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Celiac disease: Silent disease

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Celiac disease is a genetic autoimmune disorder where the ingestion of wheat gliadin and related prolamines leads to damage of the small Bowel. Celiac Disease (CD) affects approximately 1% (1/100) people worldwide and 1.5 million Americans are undiagnosed. If first-degree relative with celiac, there is 1:10 risk of developing the disease. Celiac disease can be difficult to be diagnosed because there is a variety of symptoms and also more than 40% of people with celiac could be asymptomatic. Some of the symptoms in children would be abdominal pain, chronic diarrhea, constipation, weight loss, failure to thrive, fatigue, short stature, delay puberty, etc. Celiac disease can be screen with blood test like Tissue tranglutaminase IgA but the definite diagnosis can be done with upper endoscopy. Treatment nowadays is still a gluten free diet.

Biography

Virginia Baez Socorro has studied her Medicine at the Luis Razetti School of Medicine in the Universidad Central de Venezuela. She has worked as a General Physician in Venezuela before completing her Pediatric Residency at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, PA, USA. She then completed a Fellowship in Pediatric Gastro-enterology at UH Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, Case Western Reserve School of Medicine in Cleveland, OH, USA. She is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and the Co-Director of the Eosinophilic Esophagitis program at UH Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital. In addition to Eosinophilic Esophagitis, her interests include inflammatory bowel disease and celiac disease.

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