Proton Pump Inhibitors: A Balanced View
Editors: Tsutomu Chiba, Peter Malfertheiner, Hiroshi Satoh
Publisher: S. Karger AG, 2013
ISBN: 978-3-318-02415-9 (Print)
978-3-318-02416-6 (Online)
Price $209.00

Proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) are the most prescribed medicines in gastroenterology and perennially among the top three classes of medicines by sales in the United States. These potent suppressors of gastric acid have revolutionized the treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), upper gastrointestinal (GI) bleeding, and peptic ulcer disease to name but a few conditions. Yet there is evidence that PPIs are often prescribed for long duration without documented indications, and like most medicines, PPIs may have adverse effects.

This book covers the discovery, mechanisms, uses, and potential adverse effects of PPIs in ten chapters. One of the book’s editors, Hiroshi Satoh, worked for Takeda Chemical Industries for thirty years and was closely involved in the development of lansoprazole. As Satoh explains, AB Hässle/Astra (omeprazole, launched 1988) and Takeda (lansoprazole, launched 1991) independently synthesized PPIs from 2-pyridylthioacetamide by screening modified compounds. The drugs were found to be highly effective at altering gastric acid and, serendipitously, to have in vitro activity against Helicobacter pylori. Omeprazole overcame initial safety concerns to win a large market share, and more PPIs were developed including enantiomers of the original PPIs (esomeprazole and dexlansoprazole).

Subsequent chapters deal with use of PPIs for specific conditions such as GERD, H. pylori, and GI bleeding with a focus on mechanistic considerations rather than use of PPIs in clinical practice. There are insightful comments regarding lansoprazole’s potentially unique mucosal protection, which may be mediated via capsaicin-sensitive sensory neurons and is blocked by nitric oxide; drug metabolism differences as a result of cytochrome P450 2C19 genotype; pH-dependent effect on platelet aggregation in ulcer bleeding; and potentiation of pancreatic enzyme supplementation. The final two chapters cover gastrointestinal and systemic PPI-related adverse effects including Clostridium difficile infection (CDI), bone fracture, and drug-drug interactions. However, these chapters do not include a broader discussion of the common problems of PPIs prescribed without indications or of PPIs given for indefinite durations.

Throughout these chapters written by 18 contributors, the writing is clean and the editors have successfully avoided redundancies. For those interested in the development and mechanisms of PPIs, Proton Pump Inhibitors: A Balanced View provides useful context.

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Yamada’s Handbook of Gastroenterology
Editor: Tadataka Yamada
Associate Editor: John Inadomi
Contributing Authors: Renuka Bhattacharya, Jason Dominitz, Joo Ha Hwang
Publisher: Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, 2013
ISBN: 9780470656204
Price: $85.00

Dr. Yamada’s Textbook of Gastroenterology has served as the primary textbook for countless numbers of internists and gastroenterologists. From this textbook comes Yamada’s Handbook of Gastroenterology, which serves as a companion to provide a more concise version geared towards medical students, house officers, and fellows.

The handbook is currently in its third edition. Dr. Inadomi and the co-authors write in the preface that the current edition has some major changes from previous editions including changes to the structure and format of the handbook. The first section is organized into approaches to common signs and symptoms including dysphagia, chest pain, gastrointestinal bleeding, weight loss, nausea and vomiting, abdominal pain, gas and bloating, ileus or obstruction, constipation, diarrhea, abdominal mass, jaundice, abnormal liver biochemical tests, ascites, as well as care of patients requiring nutritional support and endoscopic procedures. Each chapter is organized into a typical format including
an introduction, clinical presentation, differential diagnosis, management, and complications. Key practice points are highlighted in a “call-out box” to emphasize practical teaching points. Each chapter concludes with case studies to further illustrate common clinical scenarios and management strategies.

The second section deals with specific gastrointestinal diseases ranging from gastroesophageal reflux disease and inflammatory bowel disease to pancreatitis and viral hepatitis. Chapters focus on clinical presentation, differential diagnoses, diagnostic work-up, as well as management and complications for specific disorders. There are many helpful tables, figures and algorithms to complement the text and provide the reader with a quick reference. Key practice points are again highlighted to reinforce important factors in presentation, work-up, and management. Chapters conclude with case studies to further illustrate the typical presentation, diagnostic work-up, and management of each disease process.

Each chapter is succinct, ranging from 8 to 22 pages, and is easy to read. The book concludes with several multiple-choice questions for each chapter with a quick discussion to explain the correct answer choice. The handbook has some limitations including a paucity of discussion regarding the pathophysiology for each disease process. In addition, references to key sources are helpful for inquisitive readers who want to dig more deeply into the primary literature.

Overall, the handbook is recommended for medical students, house staff, and other clinicians who want a succinct, well-written review for common issues and diseases seen in gastroenterology. It is also a useful resource for fellows in gastroenterology especially as they study for board examinations; however, the depth of information would not be sufficient to be used as a primary textbook for practicing gastroenterologists.

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COHERA MEDICAL, INC.® SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES CLINICAL TRIAL AND CONFIRMS SAFETY OF SYLYS® SURGICAL SEALANT

Sylys® Surgical Sealant is the first of its kind synthetic sealant designed specifically to protect the suture line from leaks in intestinal anastomosis procedures

PITTSBURGH, Pa., December 10, 2013 – Cohera Medical, Inc.®, a leading innovator and developer of absorbable surgical adhesives and sealants, announced that it has successfully completed a clinical trial confirming the safety of Sylys® Surgical Sealant designed to significantly reduce anastomotic leakage in intestinal procedures. The European study included patients enrolled at two sites in the Netherlands.

Sylys is one of the first synthetic sealants specifically designed to significantly reduce anastomotic leakage in intestinal anastomosis procedures. Used in conjunction with standard anastomotic closure techniques, Sylys protects the suture or staple line, supporting the anastomosis during the first few days of healing, when leaks are most likely to occur.

“Sylys enhances standard closure techniques, advancing the healing process and reducing post-operative complications,” said Patrick Daly, President and Chief Executive Officer of Cohera Medical. “With the completion of this study, we are a step closer to providing patients with the best opportunity for a successful outcome following intestinal anastomosis procedures.”

On average, anastomotic leaks occur in 3-15% of colorectal procedures, and are the cause of one-third of the mortalities following colorectal surgery. Sylys has the potential to make an enormous impact on an industry estimated as a $1-4B market.

About Cohera Medical

Cohera Medical, Inc.® is a leading innovator and developer of absorbable surgical adhesives and sealants. The Company’s first product, TissuGlu® Surgical Adhesive, is an internal surgical adhesive for large flap surgeries, such as abdominoplasty (tummy tuck), that eliminates or reduces fluid accumulation and the need for post surgical drains. TissuGlu’s chemical composition is resorbable, non-toxic, forms a strong bond between tissue layers and allows for natural healing, which ultimately may enable faster recovery. TissuGlu has received CE Marking approval to be sold in the European Union (EU). Cohera Medical is also developing a unique and proprietary intestinal sealant, and a strong adhesive for mesh fixation. Outside of the EU, TissuGlu and the other Cohera products are currently indicated for investigational use only and have not yet been approved for medical use by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the U.S. or in any other market.

For more information, visit: www.coheramed.com

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MEETINGS CALENDAR

Jan. 17 & 18, 2014 AGA Clinical Congress of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Clinical Practice Skills in a Changing World
Loews Miami Beach Hotel, Miami Beach, FL – Designed by GI clinicians for GI clinicians, the clinical congress provides practical and immediately applicable solutions on how to improve patient outcomes and strengthen professional competence in a rapidly changing GI field. Attendees will explore recent developments in the detection, management and treatment of GI and liver disorders. The scheduled practice management session will also provide information on important changes in health care that will impact GI practice management. Case-based learning, didactic lectures and extensive faculty-attendee interaction come together to deliver a unique learning experience. Physicians are eligible to receive 8 MOC points for attending the congress.

May 3 - 6, 2014 Digestive Disease Week
Exhibit Dates: May 4–6
McCormick Place, Chicago, IL – Join the world’s largest gathering of physicians and researchers in the fields of gastroenterology, hepatology, endoscopy and gastrointestinal surgery. Discover for yourself why DDW® is the gold-standard event in the field. Explore the top-quality educational sessions, abundant networking opportunities and cutting-edge research the meeting offers.
Explore the DDW 2013 program with MyDDW. DDW 2014 program details will be available in April 2014. Members-only registration and housing opens Jan. 8.
For more information, visit: http://www.ddw.org

May 17 - 21, 2014 ASCRS Annual Scientific Meeting
Westin Diplomat Resort & Convention Center, Hollywood, FL – The American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons is the premier society for colon and rectal surgeons and other surgeons dedicated to advancing the science and treatment of diseases and disorders affecting the colon, rectum and anus. More than 1,000 of the Society’s 3,000 physician members are certified by the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery. The ASCRS Annual Scientific Meeting is the leading event in the field of colon and rectal surgery and more than 1,800 colorectal specialists are expected to attend. The meeting will include oral and poster presentations, expert panels, symposia, meet the professor breakfasts and many other sessions encouraging audience participation.
For more information, visit: www.fascrs.org/annual_meeting
PRACTICAL GASTROENTEROLOGY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

by Myles Mellor

DOWN
1. Doctor who first demonstrated an esophagoscope made of two telescopic metal tubes
2. Some of the fibrotic features of EoE
3. Salad green
4. Coffee holder
5. White blood cell containing granules readily stained by red dye
6. Large
7. Reduced vascular pattern in an endoscopy
8. Biliary _____
9. Harden
10. Abscissic acid, for short
11. ___logy, study of diseases of the ear
12. Chronic inflammatory disease where the immune system attacks tissues and organs
13. Zeiss _____ microscope
14. Going public letters
15. Places where organisms begin and flourish
16. Examination of tissue to check for disease
17. Inventor’s protection
18. Vertical lines, as in an endoscopy
19. PH measurement
20. Medical facility that performs endoscopy procedures
21. Older of two sons
22. Condition in which swallowing is difficult
23. Higher than normal pressure or weight
24. Study of microscopic tissues
25. Identity or close similarity of composition and molecular weight
26. Supportive tissue of the nervous system
27. Having less than normal pressure or weight
28. Evaluate
29. Feverish
30. Very high pain level number
31. Old son
32. PH measurement
33. Remain
34. Inventor’s protection
35. Going public letters
36. Supportive tissue of the nervous system
37. Higher than normal pressure or weight
38. Evaluation
39. Very high pain level number
40. Old son
41. Horizontal lines, as in an endoscopy
42. Medical facility that performs endoscopy procedures
43. Older of two sons
44. Vertical lines, as in an endoscopy
45. Supportive tissue of the nervous system
46. PH measurement

ACROSS
1. Abnormal narrowings of a body passage
6. Cardiac cycle
9. Central
10. Weight measure
11. ___gastric
12. Unit of heredity
13. Flatus
14. Cause a stinging pain
15. Reduced vascular pattern in an endoscopy
16. Salts
17. Possible side effects must outline them
18. Going public letters
19. Abscissic acid, for short
20. Aka pituitary
21. Zellweger syndrome
22. Medical facility that performs endoscopy procedures
23. Supportive tissue of the nervous system
24. Very high pain level number
25. Horizontal lines, as in an endoscopy
26. Evaluation
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