

**SIMI 112° Congresso Nazionale
Roma, 22-25 ottobre 2011**

(NON MODIFICARE QUESTA RIGA)

FOOD HYPERSENSITIVITY-ASSOCIATED IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME: MAY FECAL ASSAYS IMPROVE DIAGNOSIS?

Pasquale Mansueto*, Antonio Carroccio**, Maurizio Soresi*, Alberto D'Alcamo*, Giuseppe Ambrosiano*, Aurelio Seidita*, Floriana Adragna*, Angelo Maria Patti*, Lidia Di Prima*, Giuseppe Pirrone*, Ilenia Pepe*, Salvatore Di Rosa***, Giovambattista Rini*

*Dipartimento di Medicina Clinica e delle Patologie Emergenti, Università di Palermo,**Ospedali Civili Riuniti di Sciacca (AG);***Azienda Ospedaliera Villa Sofia-Cervello, Palermo

ABSTRACT

Background and Aims: A percentage of patients with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)-like symptoms suffer from food hypersensitivity (FH) and improve on elimination diet. No assays have satisfactory sensitivity in identifying FH patients. The Aim of the study was to evaluate the frequency of FH diagnosis in IBS-like patients. To calculate sensitivity, specificity and diagnostic accuracy of fecal assays (tryptase, ECP and calprotectin) for FH diagnosis.

Patients and Methods: 160 IBS patients were included. Elimination diet and double-blind placebo-controlled challenge were performed for FH diagnosis. Fecal assays and specific IgE were performed at the entry in the study.

Results: 40 of 160 IBS patients (25%) suffered from FH. Fecal ECP and tryptase values were significantly higher in FH than in IBS not-related to FH patients. ECP was the most accurate assay in FH diagnosis: sensitivity 65%, specificity 91%.

Conclusions: A large percentage of IBS patients really suffer from FH. In these patients tryptase and ECP are among the pivotal mediators of the inflammation. Fecal assays of ECP can be useful in identifying FH patients among IBS-presenting subjects.