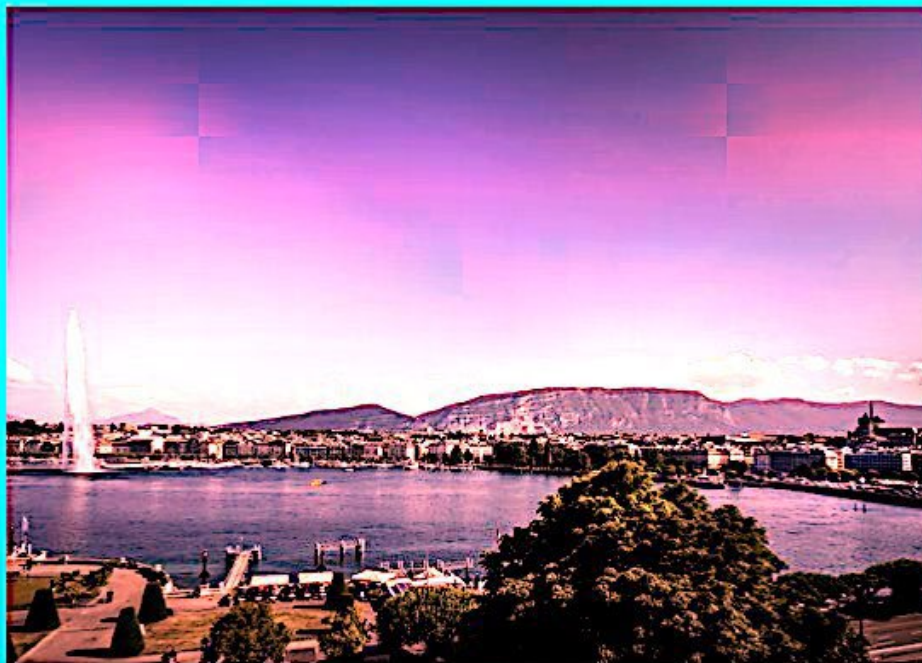


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Geneva · Switzerland
09 – 12 May 2018

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Assessment of Swallowing function in patients with Wilson's Disease

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Objectives and Study: Wilson's disease (WD) is a complex disorder related to copper metabolism and neurological involvement may lead to severe swallowing disorder in both adult and pediatric patients. The purpose of this study was to investigate swallowing function in patients with WD.

Method: From January 2016 to January 2017, 21 patients with WD were included in the study prospectively. The swallowing function of the patients were imaged with a Videofluoroscopic Swallowing Study (VFSS).Magnetic resonans imaging was performed for patients with neurological presentation.

Results: Of these patients, male female ratio was 1:1,4 and mean age of the patients was 14.9 ± 3.22 years. Their mean age at diagnosis was 8.29 ± 4.23 years. Among 21 patients, 16 (76%) of them present with only hepatic manifestation while 4 of them (19%) present with hepatic and neurological manifestation and only one patient present with only neurological symptom at the time of diagnosis. None of the patients had neither swallowing problems nor remarkable neurological symptoms at the time of VFSS therefore magnetic resonance imaging were found to be abnormal in all patients with neurological symptoms and the most common findings were; symmetrical putaminal signal changes in two patients, symmetrical lesions at putamen and globus pallidus in one patient, hyperintense signal changings in putamen and parietal white matter in one patient According to the VFSS, only one patient had oral phase dysfunction, and one patient had laryngeal penetration. None of the patients had aspiration during swallowing. Abnormal esophageal body function was detected in 9 (42.9%) patients with WD.

Conclusion: Abnormal esophageal body function was the prominent finding in our study and patients without any symptoms for swallowing dysfunction or neurological involvement may have subclinical swallowing dysfunction that can only be detected with VFSS. Further studies with higher number of patients are needed to reveal the real association between swallowing dysfunction and Wilson's disease to decrease the disease related morbidity and mortality.

Disclosure of interest: -

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