Reactive Gastropathy is Associated with Inflammatory Conditions Throughout the Gastrointestinal Tract

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Background

Reactive gastropathy is a histopathologic term widely understood by gastroenterologists as an indication of gastric damage associated with either bile reflux or chronic NSAID use. The epidemiology of reactive gastropathy and its relationship with other conditions of the gastrointestinal tract associated with NSAID use have not been evaluated.

Purpose

We tested the hypothesis that if reactive gastropathy shares a common etiologic factor with these conditions, the analysis of a large cohort would unveil associations. A secondary aim was to determine the relative etiologic factor with these conditions, the analysis of a large cohort would unveil associations. A secondary aim was to determine the relative

Study Setting

This study was conducted at the Miraca Research Institute, part of Miraca Life Sciences, a specialized gastrointestinal laboratory that receives gastroenterology and surgery centers across the U.S. All demographic, Life Sciences, a specialized gastrointestinal laboratory that receives gastroenterology and surgery centers across the U.S.

Study Highlights

• This is the largest study to date to examine reactive gastropathy in the United States.
• Reactive gastropathy is the most common histopathologic change of the gastric mucosa in US outpatients who have gastric biopsies.
• The prevalence of reactive gastropathy is characterized by a clear age-dependent rise, it is significantly higher in women, and shows no association with geographic residence within the United States.
• The associations of reactive gastropathy with other histopathologic changes of the gastrointestinal tract support the contention that NSAID use and bile reflux may contribute to its occurrence.

Study Findings

Table 1 - Stratification of patient population by gastritis type, gender, and age. Odds ratios (OR) are age-adjusted, values of more than 1 indicate a greater probability that the condition occurs in women. CI: Confidence Interval. S2 Standard Deviation.

Table 2 - Association of reactive gastropathy with selected conditions of the digestive tract. An odds ratio (OR) greater than 1 indicates this condition is more common in patients with reactive gastropathy than those with a normal gastric mucosa. Patients with a history or diagnosis of inflammatory bowel disease were excluded from these analyses. CI: Confidence Interval.

Table 3 - Distribution of histopathologic diagnoses of the gastric mucosa in US outpatients who have gastric biopsies. Reactive gastropathy is the most common histopathologic change of the gastric mucosa in US outpatients who have gastric biopsies. The prevalence of reactive gastropathy is characterized by a clear age-dependent rise, it is significantly higher in women, and shows no association with geographic residence within the United States. The associations of reactive gastropathy with other histopathologic changes of the gastrointestinal tract support the contention that NSAID use and bile reflux may contribute to its occurrence.