

DIGESTIVE VEGETATIVE NEUROPATHY IN DIABETIC PATIENTS

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Resulting in reduced or poor motility of the GI tract, gastroparesis occurs in 20%–60% of the diabetics. Patients with gastroparesis often experience the following symptoms: bloating, early satiety (feeling full almost immediately after the beginning of a meal), reflux, vomiting, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, constipation and/or poor glycaemic control. As many patients are asymptomatic, gastroparesis is often missed as a source of GI discomfort or poor glycaemic control. Hypoglycaemia followed by sustained hyperglycaemia periods is common in people affected by diabetic gastroparesis. Erratic blood glucose levels appear as a consequence of improper stomach emptying. It was generally accepted that diabetic neuropathy damages the motility of the colon resulting in a significant constipation. However, constipation is equally frequent and severe in diabetics without neuropathy. Constipation can be an extension of diabetic diarrhoea, which happens more often, or, less frequently, it may precede diarrhoea, but it can exist independently of any other digestive disorders, particularly in older diabetics.
