Avoiding Small Intestinal Biopsies for Diagnosis of Celiac Disease in Children: A Reliable Strategy for All Patients?

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© 2018 by European Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition and North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition. Background: Current reports applying ESPGHAN exception criteria (EEC) to diagnose celiac disease (CD) without duodenal biopsies indicate that a high percentage of patients with CD may be identified when applied correctly in specialized settings. Application of the EEC, however, in "daily life conditions" at the different levels of medical services is not clear. Methods: EEC was applied to 130 pediatric patients evaluated for CD at 5 public hospitals in Santiago, Chile, during 2010 to 2015. Clinical presentation, serum anti-tissue transglutaminase 2 and anti-endomysium antibodies (EMA), genotyping, and small intestinal histology were obtained from clinical charts. Results: A total of 78 of 130 patients reviewed had some of the data required for analysis, but EMA was determined in 54% and genotyping in 2.3% of patients,