The Utility Of a Database With Information Of Diagnosis and Follow-up Of Celiac Disease As a Teaching Technique: Learning To Collect And Analyze Data.


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The Celiac Disease Database was established in 1995 and, since then, it has collected data from all diagnosed/confirmed celiac patients by a single expert (CC). Over the years medical students have been taught to fill in the data and manage it through simple statistical analysis. The present analysis is performed as a result of one-year training by the fellows at the Gastroenterology Chair and Unit. For each celiac patient 333 variables were collected in a SPSS 10 database, including clinical records at the moment of diagnosis and at follow-up. The data includes 3,143 CD patients (76.2% female). The diagnoses increased over the years (1950-1980: 225 cases, 1981-2000: 1108, 2001-2014: 1810), the diarrhea at diagnosis reduced (from 60.8% to 35.3%) and anemia as single sign increased over the years (from 10.7% to 31.2%). Data collected indicated that students’ interest in managing the database rose over the year. However, the most was obtained when the students were in charge of data analysis. A detailed database created to collect large number of clinical records is a powerful instrument to understand the epidemiology of a disease. It offers also the unique possibility of teaching basic epidemiology and improves students’ skills in dealing with clinical records.