Inflammatory Intestinal Diseases – The Third Issue: Stomach and Colon

The 3rd issue of *Inflammatory Intestinal Diseases* focuses on different aspects of intestinal infection and its impact on intestinal inflammation and carcinogenesis and other systemic complications. In our series comparing Eastern and Western perspectives of inflammatory intestinal diseases, two author teams elucidate differences in the epidemiological distribution and pathophysiological causes of gastric cancer, which is more commonly observed in Asia compared to the US and Europe. The excellent reviews by H.P. Wirth and M. Yang as well as H. Suzuki and H. Mori portray the different perspectives of the role of *Helicobacter pylori* virulence factors as well as dietary and environmental factors in the pathophysiology of gastric cancer. Intestinal infections may influence chronic intestinal inflammatory conditions. This aspect is assessed by I. Arnold and A. Mueller, who analyze the available data of an association of the chronic intestinal inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis with the prevalence of a *H. pylori* infection. H. Fukui illustrates the possible cause-and-effect relationship of a leaky barrier with consecutive bacterial translocation and intestinal inflammatory conditions such as IBD, inflammatory liver conditions as well as non-inflammatory diseases such as chronic heart failure and depression. Finally, M. Bueter discusses the outcome and complications of bariatric surgery, which in many Western countries is the treatment of choice for morbid obesity, in patients with underlying IBD.

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