**Time to Diagnosis of Eosinophilic Gastritis and Eosinophilic Enteritis Improves When Patients Are Co-Managed by an Allergist and Gastroenterologist**

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**BACKGROUND**

- Eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases (EGIDs) are chronic inflammatory diseases characterized by persistent gastrointestinal (GI) symptoms and localized elevated eosinophils in GI mucosa.¹
- Eosinophilic esophagitis (EE), eosinophilic gastropathies (EG), and eosinophilic enteropathies (EEn) are diagnosed by endoscopy, biopsy and quantification of eosinophils in the esophagus, stomach, and small intestine, respectively.²
- Patients with EGIDs often have comorbid allergic conditions such as asthma, rhinitis or atopic dermatitis.³ Evidence suggests they may be ideally managed by a multidisciplinary team that includes both a gastroenterologist and an allergist.⁴
- AIM: To characterize the real-world experience of patients on the path to diagnosis of EG and/or EEn (EG/EEn), including the involvement of these two physician specialties.

**METHODS**

- Retrospective observational study of Symphony Health’s PatientSourCe® proprietary, longitudinal medical and pharmacy claims database (2008-2015).
- Age groups defined as 0 to 10 years (children), 11 to 17 (adolescents), and 18 years (adults), based on age at initial symptom presentation.
- Statistical significance tested using Wilcoxon Rank Sum test (continuous variables) or Pearson’s chi-squared test (categorical variables).

**Patient selection criteria**

- EG/EEn diagnosis: 3 ICD-9-CM codes for EG and/or EEn (K51.81).
- EG/EEn diagnosis: 2 ICD-9-CM code for relevant GI symptom, 2 ICD-9-CM code for endoscopy procedure & 2 ICD-9-CM diagnostic code prior to endoscopy procedure to prior EG/EEn diagnosis date.
- Evidence of continual claims coverage for ≥3 years prior to and ≥1 year after 1st EG/EEn diagnosis.

**Patient characteristics**

- A total of 4,097 patients (62% adults, 11% adolescents, 27% children) met all selection criteria; baseline characteristics are presented in Table 1.

**RESULTS**

**Patients presented with a variety of gastrointestinal symptoms**

- Figure 1. Frequency of GI symptoms prior to EG/EEn diagnosis

**Patients endured a lengthy path to EG/EEn diagnosis**

- Figure 2. Mean time between diagnostic milestones

**Most EG/EEn patients had a comorbid allergic disease and/or EoE**

- Figure 3. Frequency of allergic comorbidities in patients with EG/EEn

**Patients who received care from both an allergist and gastroenterologist experienced a reduced time to EG/EEn diagnosis**

- Figure 4. Median time from initial presentation to diagnosis in patients with a history of allergic comorbidity

**CONCLUSIONS**

- Patients with a history of allergic disease who received care from both an allergist and gastroenterologist experienced a significant reduction in time to EG/EEn diagnosis vs patients who received care from only a gastroenterologist; this trend was maintained across age groups (Figure 4).
- Patients under the care of an allergist prior to EG/EEn diagnosis also showed a significant reduction in time from initial presentation to referral to a gastroenterologist, with a mean reduction of 2.9 months (P<.001).

**Data source and study design**

- Retrospective observational study of Symphony Health’s PatientSourCe® proprietary, longitudinal medical and pharmacy claims database (2008-2015).
- Age groups defined as 0 to 10 years (children), 11 to 17 (adolescents), and 21 years (adults), based on age at initial symptom presentation.
- Statistical significance tested using Wilcoxon Rank Sum test (continuous variables) or Pearson’s chi-squared test (categorical variables).

**Patient selection criteria**

- ≥2 ICD-9-CM codes for EG and/or EEn (K51.81).
- EG/EEn diagnosis: ≥1 ICD-9-CM code for relevant GI symptom, ≥1 ICD-9-CM code for endoscopy procedure & ≥1 ICD-9-CM diagnostic code prior to endoscopy procedure to prior EG/EEn diagnosis date.

**Patient characteristics**

- A total of 1,098 patients (62% adults, 11% adolescents, 27% children) met all selection criteria; baseline characteristics are presented in Table 1.

**METHODS**

- Retrospective review of electronic medical records of patients with EoE or EG/EEn from Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, and Children’s Hospital Colorado, Aurora, Colorado (2009-2015).
- Age groups defined as 0 to 10 years (children), 11 to 17 (adolescents), 18 years (adults), and 197 (5%) years (adolescents).

**Patient selection criteria**

- ≥1 ICD-9-CM code for EG and/or EEn (K51.81).
- EG/EEn diagnosis: ≥1 ICD-9-CM code for relevant GI symptom, ≥1 ICD-9-CM code for endoscopy procedure & ≥1 ICD-9-CM diagnostic code prior to endoscopy procedure to prior EG/EEn diagnosis date.

**Patient characteristics**

- A total of 1,061 patients (62% adults, 11% adolescents, 27% children) met all selection criteria; baseline characteristics are presented in Table 1.

**RESULTS**

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