

Question 19 – Week of June 23

Genetic abnormalities are well established as risk factors in the development of IBS.

- A. True
- B. False

Answer: B

Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) is a functional disorder that constitutes a combination of symptoms over time. Fulfillment of Rome II criteria with an age-appropriate work-up is the way to make the diagnosis. It has been shown that a family history of IBS is not uncommon, along with a history of psychiatric diseases and a history of sexual abuse. Most patients, however, do not have a family history and no genetic abnormalities have demonstrated a phenotype that characterizes IBS.

References:

1. DeGiorgio R, Barbara G, Stanghelli V, et al. Diagnosis and therapy of irritable bowel syndrome. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2004;20 Suppl 2:10-22.
2. Howell S, Talley NJ, Quine S, Poulton R. The irritable bowel syndrome has origins in the childhood socioeconomic environment. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2004;99(8):1572-8.
3. Mulak A, Bonaz B. Irritable bowel syndrome: A model of the brain-gut interactions. *Med Sci Monit* 2004;10(4):55-62.