Gastroscopy findings in Wilson’s disease patients before and during D-penicillamine or zinc sulphate treatment

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Gastric symptoms in Wilson’s disease (WD) may result from Helicobacter pylori infection or disease-related factors, like liver cirrhosis or adverse drug reactions. The aim of this study was to examine the frequency of gastropathy and gastric ulcers in WD patients, and to analyze the effects of therapy on these conditions. All enrolled patients underwent esophagogastroduodenoscopy and urease test for H. pylori infection. Patients were divided into three study groups, treatment naive (n=37), on D-penicillamine (n=34), or zinc sulphate (n=24) therapy. The results of the research show that there was no statistically significant difference in the prevalence of gastropathy and peptic ulcers between untreated patients (64,9% and 10,8%), treated with D-penicillamine (52,9% and 11,8%) or zinc salts (79,2% and 8,3%). The prevalence of H. pylori infection in all WD groups (60-70%) was similar to those reported in general Polish population. H. pylori infection was related with higher rate of gastropathy (73,3% vs 48,6%), but there was no significant difference in peptic ulcers rate (11,7 % vs 8,6%). In conclusion our results show that gastropathy and peptic ulcers are frequent in WD, but therapy (d-penicillamine or zinc) does not increase rates of gastropathy and gastric ulcers in WD. Key words: Wilson’s disease, gastric ulcers, zinc, Helicobacter pylori