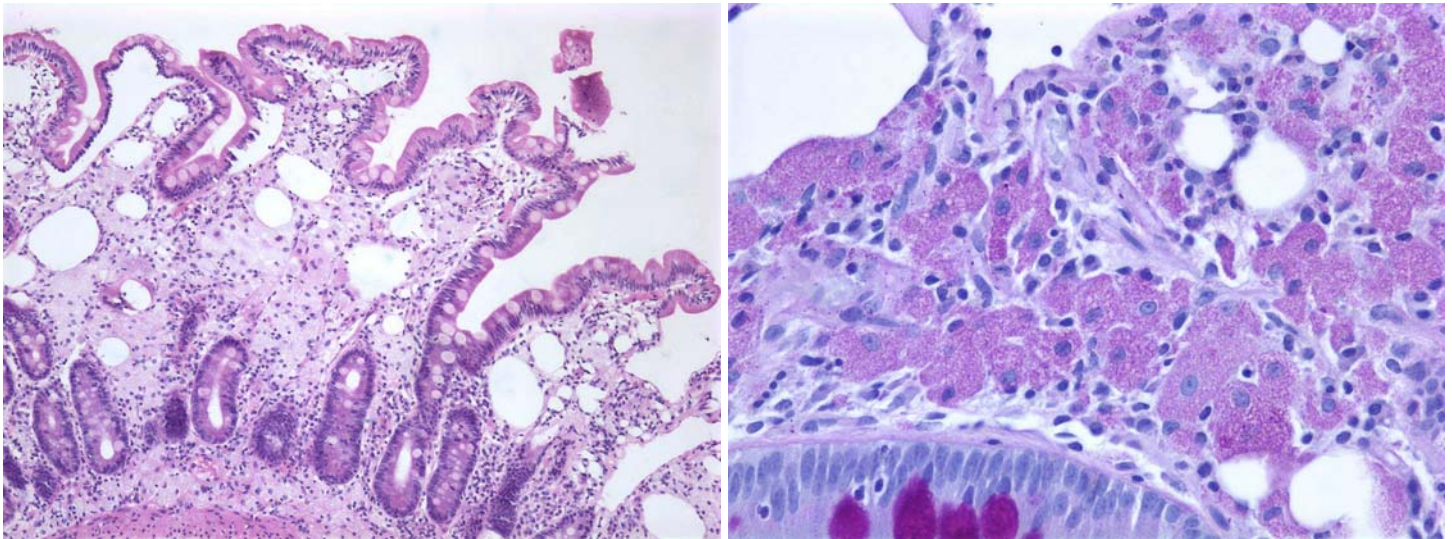


Which if the following is true regarding the condition represented in the small bowel biopsies shown?

- a. This disease is a chronic systemic infection most often seen in patients with HIV or AIDS
- b. The condition represents a primary disorder of intestinal lymphatics
- c. Dermatitis herpetiformis is a well-described extraintestinal manifestation of this disorder
- d. A stain for acid-fast bacilli helps to confirm this diagnosis
- e. Is successfully treated with long-term antimicrobial therapy



ANSWER: E. Is successfully treated with long-term antimicrobial therapy

Explanation: The small bowel biopsies represent Whipple's disease with A) hematoxylin & eosin stain demonstrating infiltrative foamy macrophages and lipid droplets, as well as with B) periodic acid-Schiff (PAS) staining which highlight the lysosomes filled with bacteria. Whipple's disease is a chronic infection with the gram-positive bacteria *Tropheryma whippelii*. Although the routine H&E stains may look similar to the changes seen in patients with HIV or AIDS infected with *Mycobacterium avium intracellulare* (MAI), PAS stain helps to confirm Whipple's, while an acid-fast stain helps to confirm MAI. Whipple's is not the result of a primary lymphatic derangement as seen with primary intestinal lymphangiectasia. Dermatitis herpetiformis can be seen as an extraintestinal manifestation in those with celiac disease rather than Whipple's disease. The treatment for Whipple's consists of induction with intravenous antibiotics followed by long-term (at least one year) oral antibiotics, often with trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole.