



# Neurology<sup>®</sup>

## Should neuropathy patients be screened for celiac disease?

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Submitted July 01, 2003

In their editorial [1] regarding celiac disease, Cross and Golumbek indicate that they “do not recommend routine screening for celiac disease for any given neurologic presentation.” They considered the incidence of celiac disease in neuropathy to be only 1.5%, which may not be significantly different than the 0.5-1% found in the general population.

In their calculations, based on our study [2], they excluded the nine patients that were referred because they had celiac disease. They also excluded the six patients evaluated for neuropathy with a remote history of celiac disease which did not influence their referral.

Excluding the nine patients referred because of neuropathy and celiac disease, celiac disease was found in 2.5% of all neuropathy patients seen in our center, and in 8% of patients with the clinical diagnosis of small fiber neuropathy.

Given this increased prevalence of celiac disease among neuropathy patients and that celiac disease may be asymptomatic, testing for anti-gliadin, transglutaminase, or endomysial antibodies should be considered in patients who present with neuropathy of otherwise unknown etiology.

## References

1. Cross AH, Golumbek PT. Neurologic manifestations of celiac disease: Proven, or just a gut feeling? *Neurology*. 2003;60:1566-1568.
2. Chin RL, Sander HW, Brannagan TH, Green PH, Hays AP, Alaedini A, Latov N. Celiac neuropathy. *Neurology*. 2003;60:1581-1585.

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Neurology | Print ISSN:0028-3878

Online ISSN:1526-632X

