PANCREATIC GP2-SPECIFIC AUTOANTIBODIES ARE MARKERS OF CROHN’S DISEASE

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INTRODUCTION
The zymogen granule membrane glycoprotein (GP2) has been recognised recently as the major antigenic target of Crohn’s disease (CD) specific anti-pancreatic antibodies1. The diagnostic value of IgA and IgG class anti-GP2 antibodies has been studied in a small cohort of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) patients from Germany2. The clinical significance of these antibodies remains elusive.

AIM
Our aim was to assess the prevalence of anti-GP2 antibodies and their association with clinical parameters in a large cohort of IBD patients from the UK.

PATIENTS AND METHODS
A total of 242 IBD patients (108 male, median age: 40, range 15-91 years) including 150 with CD and 92 with Ulcerative Colitis (UC) from a tertiary referral centre in London, UK (University College Hospital) were tested for IgA and IgG anti-GP2 antibodies, as well as IgA and IgG ASCA using commercially available ELISA (GA Generic Assays, Germany). Anti-pancreatic antibodies were assessed by indirect immunofluorescence based on commercially available pancreas tissue sections (GA Generic Assays). Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS and GraphPad Prism software.

RESULTS-I
IgA or IgG anti-GP2 antibodies were present in 49 (32.6%) CD and 11 (12%) UC patients (p<0.01).

RESULTS-II
Reactivity for both ASCA and GP2 was found in 38 (25.3%) of CD and in only 2 (2.2%) of UC patients ($\chi^2$= 22.2, p<0.01). There was no correlation of anti-GP2 and ASCA titres.

CONCLUSION
Anti GP2 antibodies are highly specific for Crohn’s disease3,4 and their testing could be of clinical value as their presence significantly relates to extensive, ileal involving and non fistulating disease.

REFERENCES
4. Roggenbuck et al, Autoantibodies to GP2, the major zymogen granule membrane glycoprotein, are specific for Crohn’s disease and may reflect treatment response. Gut doi:10.1136/gut.2010.207214