Ménétrier's Disease

Ménétrier's disease causes giant folds of tissue to grow in the wall of the stomach. The tissue may be inflamed and may contain ulcers. The disease also causes glands in the stomach to waste away and causes the body to lose fluid containing a protein called albumin. Ménétrier's disease increases a person's risk of stomach cancer. People who have this rare, long lasting (*chronic*) disease are usually men between ages 30 and 60. Ménétrier's disease is also called giant hypertrophic gastritis, protein losing gastropathy, or hypertrophic gastropathy.

CAUSE

The cause of the disease is unknown.

SYMPTOMS

- Loss of appetite
- Vomiting
- Vomiting blood
- Ulcer-like pain after eating
- Nausea
- Diarrhea
- Swelling in the belly (*abdomen*)
- Pain or discomfort and tenderness in the top middle part of the abdomen

DIAGNOSIS

This disease is diagnosed through:

- X-rays.
- Endoscopy. This is looking at the inside of the stomach using a long, lighted tube that is put into the stomach through the mouth.
- Biopsy of stomach tissue. Biopsy involves removing a tiny piece of stomach tissue to examine under the microscope for signs of disease.

A specialist looks at the tissue under the microscope to make a diagnosis.

TREATMENT

- Treatment may include medications to relieve ulcer symptoms and treat inflammation.
- A high-protein diet may also help.
- Part or all of the stomach may need to be removed if the disease is severe. This is done in an operation.

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