Definition and Description of EGIDs

Eosinophilic gastrointestinal disorders, or EGIDs, “are characterized by having above normal amounts of eosinophils, a type of white blood cell, in one or more specific places anywhere in the digestive system. EGID is further subdivided into organ-specific diagnosis . . . [as follows:]

“Eosinophilic Esophagitis (EoE): high numbers of eosinophils occurring in the esophagus.
Eosinophilic Gastritis (EG): high numbers of eosinophils in the stomach.
Eosinophilic Gastroenteritis (EGE): affects the stomach and small intestine.
Eosinophilic Colitis (EC): describes the occurrence of high numbers of eosinophils in the large intestine.”¹

The common symptoms of EGIDs are nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, failure to thrive, abdominal or chest pain, reflux, difficulty swallowing, malnutrition, and gastroparesis. EGIDs are often very debilitating with patients suffering from chronic pain, nausea and vomiting. EoE, the most common EGID, “represents a chronic, immune/antigen-mediated esophageal disease characterized clinically by symptoms related to esophageal dysfunction and histologically by eosinophil-predominant inflammation.”²

EGIDs are considered “orphan” diseases by the FDA:

- An ‘orphan disease’ is the rarest of the rare diseases.
- To be classified an orphan disease, the disease generally impacts less than 200,000 people.³
- There is no FDA approved medication to treat any of the EGIDs.

The only way to monitor EGIDs is for the patient to undergo repeated endoscopies with biopsies under general anesthesia as often as every three months.

