FODMAP diets (Fermentable Oligo-, Di-, MonosAccharides and Polyols) for Irritable Bowel Syndrome

What is irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)?

The Rome III Criteria At least 3 months, onset at least 6 months before, of recurrent abdominal pain or discomfort, associated with 2 or more of:

- Improvement with defecation; and/or
- Onset associated with a change in frequency of stool; and/or
- Onset associated with a change in form (appearance) of stool





Alarm symptoms should not be present

- Pain that awakens/interferes with sleep
- Diarrhea that awakens/interferes with sleep
- Blood in the stool (visible or occult)
- Weight loss
- Fever
- Abnormal physical examination

Our patient did not have any alarm symptom

What is the diagnosis?

Irritable bowel syndrome

What are the subtypes of IBS?



Our patient had IBS-A

IBS subtypes



Story of a patient

28-y old MD G&O doctor doing PG in Hyderabad

- Abdominal discomfort
 & feeling of distension 3-4 y
- Flatulence
- Irregular stool form & frequency
- Mucus
- Incomplete evacuation

Variability of symptoms

28-y old MD G&O doctor doing PG in Hyderabad



Symptoms less when in Hyderabad **Symptoms** more when in Lucknow

What could be the explanation for variability in symptoms?

- Variability in stress levels in hostel and in home
- Not a tenable explanation as
 - Stress is expected to be less at home than in hostel
 - She denied having much stress in either place
 - She disliked consultation with several physicians who sent her to psychiatrists
- Dietary variation
 - Rice-based diet in southern India
 - Wheat-based diet in northern India
 - She reported that she loves "chapati" and "paneer" and her mother gives plenty of these at home

Further course of this patient

- Lactose hydrogen breath test and lactose tolerance test revealed lactose malabsorption
- Fructose hydrogen breath test revealed fructose malabsorption as well





Lactose tolerance test

Fasting blood sugar (BS)



BS <20 mg% above fasting at 30 minutes

Ghoshal UC, et al. J Neurogastroenterol Motil 2011;17:312-17

Issues in this patient

- Improved on withdrawal of milk and milk products and preference of rice over wheat
- One has to be aware about hidden lactose in several food products
- Issues on lactose malabsorption and wheat/gluten sensitivity will be discussed

Up to a third of the World population reports GI Symptoms



IBS in Asia



The common view of FGID



The term 'functional' is often improperly interpreted as 'idiopathic' or 'cryptogenetic'

 Patients labelled as neurotic, apprehensive, otherwise healthy individuals with an imaginary disease

Pathogenesis of IBS



Diet: Clinician performance

- Smaller and more frequent meals
- Low fat meal
- Avoidance of smoking/alcohol/caffeine
- Avoidance of NSAIDs
- Avoidance of carbonated drinks
- Avoidance of 'irritating food'
- Survey of Practices of Clinicians in the Asia Pacific Region
 - 95% dispensed lifestyle or dietary advice to functional dyspepsia patients
 - 79% dispensed lifestyle or dietary advice to IBS patients

S Miura JGH 2010; U Kachintorn JGH 2011; Jy Kang Gut 1992

Diet: Questions in patients' mind

- What food should I avoid?
- What can I eat?
- Should I eat more fibre?
- Can I drink milk?
- How to reduce bloating?
- What causes gas?



Patients with IBS FREQUENTLY complain that their symptoms are triggered by food

Multifactorial pathogenesis of abdominal bloating



Formation & elimination of gases



FODMAPS and IBS Fermentable Oligo-, Di-, Mono-sAccharides and Polyols



Intestinal distension

Simren M. Gastroenterology 2014;146:10-12

Dietary FODMAPs

Chemicals	Common name	Sources
Fructose	Fruit sugars	Fruits, corn syrup, honey
Lactose	Milk sugar	Milk, yogurt, ice cream
Frustans	A type of fiber	Wheat, onion, garlic, chicory
Galactans		Soy, beans, chickpeas, lentils, cabbage
Polyols	Sorbitol, mannitol & other 'ols'	Sweeteners in some fruits,vegetables, mushrooms & sugar-free candys

To date there are 6 seminal papers with high quality evidence of efficacy of the low FODMAP diet in IBS

Shepherd SS, Muir J, Gibson PR CGH 2008; Barrett JS, Muir J, Gibson PR APT 2010; Ong D, Gibson PR, JGH 2010; Biesierkierski J, Gibson PR Gastroenterol 2013; Halmos EP, Gibson PR, Gastroenterol 2014; Halmos EP, Gibson PR Gastroenterol 2015

Low FODMAP foods FODMAP'—Fermentable Oligo-, Di- and Monosaccharides and Polyols



High FODMAP foods (Fermentable Oligo-, Di- and Monosaccharides and Polyols)



High FODMAP foods



Low FODMAP diet in IBS

- Clear utility awaiting Asia-Pacific data
- Caveats
 - -Tends to be more expensive
 - May develop food obsessions
 - Overly restrictive
 - Inadequacy of dietary fibre
 - Reduction in colonic bifidobacteria after 4 weeks on low FODMAP diet
 - May have long-term implications
- Re-challenge program to liberalise food choice
- Administration via specialists/dieticians/nutritionists

IBS treatment algorithm: The past & future



IBS management: The team approach

