

Essential reading from the editorial board

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Dear reader,

We are proud to present the fall issue of *Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica*. As summer draws to an end, and time and the world are slowly changing, our national journal is also reaching the end of an era. The editorial team is working hard to redesign the look and feel of the *Acta* and to prepare it for a continuously evolving digital world. More details will be revealed in the coming issues, stay tuned. Meanwhile, we stay devoted to present you with high-quality scientific papers and practice-changing case reports.

Limiting the length of stay in hospital wards impacts the quality of life of patients, cost effectiveness of departments with high turnover rates, and the capacity of admissions. Perremans et al. implemented daily scrum meetings between medical and paramedical staff and found that the length of stay decreased by 10% compared to the pre-scrum baseline time frame (1). This multidisciplinary meeting can also improve the quality of care as patient information is shared more efficiently and improves team spirit and work satisfaction for all healthcare professionals involved. Time to start scrumming!

Vandebroek et al. used a large retrospective cohort study to estimate the risk of post-colonoscopy infection in liver transplant candidates (2). They found a 9% infection rate in patients with cirrhosis (bacteremia, bacterial peritonitis and pneumonia), potentially related to diverticulosis and the inadequate quality of bowel preparation in this group. Prospective trials including a non-transplant candidate control group are needed to confirm this finding and to identify risk factors, and to assess whether prophylactic antibiotics should be administered to high-risk individuals.

The treatment of therapy-refractory constipation in children is challenging and noninvasive management is evidently preferred. Vander Vennet et al. present a retrospective uncontrolled series of 36 children diagnosed with functional constipation (1 out of 3 with a neurodevelopmental disorder), which were treated with daily sacral transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) (3). The authors report improvements in fecal incontinence, retention behavior, stool frequency and abdominal pain without significant side effects. Although prospective sham-controlled trials are still needed, TENS is a cheap and readily available method which can be easily applied

in childhood therapy-refractory constipation.

Continuing a series of Belgian consensus guidelines in recent issues of *Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica*, the Be-LIAC (Belgian Liver & Intestine Advisory Committee) presents a protocol for the selection of patients with unresectable colorectal cancer liver metastases eligible for liver transplantation (4). This important paper provides evidence-based guidance on a game-changing but ethically controversial treatment option, where appropriate patient selection and post-transplant treatment and monitoring are crucial.

Furthermore, this issue serves an exquisite selection of original research on MASLD and autoimmune hepatitis, and a varied number of educative case reports on hepatic syphilis, breast carcinoma metastasis, PKHD1 defects, ZNFX1 deficiency and the risks of duodenal full thickness resections.

Enjoy your *Acta*,

Heiko De Schepper & Astrid Marot

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