Level 1

**Non Celiac Enteropathy**
Subtitle: Damage to the Small Intestine Not Caused by Celiac Disease

**KEY POINTS:**

- Enteropathy is ongoing damage or irritation and swelling to the small intestine.

- There are many causes of this damage including drugs, infections and diseases. ¹⁻³

- Celiac disease (CD) is the most common cause of enteropathy in western countries. But not everyone with enteropathy has CD.

- Non celiac enteropathy (NCE) is the injury to the intestine not caused by CD.

- Symptoms of NCE are similar to CD. Some symptoms may improve on a gluten-free diet (GFD) for some patients.

- It is often hard to separate CD from NCE if you only look at symptoms and response to the GFD.

- Signs of NCE may be damage to the small intestine, a normal initial tTG test result on a regular diet, and no improvement of damage to the small intestine on GFD.

- NCE can often be confirmed by negative genetic testing (HLA-DQ2/DQ8).

- It is important to learn the actual cause of small intestinal damage in order to get proper treatment.

**TAKE HOME MESSAGES:**

1. CD and NCE both can have similar symptoms and small intestinal damage.
2. Symptom improvement on a GFD alone cannot determine the difference between CD from NCE.
3. Knowing the cause of NCE is important in order to get proper treatment.
References:

Revision Date: 06/26/2016
Authors: Rohini Vanga MD; Abhijeet Yadav, MD
Editors: Melinda Dennis, MS, RD, LDN and Daniel Leffler MD, MS