter study, neonates (premature to 1 month corrected age; n = 52) with signs and symptoms of GERD received esomeprazole 0.5 mg/kg or placebo once daily for up to 14 days. Change from baseline in the total number of GERD symptoms (from video monitoring) and GERD-related signs (from cardiorespiratory monitoring) was assessed with simultaneous esophageal pH, impedance, cardiorespiratory, and 8-hour video monitoring.

Results There were no significant differences between the esomeprazole and placebo groups in the percentage change from baseline in the total number of GERD-related signs and symptoms (-14.7% vs -14.1%, respectively). Mean change from baseline in total number of reflux episodes was not significantly different between esomeprazole and placebo (-7.43 vs -0.2, respectively); however, the percentage of time pH was <4.0 and the number of acidic reflux episodes >5 minutes in duration was significantly decreased with esomeprazole vs placebo (-10.7 vs 2.2 and -5.5 vs 1.0, respectively; $P \le .0017$). The number of patients with adverse events was similar between treatment groups.



Efficacy/Safety of Once-Daily Esomeprazole for Treatment of GERD in Neonatal Patients

- Signs and symptoms of GERD traditionally attributed to acid reflux in neonates were not significantly altered by esomeprazole treatment
- Esomeprazole was well tolerated and reduced esophageal acid exposure and the number of acid reflux events in neonates

Esomeprazole In Infants with GERD

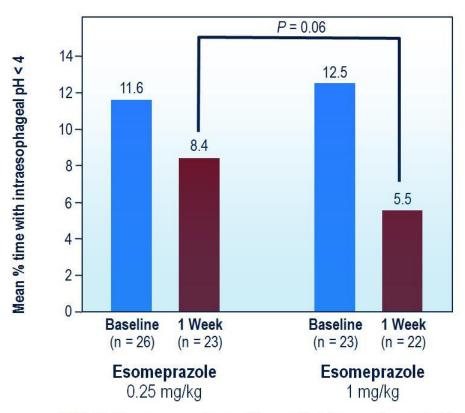


FIG. 2 Mean percentage of time with intraesophageal pH <4 at baseline and after 1 week of oral treatment with esomeprazole in infants with GERD.

Esomeprazole is approved for healing of erosive esophagitis in patients younger than 1 year old and as early as 1 month of age



Managing Infants With Recurrent Vomiting



No warning signals or signs of complicated GER

- History & physical exam generally sufficient
- Parental education
 - warning signals
 - reassurance
- Consider
 - thickened formula
 - hypoallergenic formula
- Pharmacotherapy not recommended
- If no resolution by 18-24 months
 - consider upper GI series or other test
 - consider pediatric GI referral



Allergic Gastroenteropathy in Preterm Infants

- N=25, mean GA 29 weeks and PNA 78 days, all had bx,
- Presentation:
 - 1. GER (5)
 - 2. Feeding intolerance (8)
 - 3. Lower GI bleed (12)

15 responded to hydrolysate formula

10 responded to amino acid based formula



Allergic Gastroenteropathy in Preterm Infants

- Symptoms of cow's milk protein allergy (CMPA) may be identical to GERD
- Risk factors for CMPA include familial history of atopy, infant eczema, symptoms of crying with swallowing
- Initiate 2-week trial with hydrolysate formula



The Effect of Thickened-Feed Interventions on Gastroesophageal Reflux in Infants

RESULTS. Fourteen randomized, controlled trials with a parallel or crossover design, some with methodologic limitations, were included. Use of thickened formulas compared with standard formula significantly increased the percentage of infants with no regurgitation, slightly reduced the number of episodes of regurgitation and

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vomiting per day (assessed jointly or separately), and increased weight gain per day; it had no effect on the reflux index, number of acid gastroesophageal reflux episodes per hour, or number of reflux episodes lasting >5 minutes but significantly reduced the duration of the longest reflux episode of pH < 4. No definitive data showed that one particular thickening agent is more effective than another. No serious adverse effects were noted.

CONCLUSIONS. This meta-analysis shows that thickened food is only moderately effective in treating gastroesophageal reflux in healthy infants. *Pediatrics* 2008;122:e1268–e1277

Be Aware of Caloric Impact of Thickening Feeds with Rice Cereal

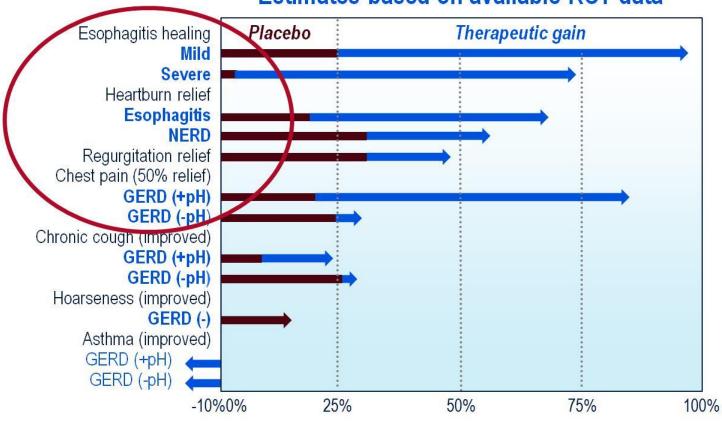
- Thickening a 20 kcal/oz infant formula with:
 - 1 tbsp rice cereal per 2oz ---- 27 kcal/oz
 - 1 tbsp rice cereal per oz ---- 33kcal/oz (1.1Kcal/ml)

- Change from appropriate macronutrient distribution to one that is not appropriate
 - Fat from 48% to 24% and carbohydrate from 43.5% to 68%.



PPI Efficacy for Potential Manifestations for GERD in Adults

Estimates based on available RCT data



FDA-Approved Pediatric Age Ranges and Indications for PPIs

	Age Range (Years) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17																	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
esomeprazole[1]																		
	*																	
lansoprazole[2]																		
omeprazole[3]																		
pantoprazole[4]																		
rabeprazole[5]																		

symptomatic GERD healing of EE



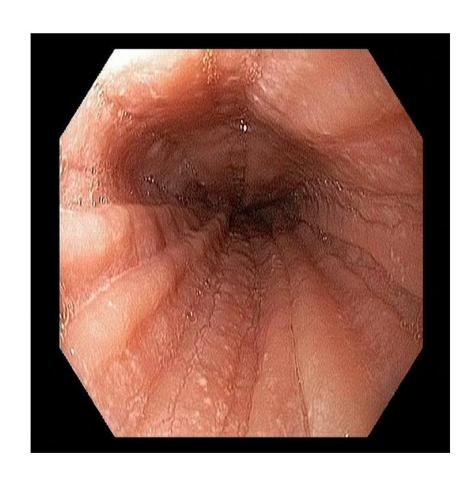
^{*} Treatment may begin as early as 1 month of age for this indication.

Eosinophilic Esophagitis or PPI-Responsive Esophageal Eosinophilia

- Eosinophilic esophagitis is a clinicopathological diagnosis of an allergic esophagitis characterized by submucosal eosinophilic infiltrates
- At least 1/3 of adult patients with suspected EoE achieve clinical and histological remission on PPI therapy (i.e. PPI-Responsive Esophageal Eosinophilia (PPI-REE))
- The response seems more limited in children as compared to adults
- Treatment for suspected EoE includes high dose PPI for 8 weeks followed by endoscopy and biopsy



Esophageal Eosinophilia *Does Not* Equal Eosinophilic Esophagitis





Gastrointestinal Bleeding

- IV PPI is given in almost all instances of upper gastrointestinal bleeding
- Evidence from a Cochrane review suggests PPI therapy in this setting presents no harm and may provide some benefit.



NSAID Prophylaxis

- Patients with poor adherence (<20% PPI coverage)
 had a significantly increased risk of upper GI
 complications (OR=1.88) compared with fully
 adherent patients (≥80% PPI coverage)
- The risk of an event increased by 6% points for every 10% decrease in PPI adherence



Treatment PPIs Should Be Used for...

Indication	PPI Treatment Regimen
PPI-REE	High dose (q.d. or b.i.d.) for 8 weeks followed by endoscopy and biopsy ^{4,5}
Erosive Esophagitis	Standard dose q.d. for 3 months followed by trials of tapering the dose towards final withdrawal of therapy ¹
NSAID	Standard dose q.d. prophylaxis concurrent with NSAID therapy ²
Bleeding	IV 1 mg/kg/ q.d. or 0.5 mg/kg b.i.d. ³
H. pylori	Standard dose b.i.d. (as part of a quadruple or triple regimen) for 10 to 14 days ⁶

- 1. Hassall E et al. J Pediatr 2000;137:800-7.
- 2. Rostom A et al. Cochrane Review 2002;15:CD002296.
- 3. Colle I et al. Acta Gastroenterol Belg 2011;74:46-66.
- 4. Dellon ES et al. Am J Gastroenterol 2013;108:679-692.
- 5. Molina-Infante J et al. Aliment Pharmacol Ther 2013;37:1157-64.
- 6. Koletzko S et al. J Pediat Gastroenterol Nutr 2011;53:230-43.



BEFORE



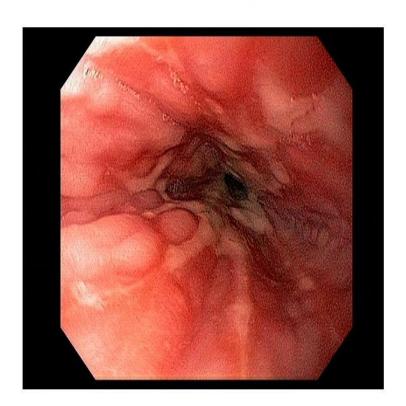
AFTER

Therapeutic Challenge

Therapeutic Challenge

Mucosal Healing

Managing ulcers, erosive esophagitis, recurrent strictures with antacids and H₂RAs antagonists



BEFORE

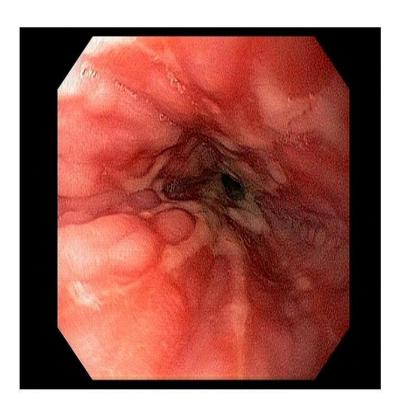


AFTER

Therapeutic Challenge

Mucosal Healing

Managing ulcers, erosive esophagitis, recurrent strictures with antacids and H₂RAs antagonists



Therapeutic Challenge

Refractory Symptoms

Problem of refractory symptoms blossomed and the list of symptoms and syndromes potentially attributable to GERD expanded





What to do When PPIs Don't Work?

- Assess for treatment compliance
 - Lack of efficacy of PPIs in gastric acid secretion is extremely rare
- Make sure the patient is taking the PPI on an empty stomach and at least 30 to 60 minutes before a meal
- Trial of b.i.d. dosing
- Add an H₂RA at night (tachyphylaxis)
- Make sure the diagnosis is correct



Summary: Indications for PPIs

PPIs do not

 reduce GER symptoms in infants or decrease infant crying and irritability

PPIs are indicated in

- GERD, NSAID prophylaxis, bleeding, PPI-REE, and H. pylori eradication
- Specific course of treatment
- For a defined duration of treatment with a weaning plan in place



Understanding the Risks of Treatment



CASE

- 9 year-old boy diagnosed with erosive esophagitis when he presented with an episode of hematemesis
- Treated with PPI b.i.d. for 12 months
- Currently asymptomatic
- Parents want to know if and when they can stop treatment



Section Objectives

To understand:

- why to stop treatment
- when to stop treatment
- how to stop treatment
- what happens if you do not stop treatment



When to Stop Treatment

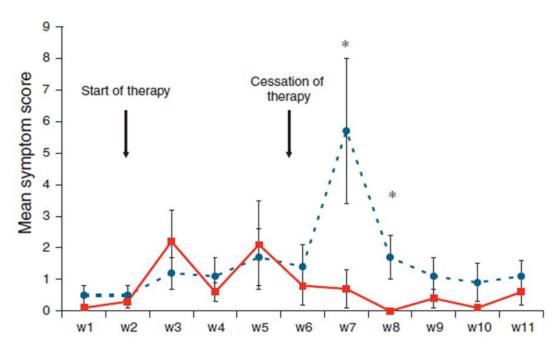
- In otherwise healthy pediatric patients, reflux esophagitis may not be a chronic problem or recur after treatment¹
 - Of 48 otherwise healthy children with erosive esophagitis who discontinued maintenance treatment, only one had erosive esophagitis recurrence at three months
 - Three of 44 (6.8%) patients reported very mild GERD symptoms within a period of 30 months after maintenance discontinuation



How to Stop?

Dyspeptic Symptom Development After Discontinuation of a Proton Pump Inhibitor

A Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Trial



Weekly dyspepsia scores (mean and s.e.m.) in the pantoprazole group (dotted blue lines) and in the placebo group (red lines). Weeks 1-2 = before treatment, weeks 3-6 = during treatment, and weeks 7-12 = after treatment, *P<0.05.



Potential Risks of Prolonged Acid Suppression

Infections:

C. difficile

Small bowel bacterial overgrowth

Other enteric infections

Pneumonia and other respiratory infections

- Necrotizing enterocolitis and candidemia
- Effects on vitamins and mineral absorption:

Iron

Calcium

Magnesium

Vitamin B12

- Gastric fundic gland polyps
- Interstitial nephritis (rare, idiosyncratic reaction)
- Myocardial infarction and Dementia



Risks of Acid Suppression in Children

Study Author	Type of Study	Age	Location	Medications Investigated	Outcome Assessed	
Guillet et al ²⁷	Retrospective	Neonates	NICU Ranitidine, famotidine, cimetidine		NEC	
Terrin et al ²⁰	Prospective	Neonates	NICU	Ranitidine	NEC, sepsis, pneumonia, UTI	
Beck-Sague et al ²⁹	Prospective	Neonates	NICU	H ₂ antagonists	Bloodstream infection	
Rojas et al ³⁰	Prospective	Neonates	NICU	H ₂ antagonists	Nosocomial infection	
Graham et al ³¹	Retrospective	Neonates	NICU	H ₂ antagonists or PPI	Gram-negative bacteremia	
Bianconi et al ³²	Retrospective	Neonates	NICU	Ranitidine	Late-onset sepsis	
Elward et al ³³	Prospective	≤18 y	PICU	H, antagonists	VAP	
Yildizdas et al³⁴	Prospective	Pediatric, age range not specified	PICU	Omeprazole, ranitidine, sucralfate	VAP	
Lopriore et al ³⁰	Retrospective	Pediatric, age range not specified	PICU	Ranitidine, sucralfate	VAP	
Sharma et al ³⁶	Prospective	1 mo-15 y	PICU	Ranitidine	VAP	
Singh-Naz et al ¹⁷	Prospective	Pediatrics, age range not specified	PICU	H ₂ antagonists	Nosocomial infection	
Canani et al ³⁸	Prospective	4-36 mo	Pediatric GI centers	Omeprazole and rainitidine	Pneumonia, gastroenteritis	
Orenstein et als	Prospective	28 d-12 mo	Primary care centers	Lansoprazole	Lower respiratory tract infection	
Turco et al ³⁹	Retrospective	1-18 y	Hospital	PPI, H ₂ antagonist	C difficile colitis	

Why More Infections?

- Decreased acid barrier
- Altered microbiome
- Attenuation of the immune response
- Direct effects of the bacteria
- Decreased effectiveness of antibiotics



Clostridium Difficile

- A retrospective study in children found those treated with a PPI had an increased odds ratio of 4.52 for C. difficile infection ¹
- The risk is further increased by concomitant use of antibiotics with a PPI; H₂RAs may be less harmful ²
- Multivariate analyses suggest H₂RA and once daily PPI treatment increase the risk by 1.5 whereas frequent PPI therapy can increase the risk by up to 2.9 times ³
- FDA safety information 2012: C. difficile associated diarrhea can be associated with gastric acid reducing drugs ⁴
- 1. Turco R et al. Aliment Pharmacol Ther 2010;31:754-9.
- 2. Kwok CL et al. Am J Gastroenterol 2012;107:1011-9.
- 3. Howell MD et al. Ann Intern Med 2010;170:784-90.
- 4. FDA. http://www.fda.gov/drugs/drugsafety/ucm290510.htm Ann Intern Med 2010170.



Respiratory Infections

- In patients with asthma the addition of lansoprazole compared with placebo ¹
 - improved neither symptoms nor lung function
 - was associated with an increase in respiratory infections
- Prenatal exposure to both PPIs and H₂RAs was associated with an increased risk of asthma ²
 - However this may be explained by a maternal underlying condition



^{1.} Holbrook JT et al. JAMA 2012;307:373-81.

^{2.} Andersen AB et al. Aliment Pharmacol Ther 2012;35:1190-8.

Minerals and Vitamins



Association Between Proton Pump Inhibitor Use and Anemia

A Retrospective Cohort Study

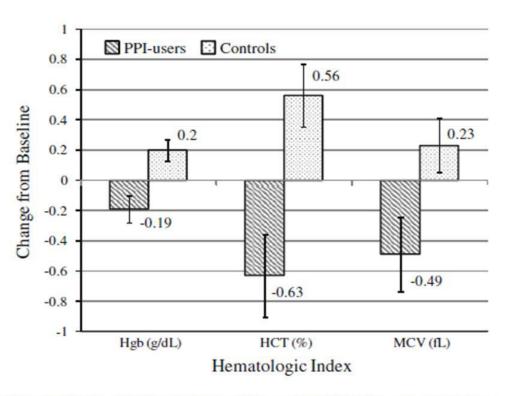
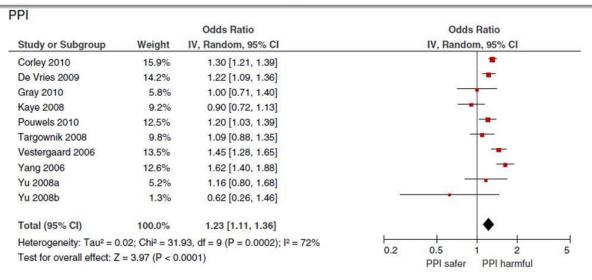


Fig. 2 Change in hematologic indices (± SEM) in patients before and after initiating proton pump inhibitor (PPI) therapy, compared with patients not receiving PPI therapy. SEM standard error of mean



Risk of Hip Fracture



H2RA

	Odds Ratio		Odds Ratio			
Study or Subgroup	Weight IV, Random, 95% CI		IV, Random, 95% CI			
Corley 2010	16.9%	1.18 [1.08, 1.29]			*	
De Vries 2009	15.9%	1.20 [1.07, 1.35]			•	
Gray 2010	12.3%	1.07 [0.88, 1.31]			•	
Grisso 1997	2.3%	2.00 [0.95, 4.20]			-	
Pouwels 2010	13.4%	1.19 [1.00, 1.42]				
Vestergaard 2006	12.6%	0.69 [0.57, 0.84]		-		
Yang 2006	16.6%	1.23 [1.11, 1.36]			•	
Yu 2008a	8.0%	1.27 [0.92, 1.75]			-	
Yu 2008b	2.0%	1.22 [0.54, 2.76]		8	•	
Total (95% CI)	100.0%	1.12 [0.99, 1.27]			•	
Heterogeneity: Tau ² = 0.	.02; Chi ² = 32.	43, df = 8 (P < 0.0001); l ² = 75%	-		1 1	_
Test for overall effect: Z = 1.88 (P = 0.06)		0.2	0.5 H2RA safer	1 2 H2RA harmful	5	

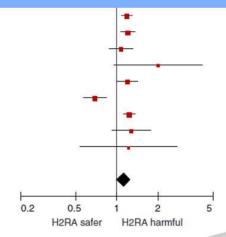


Risk of Hip Fracture

PPI				
	Odds Ratio		Odds Ratio	
Study or Subgroup	Weight	IV, Random, 95% CI	IV, Random, 95% CI	
Corley 2010	15.9%	1.30 [1.21, 1.39]		
De Vries 2009	14.2%	1.22 [1.09, 1.36]	-	
Gray 2010	5.8%	1.00 [0.71, 1.40]		
Kaye 2008	9.2%	0.90 [0.72, 1.13]	-	
Pouwels 2010	12.5%	1.20 [1.03, 1.39]	-	
Targownik 2008	9.8%	1.09 [0.88, 1.35]	-	
Vestergaard 2006	13.5%	1.45 [1.28, 1.65]		
Yang 2006	12.6%	1.62 [1.40, 1.88]	-	

But no correlation with duration of use, many PPI users had lower BMD at baseline, conflicting more recent evidence...

Corley 2010	16.9%	1.18 [1.08, 1.29]
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Heterogeneity: Tau ² = 0	0.02; Chi ² = 32.43	, df = 8 (P < 0.0001); l ² = 75%
Test for overall effect: Z	z = 1.88 (P = 0.06)





Risk Factors for Fractures in Children

Conclusions: "PPI use was associated with fracture in young adults, but overall evidence did not support a PPI-fracture relationship in children"

Table 2 Dose and total exposure relationship between proton pump inhibitors and fracture among subjects <18 years old

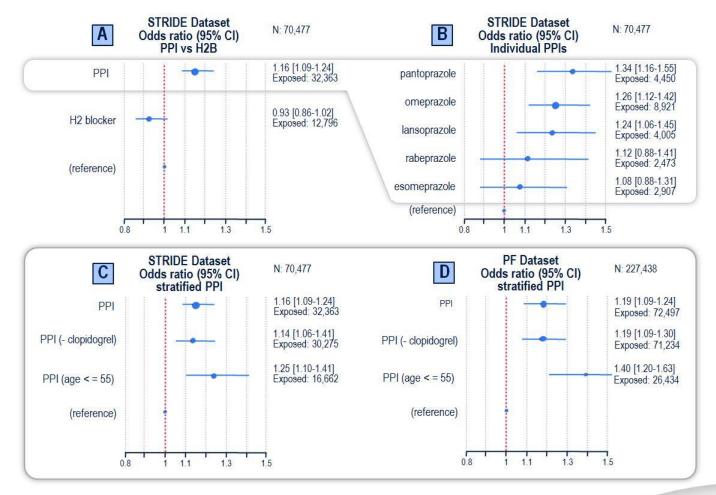
Proton pump inhibitors	Cases	Controls	Crude OR (95 % CI)	Adjusted OR ^a (95 % CI)
Maximal dose		Total:	1.16 (0.94 to 1.43)	1.13 (0.92 to 1.39)
None	86,578	422,162	Reference	Reference
Daily or less	424	1651	1.25 (1.12-1.40)	1.22 (1.09-1.36)
>Daily	69	253	1.33 (1.00-1.74)	1.30 (1.00-1.70)
Cumulative exposure				
None	86,578	422,162	Reference	Reference
1-179 doses	379	1427	1.30 (1.15-1.45)	1.26 (1.12-1.41)
180-720 doses	61	278	1.07 (0.78-1.42)	1.03 (0.78-1.37)
>720 doses	53	199	1.30 (0.94-1.77)	1.29 (0.95-1.74)

OR odds ratio, CI confidence interval, IQR interquartile range



a Adjusted for prior use of histamine-2 receptor antagonists, anti-epileptic drugs, opiates, and oral glucocorticoids

PPI Use is Associated with an Increased Risk for MI, Regardless of Age or Clopidogrel Use





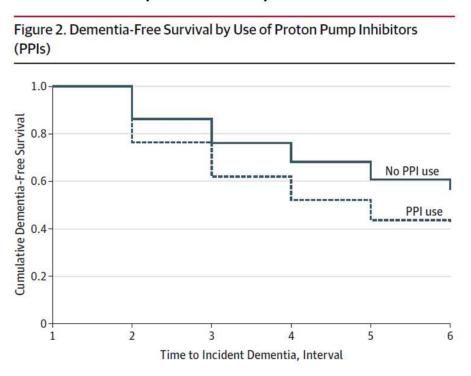
But...

- Data mining exercise (queried over 16 million clinical documents on 2.9 million individuals)
- Modest absolute increased risk: for every 4,000 patients treated with PPIs only one would develop an MI
- There are other features of GERD patients who take PPIs that may explain the association (obesity, smoke)
- No dose or duration effect



Dementia

- 73,679 participants >75 y/o and free of dementia at baseline.
- Patients receiving regular PPI medication (n = 2950) were found to have a significantly increased risk of incident dementia compared with the patients not receiving PPI medication (n = 70,729)





Dementia and PPI

- Unclear mechanism:
 - 1) Modulation of brain enzymes by PPIs?
 - 2) Enhancement of β-amyloid (Aβ) levels in the brain (PPI inhibit degradation enzymes)?
 - 3) Decreased level of Vit B12 affecting cognition?
- Age, stroke, depression, diabetes, and polypharmacy also all significantly elevated the risk of dementia
- PPI Data not controlled for diet, lifestyle, and education
- Different etiologies of dementia not clarified
- So far this report suggests association, no evidence for causation



Summary: Understanding the Risks of Treatment

- Prolonged acid suppression should be used only when indicated
- Ongoing management should include strategies for treatment discontinuation
- In children there is evidence of an increased risk of infection, particularly *C. difficile* for those treated with a PPI
- Other risks demonstrated in adults have not been yet confirmed in children



Aerodigestive Conditions and Associations with Reflux



Case

- 6 ½ year-old with persistent cough, day and night
- Patient has had noticeable increase in wheezing episodes over the past year
- Past medical history significant for GERD as an infant, diagnosed after patient presented with an ALTE
- Currently using PPI therapy one time/day



Section Objectives

To understand "aerodigestive" diseases

- A family of conditions which may represent extraesophageal manifestations of acid reflux
- The pathophysiology and biological plausibility for their association with acid reflux
- When there is a current evidence-basis to use PPI to treat aerodigestive disease



Airway Protective Mechanisms

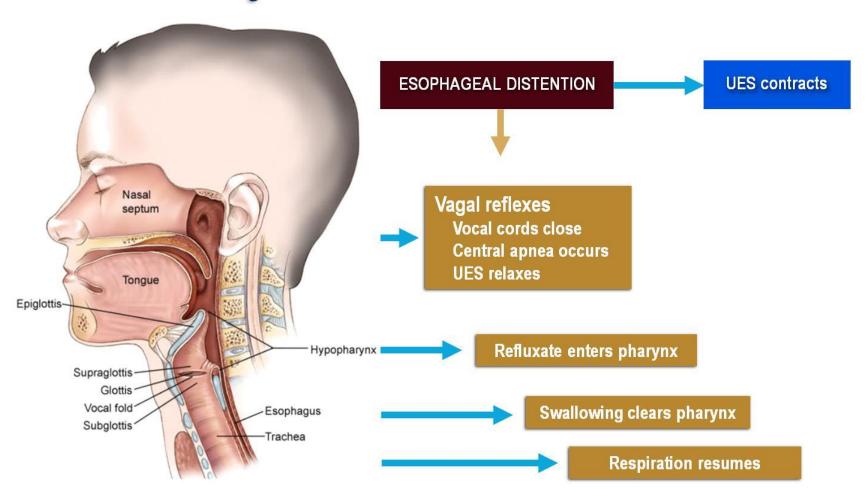


Image: Adapted from Robert Morreale / Visual Explanations, LCC ©2003 American Society of Clinical Oncology.

Jadcherla SR et al. Am J Gastroenterol 2009;104:2572-82.

Jadcherla SR et al. J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr 2009;48:186-92.



Respiratory Disease and Reflux

Have they met the burden of proof for causality?



Asthma

- Asthma is a reversible obstructive lung disease
 - Caused by increased reaction of the airways to various stimuli
 - Chronic disease prone to acute exacerbations
 - Can be life-threatening if not managed appropriately
- One of the most common chronic inflammatory diseases in childhood
 - Currently affecting an estimated 7.1 million children under 18 years

Lang JE et al. *J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract* 2013;1(2):172-180. Usta Guc B et al. *Clin Respir J* 2014;8(3):330-337. Karabel M et al. *Clin Respir J* 2014; 8(2): 152-159. Pirogowicz I et al. *Adv Exp Med Biol* 2013;788:161-166. Blake K et al. *Curr Opin Pulm Med* 2013;19(1):24-29.



Asthma and GER; Association or Causation?

- Proposed mechanisms by which reflux aggravates asthma are:
 - Direct production of airway inflammation
 - Airway hyper-responsiveness
 - Vagally-mediated bronchial or laryngeal spasm
 - Neuronal-mediated inflammation
- Few studies have evaluated the impact of asthma on GERD
 - Chronic hyperinflation may reduce resting LES pressure
 - Lung hyperinflation and airflow obstruction may increase negative intra-thoracic pressure



Asthma and GER

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

APRIL 9, 2009

VOL. 360 NO. 15

Efficacy of Esomeprazole for Treatment of Poorly Controlled Asthma

The American Lung Association Asthma Clinical Research Centers*

CONCLUSIONS

Despite a high prevalence of asymptomatic gastroesophageal reflux among patients with poorly controlled asthma, treatment with proton-pump inhibitors does not improve asthma control. Asymptomatic gastroesophageal reflux is not a likely cause of poorly controlled asthma. (ClinicalTrials.gov number, NCT00069823.)

Lansoprazole for Children With Poorly Controlled Asthma

A Randomized Controlled Trial

Results The mean age was 11 years (SD, 3 years). The mean difference in change (lansoprazole minus placebo) in the ACQ score was 0.2 units (95% CI, 0.0-0.3 units). There were no statistically significant differences in the mean difference in change for the secondary outcomes of forced expiratory volume in the first second (0.0 L; 95% CI, -0.1 to 0.1 L), asthma-related quality of life (-0.1; 95% CI, -0.3 to 0.1), or rate of episodes of poor asthma control (relative risk, 1.2; 95% CI, 0.9-1.5). Among the 115 children with esophageal pH studies, the prevalence of GER was 43%. In the subgroup with a positive pH study, no treatment effect for lansoprazole vs placebo was observed for any asthma outcome. Children treated with lansoprazole reported more respiratory infections (relative risk, 1.3 [95% CI, 1.1-1.6]).

Conclusion In this trial of children with poorly controlled asthma without symptoms of GER who were using inhaled corticosteroids, the addition of lansoprazole, compared with placebo, improved neither symptoms nor lung function but was associated with increased adverse events.



GER and Asthma...the Saga Continues

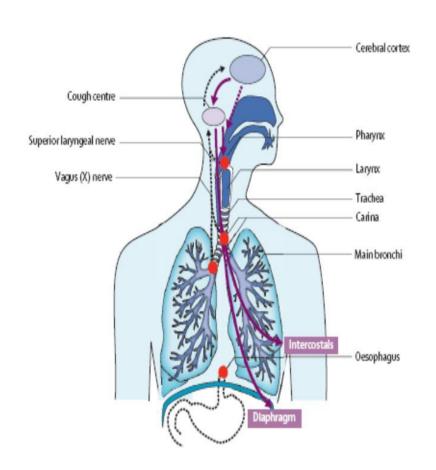
- Biological plausibility
- Causality
- What effect will a PPI have on asthma symptoms, severity (i.e. some patients benefit)?

- **✓** YES
- ? Not definitively characterize
- ? Not clear who will benefit, more research needed



Neurophysiology of Cough

- Not every child who coughs or wheezes has asthma
- Not every child who coughs or wheezes has reflux
- Other etiologies for cough include dysphagia and aspiration syndromes; habitual cough, etc.



Lang J. E et al. *J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract* 2013;1:172-180. Usta Guc B et al. *Clin Respir* J 2014;8:330-337. Karabel M et al. *Clin Respir* J 2014;8:152-9. Pirogowicz I et al. *Adv Exp Med Biol* 2013;788:161-6. Blake K et al. *Curr Opin Pulm Med* 2013;19:24-29.



Persistent Cough and Reflux

- Intraesophageal Pressure Recording (IEPR) is very sensitive at detecting cough
- Parental and patient symptom recording in children is inadequate for making the diagnosis of reflux-related lung disease
- IEPR may represent a new standard for clinical practice

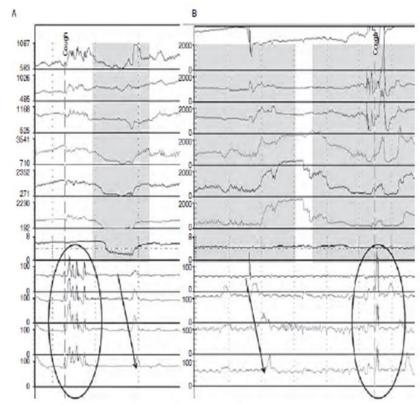


FIGURE 1. Tracing of a cough preceding reflux (A) and reflux preceding cough (B). Intraesophageal pressure recording coughs, seen as high amplitude, simultaneous pressure spikes, are shown in the circles. Reflux episodes are shaded gray. The arrow highlights normal, propagating esophageal peristalsis, in contrast to simultaneous pressure spikes with cough.

Rosen R et al. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr* 2014;58:22-26. Lang JE et al. *J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract* 2013;1:172-80. Usta Guc B et al. *Clin Respir J* 2014;8:330-37. Karabel M et al. *Clin Respir J* 2014;8:152-59.



Cough and Reflux...a Possibility

Biological plausibility

Causality

Is there a role for a PPI



YES



Likely multi-factorial



Yes, in select individuals



Signs You Could Have 'Silent Reflux'

That chronic cough may not be what it seems.

People who suffer from this reflux disease may frequently clear their throat or have trouble swallowing.

The Washington Post

By Jamie Koufman December 8, 2014

Opinions

Obama's acid reflux may help others receive proper diagnosis and treatment









ENT Manifestationsof GERD

Have they met the burden of proof for causality?

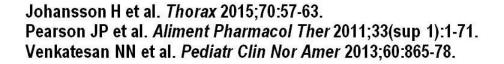


Laryngeal: Normal vs. Erythema

Not all red in the airways = reflux!









Laryngeal-pharyngeal Pathology and Reflux

- The sensitivity of laryngoscopic findings to identify laryngeal-pharyngeal disease related to reflux (LPR) is poor
- Newly validated, adult-based LPR outcome tool that shows improvement with therapy that may help identify
 - Responder Definition of a Patient-Reported Outcome Instrument for Laryngopharyngeal Reflux Based on the US FDA Guidance
- Clinical improvement followed by recurrence off acid-suppression treatment and/or life-style changes suggests an association with GER
- There is insufficient evidence to recommend for OR against the use of acid suppression therapy

Chang AB et al. Otolaryngol Clin North Am 2010;43:181-98. Lien HC et al Value Health 2015;18:396-403. Vandenplas Y et al. J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr 2009;49:498-547. Sherman P et al. Am J Gastroenterol 2009;104:1278-95. Kahrilis P et al. Gastroenterology 2008;135:1392-1413. Patel D et al. Curr Gastroenterol Rep 2016;18:12-20.



Laryngeal-pharyngeal Pathology and Reflux

REZA BAND, a Noninvasive Device for Laryngopharyngeal Reflux, FDA OK'ed



Chang AB et al. Otolaryngol Clin North Am 2010;43:181-98. Lien HC et al Value Health 2015;18:396-403. Vandenplas Y et al. J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr 2009;49:498-547. Sherman P et al. Am J Gastroenterol 2009;104:1278-95. Kahrilis P et al. Gastroenterology 2008;135:1392-1413. Patel, D et al. Curr Gastroenterol Rep 2016;18:12-20.



ENT Manifestations of GERD

Biological plausibility

✓ YES

Causality

Not at present, more research needed

Is there a role for PPIs?

Maybe



Esophageal Atresia (EA) / Tracheal-Esophageal Fistulae (TEF) and Reflux Disease

- Symptoms can include coughing with feeding, recurrent pneumonia, and episodic cyanosis concerning for ALTE
- H-type TEF prone to delay in diagnosis
 - May not be identified on fluoroscopy
 - May require bronchoscopy with methylene blue
- Predisposed to reflux
 - Abnormal motility prevents adequate acid clearance
 - Hiatal hernia created during repair changes the position of the LES and diaphragm
- Long term high-risk for esophageal cancer









Esophageal Atresia/ Tracheal-Esophageal Fistulae and GERD

Biological plausibility



Causality



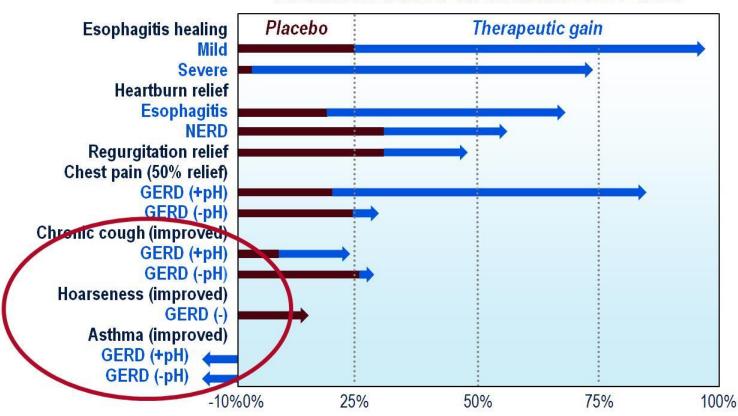
Is there a role for PPIs?





PPI Efficacy for Potential Manifestations for GERD in Adults

Estimates based on available RCT data





Summary: Aerodigestive Disease – Reflux Related?

- GER causality not yet satisfied for asthma, cough, and laryngeal disease
- Research is needed in childhood asthmatics
 - Identification of children with asthma responsive to acid suppression
- Possible role for PPI in cough and select laryngeal pharyngeal reflux patients
 - Studies to validate adult-based patient-reported outcome tool in children
- Clearly a role for the PPI in infants and children with EA/TEF



Beyond Erosive-reflux Disease (ERD) to NERD



Case

- 13 year-old with epigastric and chest pain
- History of 3 years of PPI use
 - Initially with complete symptom resolution but now with only partial relief with symptoms multiple times per day
- Has had endoscopy performed twice (3 years ago and repeated last week)
 - Both times suggesting no evidence of mucosal breaks and normal biopsies in the duodenum, stomach and the esophagus



Section Objectives

To review:

- An expanding understanding of acid mediated disease at the cellular level that includes non-erosive reflux disease (NERD) vs. erosive reflux disease (ERD)
- How to clinically differentiate NERD from ERD, functional heartburn and hypersensitive esophagus
- An evidence-basis for treating ERD and NERD versus not for treating functional heartburn or hypersensitive esophagus with PPI

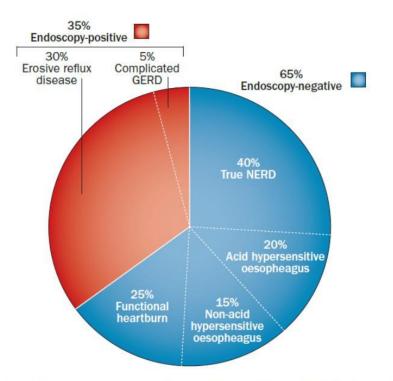


Differentiating Between Various Reflux Related Disorders

	Typical Symptoms	Erosions by Endoscopy	Abnormal acid reflux on pH-MII testing	Symptom association with acid or non-acid reflux
ERD	+	+	+	+/-
NERD	+	-	+	+/-
Hypersensitive Esophagus	+	-	7-3	+
Functional Heartburn	+	-	-	-



Incidence of Reflux Disease Subtypes in Adults



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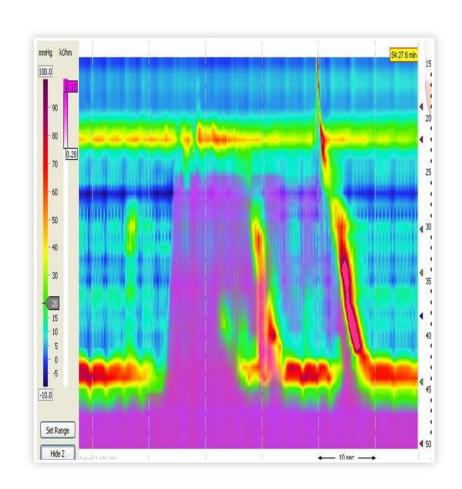
- In 221 adult patients, 54% did not have a diagnosis that would respond to PPI therapy ²
- There are no pediatric studies that systematically address this

- 1. Savarino E et al. Nat Rev Gastroenterol 2013;10:371-80.
- 2. Cheng FK et al. Clinical Gastroenterol Hepatol 2015;13:867-73.



The Mechanisms

- The mechanism of reflux in NERD patients is transient lower esophageal sphincter relaxations (TLSERs)¹
- Patients with NERD have similar symptom severity to those with ERD²
- Visceral hypersensitivity is similar in patients with NERD and ERD³

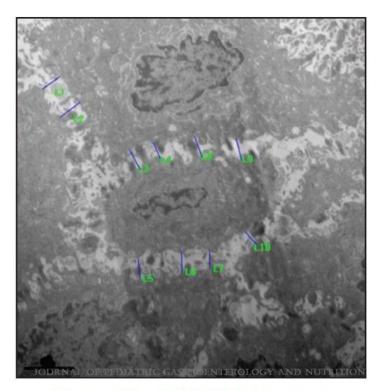


- 1. Ribolsi M et al. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol 2014;12:52-7.
- 2. Weijenborg PW et al. Am J Pysiol Gastrointest Liver Physiol 2014;307:G323-9.
- 3. Thoua NM et al. Aliment Pharmacol Ther 2008;27:396-403.



Diagnosing NERD

- Heartburn, regurgitation, epigastric pain or discomfort, and dyspepsia
 ARE NOT USEFUL to differentiate NERD and ERD 1,2,3
- ERD and NERD adult patients respond similarly to a PPI trial ⁴
- The microscopic presentation of ERD and NERD is similar; both with microscopic inflammation and dilated intracellular spaces 5,6
- 1. Kandulski A et al. Aliment Pharmacol Ther 2013;38:643-51.
- 2. Savarino E et al. Gut 2009;58:1185-91.
- 3. Nelson SP et al. Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med 2000;154;150-4.
- 4. Bytzer P et al. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol 2012;10:1360-6.
- 5. Kandulski A et al. Aliment Pharmacol Ther 2013;38:643-51.
- 6. Borrelli O et al. Neurogastoenterol Motil 2012;24:828-e394.



Microscopic view of dilated intracellular spaces
Reprinted by permission from Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc. *J Ped Gastroenterol Nutr*, Altaf MA et al. 2014



Why do we Care About the Names?

Treatments may be Different, at least in Adults

Nonerosive reflux disease (NERD)

NERD

PPI responder
40–45% of patients
Abnormal esophageal
acid exposure

Hypersensitive esophagus to acid

PPI partial responder
15–20% of patients
Normal esophageal acid
exposure and positive
symptom association to
acid reflux

Hypersensitive esophagus to nonacid

PPI partial responder
15–17% of patients
Normal esophageal acid
exposure and positive
symptom association to
nonacid reflux

Functional heartburn

PPI nonresponder

25–30% of patients

Normal esophageal acid exposure
and negative symptom association
to acid reflux and/or nonacid reflux

- Single or double PPIs
- TLESR inhibitors (baclofen)
- Surgical therapy (Nissen or Toupet fundoplication)

- Double PPIs
- TLESR inhibitors (baclofen)
- Surgical therapy (Nissen or Toupet fundoplication)
- TLESR inhibitors (baclofen)
- Surgical therapy (Nissen or Toupet fundoplication)
- Tricyclic antidepressants (amytriptyline, desipramine and nortriptyline)
- Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (citalopram, escitalopram, fluoxetine, paroxetine and sertraline)
- Serotonin–norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (duloxetine, venlafaxine and desvenlafaxine)



Case Work-Up and Outcome

- Impedance results off therapy:
 - 45 total reflux episodes, 27 acid, 18 nonacid
 - pH<4 for 4.6% of the time (normal is 10%)
 - 6/6 chest pain episodes associated with reflux
- Diagnosis: hypersensitive esophagus
- Outcome:
 - Twice a day acid suppression continued due to partial response with lessening of symptom severity
 - Citalopram started with reduction in pain frequency and severity

Summary: Functional Heartburn or NERD

- Definitions of NERD, ERD and other reflux related conditions are changing
- Critical to understand the potential for response, and nonresponse of NERD and other conditions to therapies
- One of the primary indications of pH-Multichannel Intraluminal Impedence testing (pH-MII) may be to differentiate NERD from functional heartburn
 - Should be performed off-therapy
- Acid suppression has a role in NERD and hypersensitive esophagus but not in functional heartburn



Closing Thoughts



PPI, to Use, or Not to Use ...Is that the Right Question?

- Answer: Not really...
- Perhaps more important questions are:
 - Is treatment with PPIs indicated and evidence-based?
 - For how long will treatment continue?



Take Home Messages

- PPIs have no role in extremely common infant GER
 - Should be used when indicated in infants with GERD
- PPIs have a role in NERD and hypersensitive esophagus
 - Not in functional heartburn
- Limited evidence for using PPI in some aerodigestive diseases
- PPIs are indicated and can be very effectively used in ERD,
 NSAID prophylaxis, bleeding, PPI-REE, and H. pylori eradication
 - For a defined period of time
- Ongoing management should include a plan for treatment discontinuation
 - In consideration of risks associated with PPI therapy



Questions?



Additional Slides



Evidence-Based Indications for Treatment with PPIs





A Global, Evidence-Based Consensus on the Definition of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease in the Pediatric Population

Philip M. Sherman, MD¹, Eric Hassall, MD², Ulysses Fagundes-Neto, MD³, Benjamin D. Gold, MD⁴, Seiichi Kato, MD⁵, Sibylle Koletzko, MD⁶, Susan Orenstein, MD७, Colin Rudolph, MD⁶, Nimish Vakil, MD⁶, and Yvan Vandenplas, MD¹¹

OBJECTIVES: We sought to develop an international consensus on the definition of gastroesophageal reflux

disease (GERD) in the pediatric population.

METHODS: Using the Delphi process, a set of statements was developed and voted on by an international

panel of eight pediatric gastroenterologists. Statements were based on systematic literature searches using Medline, EMBASE, and CINAHL. Voting was conducted using a six-point scale, with consensus defined a priori as agreement in 75% of the group. The strength of each

statement was assessed using the GRADE system.

RESULTS: There were four rounds of voting. In the final vote, consensus was reached on 98% of the

59 statements. In this vote, 95% of the statements were accepted by seven of eight voters. Consensus items of particular note are: (i) GERD is present when reflux of gastric contents causes troublesome symptoms and/or complications, but this definition is complicated by unreliable reporting of symptoms in children under the age of ~8 years; (ii) histology has limited use in establishing or excluding a diagnosis of GERD; its primary role is to exclude other conditions; (iii) Barrett's esophagus should be defined as esophageal metaplasia that is intestinal metaplasia, positive or negative; and (iv) extraesophageal conditions may be associated with GERD, but for

most of these conditions causality remains to be established.

CONCLUSIONS: The consensus statements that comprise the Definition of GERD in the Pediatric Population

were developed through a rigorous process. These statements are intended to be used for the

development of future clinical practice guidelines and as a basis for clinical trials.

Am J Gastroenterol 2009; 104:1278-1295; doi:10.1038/ajg.2009.129; published online 7 April 2009



Case Reports of Infants with Infantile Spasms Misdiagnosed as GERD

ACTA PÆDIATRICA

NURTURING THE CHILD

Acta Pædiatrica ISSN 0803-5253

SHORT COMMUNICATION

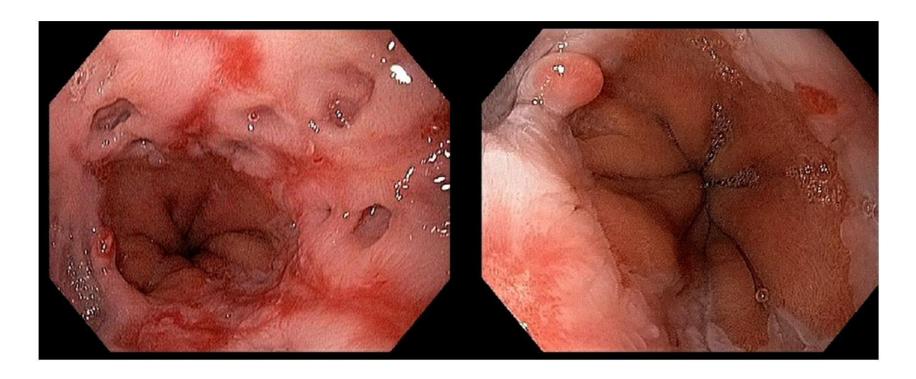
Gastroesophageal reflux disease at any cost: a dangerous paediatric attitude

Andrea Taddio (ataddio@yahoo.it)¹, Chiara Bersanini², Lucio Basile³, Massimo Fontana², Alessandro Ventura¹

Department of Pediatrics, Institute of Child Health IRCCS Burlo Garofolo, University of Trieste, Trieste, Italy
 SCO Pediatria, Ospedale dei Bambini "V. Buzzi", Milan, Italy
 A.S.L. 105; Pescara, Italy



Endoscopically Visible Breaks in the Distal Esophageal Mucosa are the Most Reliable Evidence of Reflux Esophagitis





Endoscopically Visible Breaks in the Distal Esophageal Mucosa are the Most Reliable Evidence of Reflux Esophagitis





Assessing the Efficacy and Safety of Proton Pump Inhibitor Lansoprazole in Infants with Symptoms of GERD

Multicenter, Double-Blind, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Trial Assessing the Efficacy and Safety of Proton Pump Inhibitor Lansoprazole in Infants with Symptoms of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease

Susan R. Orenstein, MD, Eric Hassall, MBChB, FRCPC, Wanda Furmaga-Jablonska, MD, PhD, Stuart Atkinson, MBChB, and Marsha Raanan, MS

Objective To assess the efficacy and safety of lansoprazole in treating infants with symptoms attributed to gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) that have persisted despite $a \ge 1$ -week course of nonpharmacologic management.

Study design This multicenter, double-blind, parallel-group study randomized infants with persisting symptoms attributed to GERD to treatment with lansoprazole or placebo for 4 weeks. Symptoms were tracked through daily diaries and weekly visits. Efficacy was defined primarily by a \geq 50% reduction in measures of feeding-related crying and secondarily by changes in other symptoms and global assessments. Safety was assessed based on the occurrence of adverse events (AEs) and clinical/laboratory data.

Results Of the 216 infants screened, 162 met the inclusion/exclusion criteria and were randomized. Of those, 44/81 infants (54%) in each group were responders—identical for lansoprazole and placebo. No significant lansoprazole—placebo differences were detected in any secondary measures or analyses of efficacy. During double-blind treatment, 62% of lansoprazole-treated subjects experienced 1 or more treatment-emergent AEs, versus 46% of placebo recipients (P = .058). Serious AEs (SAEs), particularly lower respiratory tract infections, occurred in 12 infants, significantly more frequently in the lansoprazole group compared with the placebo group (10 vs 2; P = .032).

Conclusions This study detected no difference in efficacy between lansoprazole and placebo for symptoms attributed to GERD in infants age 1 to 12 months. SAEs, particularly lower respiratory tract infections, occurred more frequently with lansoprazole than with placebo. (*J Pediatr 2009:154:514-20*)

See editorial, p 475

From the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA (S.O.); Division of

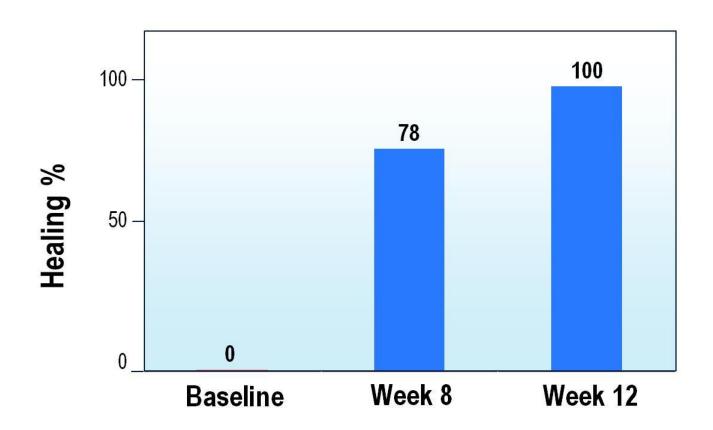


Assessing the Efficacy and Safety of Proton Pump Inhibitor Lansoprazole in Infants with Symptoms of GERD

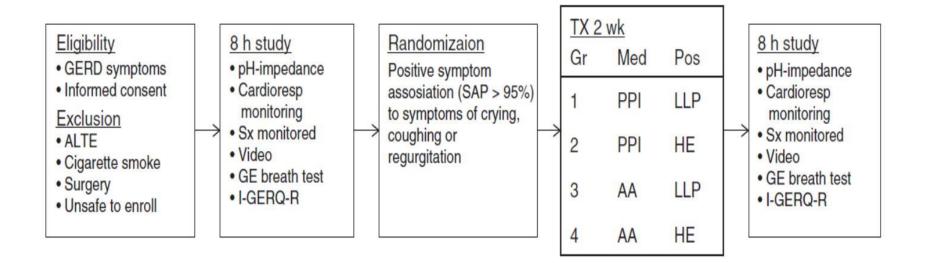
 No difference in efficacy between lansoprazole and placebo for symptoms attributed to GERD in infants 1 to 12 months



Effect of Lansoprazole on Erosive Esophagitis in Children (12 months–11 yrs)



Body Positioning and Medical Therapy for Infantile Gastroesophageal Reflux Symptoms



Acta Pædiatrica ISSN 0803-5253

REGULAR ARTICLE

Extensive protein hydrolysate formula effectively reduces regurgitation in infants with positive and negative challenge tests for cow's milk allergy

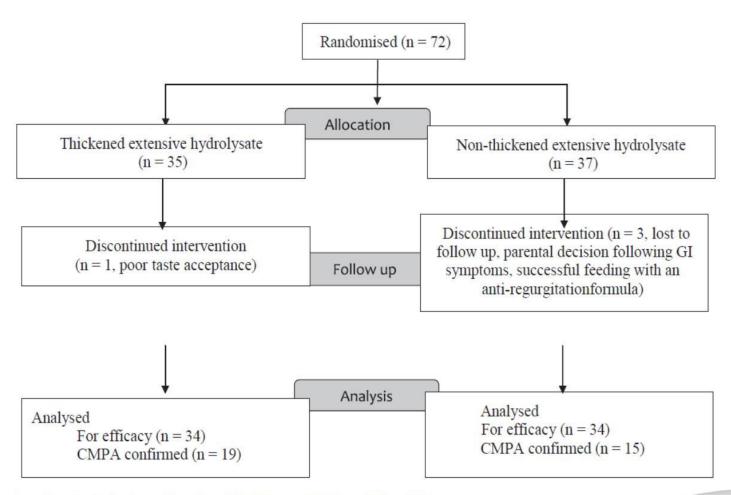
Y. Vandenplas (yvan.vandenplas@uzbrussel.be), E. De Greef, ALLAR study group[†]

Department of Paediatrics, UZ Brussel, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium

- Prospective, randomized, double-blind
- 72 infants
- < 6 months of age with symptoms evaluated at inclusion and at 1 month:
 - General discomfort
 - Gl symptoms (regurgitation, vomiting, diarrhea, constipation, blood in stools)
 - Respiratory symptoms (runny nose, cugh, wheezing)
 - Dermatological symptoms



Protein Hydrolysate Formula Effectively Reduces Regurgitation in Infants continued





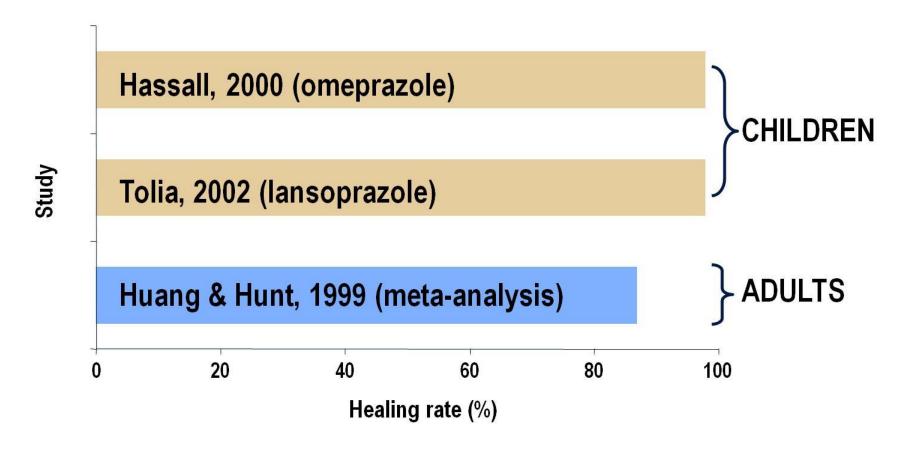


Protein Hydrolysate Formula Effectively Reduces Regurgitation in Infants continued

- Regurgitation reduced in all infants, but more so with thickened formula, within a month
- Highest reduction in symptoms was in those with confirmed CMPA



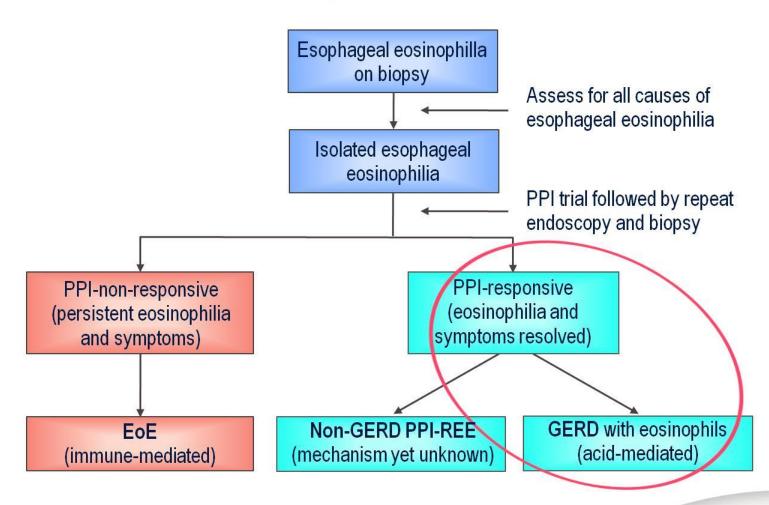
Similar PPI Healing Rates in Adults and Children



Hassall E et al. *J Pediatr* 2000;137:800-7. Tolia V et al. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr* 2002;35:S308-18. Huang JQ et al. *Gut* 1999;45:P513.



Diagnosis and Management of Eosinophilia and EoE



Understanding the Risks of Treatment



Other Infections

- PPI treated patients had an increased rate of infection (after prescription for PPI) of 1.46 for Campylobacter and 1.2 for Salmonella, compared with baseline ¹
- Acid suppression resulted in gastric bacterial overgrowth, in particular with organisms that cause pharyngeal and laryngeal disease ²
 - Could acid suppression for GERD result in, exacerbate, or worsen the very same extra-esophageal disease it was used to treat?



^{1.} Brophy S et al. Am J Gastroenterol 2013;108:1094-100.

^{2.} Rosen R et al. JAMA Pediatr 2014;168:932-7.

Ranitidine is Associated With Infections, Necrotizing Enterocolitis, and Fatal Outcome in Newborns



WHAT'S KNOWN ON THIS SUBJECT: Although still off-label for newborns, the use of inhibitors of gastric acid secretion continues to increase. Acid-suppressive drugs could facilitate the onset of infections in adults and children. Evidence for efficacy is weak in newborns, particularly if preterm.



WHAT THIS STUDY ADDS: This is the first prospective study demonstrating an association between the use of ranitidine and infections, necrotizing enterocolitis, and fatal outcome in very low birth weight newborns. Caution is advocated in using ranitidine in newborns.

AUTHORS: Gianluca Terrin, MD, PhD,^a Annalisa Passariello, MD, PhD,^{b,c} Mario De Curtis, MD, PhD,^d Francesco Manguso, MD, PhD,^e Gennaro Salvia, MD,^f Laura Lega, MD,^g Francesco Messina, MD,^h Roberto Paludetto, MD,^b and Roberto Berni Canani, MD, PhD^{b,j}

"Department of Women's Health and Territorial Medicine, University La Sapienza, Rome, Italy; "Department of Pediatrics, University Federico II, Naples, Italy; "Neonatology Unit, Monaldi Hospital, Naples, Italy; "Department of Pediatrics, University La Sapienza, Rome, Italy; "Gastroenterology Unit, Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy; "Neonatology Unit, Fatebenefratelli Hospital, Naples, Italy; "Neonatology Unit, Meyer Pediatric Hospital, Florence, Italy; "Neonatology Unit, V. Betania Evangelic Hospital, Naples, Italy; and

TABLE 2 Rate of Patients Presenting Infections During the Study Period

	Not exposed to Ranitidine (n = 183)	Exposed to Ranitidine (n = 91)	Р
Overall infections, n (%)	18 (9.8)	34 (37.4)	<.001
Sepsis, n (%)	16 (8.7)	23 (25.3)	<.001
Pneumonia, n (%)	1 (0.5)	4 (4.4)	.043
Urinary tract infections, n (%)	1 (0.5)	7 (7.7)	.002



Abdominal Pain Due to Onset of Bacterial Overgrowth in Children Treated with a PPI

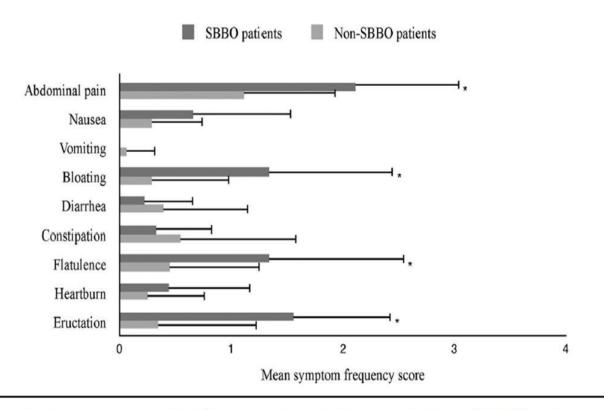


Figure. Mean symptom frequency score after PPI treatment in patients with and without SBBO. *P < .05.



Aerodigestive Conditions and Associations with Reflux



Persistent Cough and Reflux

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Airway Hypersensitivity, Reflux, and Phonation Contribute to Chronic Cough



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CONCLUSIONS:

Antecedent phonation and reflux increased the rate of cough events in patients with idiopathic chronic cough. Reflux events were more strongly associated with increased rate of coughing. Our findings support the concept that airway hypersensitivity is a cause of chronic cough, and that the vocal folds may be an effector in chronic cough ClinicalTrials.gov number: NCT01263626.

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Laryngeal-pharyngeal Pathology and Reflux

REZA BAND, a Noninvasive Device for Laryngopharyngeal Reflux, FDA OK'ed



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Beyond Erosive-reflux Disease (ERD) to NERD



NERD Management Algorithm

