Celiac Compression Syndrome: Myth Or Reality: How To Diagnose And Treat It.

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Median Arcuate Ligament (MAL) Syndrome

- Stanley & Fry, 1971
  - Provocative xylose absorption test
  - Transection MAL
  - Intestinal ischaemia is underlying disorder

- Still a difficult diagnosis of exclusion
- Postprandial epigastric pain, nausea, vomiting and food fear

Both vascular and neurogenic elements

Myth or reality?

Anatomical Abnormality
(marker for neural compression)
Physiological Abnormality

Numbers of cases / year
(n = 16)

“Aortic skeletalization and division of celiac plexus”

Results

N = 16
• All improved initially – 88% long term
• 1 SMA stent – good result
• 1 division of adhesions – good result
• 2 ongoing symptoms - normal CTA/US scans

Current guidelines / practice

• Laparoscopy
  o 9% conversion rate
• Open
• (Robotic)

Conclusion

• Yes it is a reality
• Patient selection ESSENTIAL
• Predominantly females / thin / middle aged
• Celiac plexus / ganglion excision ESSENTIAL
• Complex disease and often coexisting diagnoses
  o Fibromyalgia / autonomic dysfunction / chronic pain syndrome