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Editor's message

MURRAY H. COHEN, DO, FACOI, FACG, SUPPLEMENT EDITOR

Among osteopathic gastroenterologists, we are blessed with an outstanding level of talent. From that wealth of talent, I have the privilege to present eight articles updating the most actively changing areas in diagnosis and treatment. Four of these articles appear in this, the first of a two-part series of supplements on gastrointestinal disorders.

Most patients with gastrointestinal complaints are seen by their family care or primary care physician and are either treated or referred for specialty evaluation and care. In light of that, my specialist colleagues offer this current information.

Evaluation and treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease has progressed to the point of effective management for almost all patients suffering from this very common ailment. Howard S. Mitz, DO, presents an overview and update on this disorder. Herbert I. Pasternak, DO, presents an approach to evaluation and treatment of the ubiquitous *Helicobacter pylori* gastritis and its sequelae. Gary J. Silverman, DO, a rheumatologist covers the problem area of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and the gastrointestinal tract. This has been an area of ongoing problems, from both the standpoint of maintaining good control of rheumatic disorders and, most important for us, preventing secondary gastrointestinal complications. Mark E. Efrusy, DO, provides an update on inflammatory bowel disease. That disorder presents lifelong disabilities and a need for understanding and appropriate therapy with ongoing rapidly developing new approaches.

With expectation that you will enjoy these articles and that this supplement will help to update your knowledge base and abilities, we offer this first of two JAOA supplements devoted to the diagnosis and treatment of gastrointestinal disorders.

(Cover design by Leslie M. Huzyk, Art Director)