

SURVEY OF THE TREATMENT OF CHRONIC PANCREATITIS.

Clinical Vignette 1

A 54 year old male presents to your office complaining of abdominal pain for the last 8 months. The pain is continues, but frequently exacerbates. He has a weight loss of 5 kg (121 lbs). He is not taking any medication. He reports alcohol use of 4-5 glasses of beer and smokes 25 cigarettes a day since the age of 17. An upper endoscopy and transabdominal ultrasound show no abnormalities. You consider the diagnosis of chronic pancreatitis.

Question 1:

Which laboratory test is an important part of your diagnostics?

You can select multiple answers.

- ☐ Amylase
- ☐ IgG4
- ☐ Fecal elastase
- ☐ Fecal fat collection
- ☐ None of these items
- ☐ Other,...

Question 2:

Which test is the first you do at suspicion of chronic pancreatitis?

You can select only one answer.

- ☐ Transabdominal ultrasound
- ☐ CT
- ☐ ERCP
- ☐ MRI/MRCP
- ☐ Endoscopic ultrasound

Question 3:

When do you diagnose ‘chronic pancreatitis?’

For each option, choose if you consider this as sufficient for diagnosing chronic pancreatitis?

Chronic ‘typical’ abdominal pain without alternative diagnosis	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Chronic abdominal pain and elevated amylase	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Chronic abdominal pain and calcifications on an abdominal X-ray	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Chronic abdominal pain and complaints of steatorrhea	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Steatorrhea, improving with pancreatic enzyme supplementation	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Decreased fecal elastase	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Relapsing pseudocysts	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Dilation of the main pancreatic duct (>4 mm)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Other,...		

Question 4:

What are your criteria for the diagnosis of alcoholic pancreatitis?

a standard glass of alcohol: 12 g ethanol in each drink (15 cl wine, 33 cl beer and 4 cl spirits)

You can select only one answer.

- ☐ Consumption of ≥ 2 standard drinks in a day for men and ≥ 1 in a day for women during > 6 months
- ☐ Consumption of ≥ 3 standard drinks in a day for men and ≥ 2 in a day for women during > 6 months
- ☐ Consumption of ≥ 4 standard drinks in a day for men and ≥ 3 in a day for women during > 6 months
- ☐ Consumption of ≥ 5 standard drinks in a day for men and ≥ 4 in a day for women during > 6 months

Clinical Vignette 2

A 42-year old woman is recently diagnosed with idiopathic chronic pancreatitis. She experiences daily abdominal pain for the last 8 months. She has a weight loss of 3 kg. She uses acetaminophen and diclofenac, but keeps invalidating pain. She reports no alcohol use. She does not smoke. She has a family history of cardiovascular diseases.

Question 1:

With which medical treatment you start to relieve the pain?

You can select multiple answers.

- ☐ Pancreatic enzyme supplementation
- ☐ Analgesics
- ☐ Protonpump inhibitors
- ☐ None of these items

Question 2:

Which analgesics do you prescribe?

You can select multiple answers.

- ☐ Acetaminophen
- ☐ NSAIDs
- ☐ Tramadol
- ☐ Buprenorphine
- ☐ Oxycodone
- ☐ Pregabalin
- ☐ Morphine
- ☐ Other; ...

Question 3:

When you prescribe analgesics, how do you prescribe them?

You can select only one answer.

- ☐ On demand
- ☐ On a regularly scheduled basis

Patient now has steatorrhea (16 g fat/24 h)

Question 4:

When you prescribe pancreatic enzyme supplementation, what is your initial dose?

You can select only one answer.

- ☐ 10.000 FIP-E lipase with the main meal and 5.000 FIP-E lipase with snacks
- ☐ 25.000 FIP-E lipase with the main meal and 10.000 FIP-E lipase with snacks
- ☐ 50.000 FIP-E lipase with the main meal and 25.000 FIP-E lipase with snacks
- ☐ I never prescribe pancreatic enzyme suppletion.

A CT of the abdomen is performed, which shows calcifications in the pancreas. The main pancreatic duct is not dilated (2 mm). The patient still experiences a lot of pain despite the use of narcotics.

Question 5:

Which treatment do you consider?

You can select only one answer.

- ☐ Continue narcotics in a higher dose
- ☐ Thoracoscopic splanchnicectomy
- ☐ Enteral feeding (jejunal tube)
- ☐ Endoscopic therapy
- ☐ Surgical treatment

A year later a second CT is performed. This shows a dilation of the pancreatic duct of 6 mm with intraductal stones.

Question 6:

When do consider additional treatment?

You can select only one answer.

- ☐ When she is in pain despite maximum dose of narcotics
- ☐ No pain with maximum dose of narcotics.

Question 7:

Which additional treatment do you consider at this moment?

You can select only one answer.

- ☐ Endoscopic treatment; lithotripsy and stenting of the pancreatic duct in case of stenosis
- ☐ Thoracoscopic splanchnicectomy
- ☐ Surgical treatment: pancreaticojejunostomy (Partington-Rochelle)
- ☐ I do not consider additional treatment at this moment

Clinical Vignette 3

A 35-year-old male is known with hereditary pancreatitis caused by a mutation in the PRSS1 gene. His sister and father also have hereditary pancreatitis.

Question 1:

Do you perform screening for pancreatic cancer in patients with hereditary pancreatitis?

You can select only one answer.

- ☐ No, there is no evidence for the efficacy and significance of screening
- ☐ Yes; endoscopic ultrasonography
- ☐ Yes; CT
- ☐ Yes; MRCP
- ☐ Yes; PET-scan
- ☐ Other;...

Question 2:

How frequent do you perform screening?

You can select only one answer.

- ☐ Once a year
- ☐ Once every two years
- ☐ Once every five years
- ☐ Other:...

He's become a father recently. He and his wife ask you to perform genetic testing on their 6-month-old son.

Question 2:

Do you consider genetic testing on this 6-month-old boy?

You can select only one answer.

- ☐ Yes, it is important to detect a genetic mutation to recognize possible complications of chronic pancreatitis.
- ☐ Yes, only to report the parents
- ☐ No, it is not possible to give genetic counseling to this 6-month-old boy, so screening is not appropriate.
- ☐ Possibly, first I refer the parents to the department of clinical genetics.

Question 3:

What advice regarding lifestyle would you give to a patient with hereditary pancreatitis?

- ☐ Cessation of alcohol intake
- ☐ Cessation of smoking
- ☐ A restriction in fat intake