

### Question 30 – Week of January 24

A 43 year old female with diarrhea and weight loss. Stool cultures were negative for enteric pathogens. Her referring doctor started her on a gluten free diet two months ago. Small bowel biopsies show villous blunting. Colon biopsies are normal. Tissue transglutaminase was negative. IgA levels are normal. Diarrhea is persistent despite the gluten free diet. NPO status and TPN for 4 weeks did not alter her diarrhea. Diarrhea resolved rapidly with a course of steroids.

What test may help clinch the diagnosis?

- A. Anti endomyseal antibodies
- B. Anti reticular antibodies
- C. Anti enterocyte antibodies
- D. Thyroid studies
- E. None of the above

**Answer: C**

This is a case of autoimmune enteropathy. In this condition, the diarrhea fails to respond to any form of dietary restriction, including a gluten free diet. Circulating anti enterocyte and or anti goblet cell antibodies are generally present and significance in pathogenesis is unclear. Autoimmune enteropathy is most often seen in children but can be seen in adults as well.