CORRECTION

An error occurred in abstract P98 (Gut 2000;47(Suppl III):A72). The correct abstract is published here.

P98 AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE IMPACT OF ALGINATES AND EPIDERMAL GROWTH FACTOR ON ENDOCYTOSIS-A STUDY IN FOUR OESOPHAGEAL CELL LINES

P.M. McPherson[1], P.E. Ross[1], P.W. Dettmar[2]. *Gastroenterology Research Laboratory, Molecular and Cellular Pathology, University of Dundee.* [2]*Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare (UK) Ltd, Hull, UK.*

Introduction: Endocytosis is a process whereby eukaryotic cells take up extracellular material by a variety of different mechanisms. These endocytic functions are of great importance and are involved in the regulation of cell surface receptor expression, maintenance of cell polarity, cholesterol homeostasis and a host of other physiologcal processes. In this investigation we looked specifically at fluid phase endocytosis and the impact alginates and epidermal growth factor (EGF) have on this activity.

Background: Alginates are extracted from seaweed with their structure and properties related to the species of seaweed. They are carbohydrate polymers made up of D-mannuronic (M block) and L-guluronic (G block) acid residues, and may also be made up of sequences of mixed residues (MG blocks). These carbohydrate polymers appear to promote migration and restitution in gastrointestinal epithelial cells *in vitro* and *in vivo* by modulating the expression and functional activity of cell junctional proteins such as the E-cadherin-catenin complex. EGF is a 6kd polypeptide that has a role in tissue repair, cell proliferation, ulcer healing and cell migration. EGF also inhibits acid production and imparts a cytoprotective mechanism protecting the oesophageal mucosa from gastric refluxate**.** Similar biological effects have been recognised with alginates that are used extensively in medications to alleviate symptoms associated with gastric reflux

Methods: In this study we have used four oesophageal carcinoma cell lines, 2 squamous cell carcinomas and two adenocarcinomas. Cells were incubated with combinations of fluorescent microspheres (0.02μm), alginate and EGF for 1 hour, and then analysed by FACScan®. Alginates were used at a concentration of 2mg/ml and EGF at 10ng/ml.

Results:

- All alginates used in this study up-regulate fluid phase endocytosis.
- EGF up-regulates endocytosis.
- Incubation with EGF and alginate up regulates fluid phase endocytosis.
- Levels of up-regulation varied depending on alginate used.
- Alginates up-regulate fluid phase endocytosis more than physiological levels of EGF.

Conclusions: We have shown that both alginates and EGF up-regulate fluid phase endocytosis in all cell lines used in this study. However alginates up-regulate this process significantly whereas EGF does not. The mechanism for this alginate action is not yet identified, but it is possible that alginates interact with the receptor for EGF.

NOTES

Summer Abdominal Imaging Conference

A five day course designed for the practising radiologist with a primary interest in abdominal imaging, emphasising the most recent advances in helical CT, MRI, US, and gastrointestinal imaging. It will be held on 23–27 July 2001 in Banff Springs, Canadian Rockies. Twenty-five category 1 credit hours. Further information: Janice Ford Benner, University of Pennsylvania Medical Center (Radiology), 3400 Spruce Street, 1 Silverstein Building, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA. Tel: +1 215 662 6904; fax: +1 215 349 5925.

Postgraduate Gastroenterology

A course designed for consultants and registrars, including those who do not specialise in gastroenterology, will be held on 9–12 September 2001 in Oxford, UK. Further information: Professor DP Jewell, Gastroenterology Unit, Radcliffe Infirmary, Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HE. Tel: +44 (0)1865 224829; fax: +44 (0)1865 790792; email: derek.jewell@ndm.ox.ac.uk; website: www.medicine.ox.ac.uk/gastro/gastrocourse.htm

British Association for the Study of the Liver

The 2001 BASL meeting will be held on 13–14 September in London, UK. Further information: Jackie Carter, Centre for Liver Research, University of Newcastle, Floor 4, William Leech Building, Medical School, Framlington Place, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4HH, UK. Tel: +44 (0)191 222 5640; fax: +44 (0)191 222 0723; email: j.a.carter@ncl.ac.uk

Torino-Toronto First Joined Workshop on Therapeutic Endoscopy

This workshop will be held on 13–15 September 2001 in Turin, Italy. Further information: Anna Botto, MAF Servizi, Congress Division, Via GB Vico, 7, 10128 Turin, Italy. Tel: +39 011 505 900; fax: +39 011 505 976; email: abotto@mafservizi.it

EACP Scientific and Second Annual General Meeting

The European Association of Coloproctology will hold this meeting on 14–15 September 2001. Further information: Lindsey Whitehouse, Integrity International Event Services, Conference House, 152 Morrison Street, Edinburgh EH3 8EB, UK. Tel: +44 (0)131 200 6055; fax: +44 (0)131 476 4646; email: enquiries@integrity-events.com; website: www.eacp.org

Asia Pacific Digestive Disease Week

The inaugural APDW will be held on 23–27 September 2001 in Sydney, Australia. This meeting will include a live endoscopy workshop, a wide range of other workshops, and a comprehensive scientific programme including original research and clinical symposia. Further information: Conference Secretariat, Gastroenterological Society of Australia, 145 Macquarie Street, NSW 2000, Australia. Tel: +61 (0)2 9256 5454; fax: +61 (0)2 9241 4586; website: www.gesa.org.au

9th Asian Conference on Diarrheal Diseases and Nutrition

This meeting will be held on 28–30 September 2001 in New Delhi, India. The organisers hope the meeting will promote meaningful and effective collaboration among individuals/institutions towards control of the major health problems in Asia, particularly those affecting women and children. Further information: Professor M K Bhan, Coordinator, Centre for Diarrheal Disease and Nutrition Research, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. Tel: +91 11 6963822; fax: +91 11 6862662; email: ascodd2001@rediffmail.com

RETRACTION

The authors of abstract number 071 of the BSG Annual Meeting abstract book (*Gut* 2000;**48**(suppl I):A20) would like to publish a retraction. This is due to the discovery of an error in the data presented which changes the conclusions of the abstract. The potential error was of a technical nature which the authors were unable to resolve until the return of specific technical support to the laboratory.

The authors have found that their genotyping of the IL-10 polymorphism is inverted on what was presented in the abstract, meaning that the association of ulcerative colitis is with the high producing IL-10 allele. They were only recently able to confirm this by direct DNA sequencing.

The authors would like to apologise for the error.