PO-G-150  SLIGHT-MILD SENSORINEURAL HEARING LOSS IN CHILDREN WITH CELIAC DISEASE

S. HIZLI1, H. KARABULUT2, O. ÖZDEMİR1, A. ABACI2, B. ACAR2, R. KARAPEN2
1PAEDIATRICS, 2EAR NOSE and THROAT, ANKARA KECIOREN RESEARCH AND TRAINING HOSPITAL, ANKARA, Turkey

Objectives and Study: OBJECTIVE: Celiac disease (CD), an autoimmune gluten-dependent enteropathy, can be associated with several extra-intestinal manifestations, including neurological disorders. At present, there is no data available on the presence of hearing loss (HL) in children with CD. Slight or mild sensory-neural hearing loss (SNHL) has been postulated as a factor affecting speech, language, learning, and academic outcomes. The goal of the present study was to investigate the prevalence of slight-mild SNHL in children with CD compared with that in healthy controls.

Methods: METHODS: A sample of 24 consecutive biopsy- and serologically proven pediatric CD patients were studied. At the time of study all but one patient were on a gluten-free diet. All CD patients as well as in 24 age- and sex-matched controls were screened for slight-mild SNHL, defined as a low- middle- and high-frequency pure-tone average of 15 to 40 dB HL by both ear audiometric analysis.

Results: RESULTS: SNHL was detected in eight CD patients (33.3%) and in none of controls. The prevalence of SNHL was significantly higher among CD patients than controls (p=0.004). SNHL was bilateral in four CD patients, whereas the remaining four had a monolateral impairment. Of the group with CD, seven children had a slight hearing loss (16 to 25 dB HL) and one had a mild loss (26 to 40 dB HL).

Conclusion: CONCLUSIONS: Despite the low number of subjects evaluated, the present study is the first showing a higher prevalence of slight-mild hearing loss in children with CD than in healthy controls, suggesting an association between CD and slight-mild SNHL. Further longitudinal investigations on a larger sample size will be necessary to confirm the present data and to investigate the basis of this association.

Disclosure of Interest: "None declared"