

Question 27 – Week of February 11

What does NOT cause blunted villi of the small bowel?

- A. Giardia
- B. NSAIDs
- C. Pancreatic insufficiency
- D. Tropical Sprue
- E. Whipple's
- F. Small bowel overgrowth
- G. Celiac disease

Answer: C

All of these have been reported to cause blunted villi of the small bowel except pancreatic insufficiency. Classically, celiac also cause blunted villi, but often with intraepithelial lymphocytes and the differential should be kept in mind.

Reference:

Oberhuber G, et al. Evidence that intestinal intraepithelial lymphocytes are activated cytotoxic T cells in celiac disease but not in giardiasis. *Am J Pathol.* 1996 May; 148(5): 1351–1357.