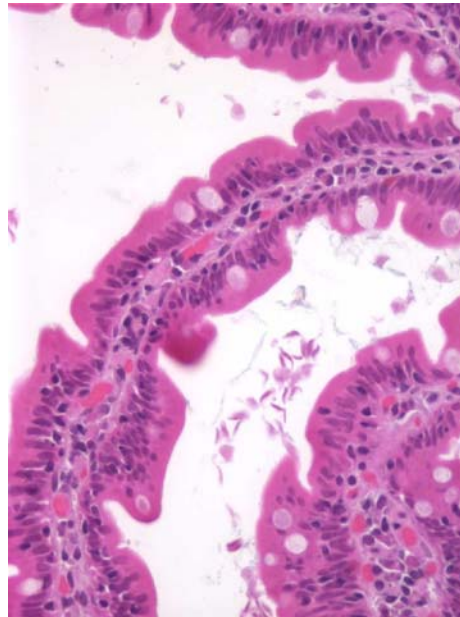


A small bowel biopsy is taken from a patient to evaluate for diarrhea. Which of the following is true regarding this condition?

- a. This is an uncommon intestinal parasite infection in the United States
- b. Sampling of the duodenal contents is the most sensitive test for detection of this condition
- c. Ciprofloxacin is the treatment of choice for this condition
- d. There is no reported safe therapy for treatment of the pregnant patient with this condition
- e. Secondary lactose intolerance is common and should be considered with ongoing symptoms



ANSWER: E. Secondary lactose intolerance is common and should be considered with ongoing symptoms

Explanation: The small bowel biopsy specimens reveal trophozoites of Giardia lamblia, which classically appear as disc or pear-shaped structures adherent to the enterocytes. Giardia lamblia is the most commonly identified intestinal parasitic infection in the United States. Sampling the intestinal contents with small bowel aspirates has a sensitivity of approximately 80%, while stool evaluation using ELISA or direct fluorescence antibody testing (DFA) have sensitivities greater than 90% and are recommended. Metronidazole, rather than ciprofloxacin, is the treatment of choice. Given the concern over use of metronidazole on the developing fetus, paromomycin would be a useful alternative to treatment of giardiasis in the pregnant patient. Secondary lactose intolerance is very common after infection, and should be considered for those with persistent symptoms after therapy.