Esophageal clearance scintigraphy, in diabetic patients—a preliminary study

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The aim of this preliminary study was to evaluate the predictive value of esophageal clearance
scintigraphy (ECS) in the diagnosis of esophageal autonomic neuropathy in diabetic patients
without any esophageal symptoms. A single swallow ECS was performed in 12 diabetic
patients and 15 normal volunteers, and esophageal transit time (ETT) and esophageal (Es)
T 1/2 values were calculated. ETT and Es T 1/2 were found to be significantly prolonged
in the diabetic group (p<0.01 and p<0.05, respectively). In this preliminary study, our
results strongly suggest that ECS may be an important noninvasive diagnostic tool in the
evaluation of diabetic patients with asymptomatic esophageal autonomic neuropathy.

Key words: diabetes mellitus, esophageal clearance scintigraphy, autonomic neuropathy