

## Question 6 – Week of December 14

Which of the following is true regarding celiac disease testing?

- A. All diagnostic tests can be performed on a gluten free diet.
- B. IgA anti-human tissue transglutaminase (TTG) and IgA endomysial antibody immunofluorescence (EMA) tests have equivalent diagnostic accuracy.
- C. Subjects with biopsy proven dermatitis herpetiformis need proximal small bowel biopsies when antibody tests are positive.
- D. Villous atrophy is not necessary to confirm a diagnosis of celiac disease.

**Answer: B**

Both IgA TTG and IgA EMA tests have equivalent diagnostic accuracy (TTG is the specific protein that is identified by the IgA-EMA). All diagnostic tests need to be performed while the patient is on a gluten-containing diet. Subjects with biopsy proven dermatitis herpetiformis do not need small bowel biopsies to confirm antibody tests. Some degree of villous atrophy is considered necessary to confirm a diagnosis of celiac disease.

### References:

1. National Institute of Health Consensus. Development Statement on Celiac Disease, June 28-30, 2004.
2. Gastroenterology 2005; 128:S1-S2