

CLINICAL SPECIFICATIONS

ALPHA GLIADIN + GLIADIN TOXIC PEPTIDE

Function:

A glycoprotein in wheat α -Gliadin is an alcohol-soluble protein. Gliadin Toxic Peptides (GTPs) are a group of peptides highly resistant to digestion. GTPs bind to receptors on intestinal epithelial cells.

Associated With:

Celiac disease¹
 Autism²
 Crohn's disease³

Known Cross-Reactions: Cerebellar²

Clinical Significance:

Detection of antibodies to gliadin may indicate abnormal mucosal immune response, intestinal barrier dysfunction, and cognitive decline.⁴ Studies on neurological effects⁵ after gluten ingestion have given rise to the possibility of gluten playing a role in Alzheimer's disease (AD). The outcome of GTPs varies from individual to individual because different ligands for the same receptor induce very different biological effects. GTPs may cause a release of zonulin, signaling intestinal tight junctions to open, which puts the body at risk for autoimmunity; another threat to the intestinal barrier is GTP's ability to break down endothelial cell cytoskeletal structures.⁶ Wheat proteins play multiple roles in the gut-brain axis. The existence of ataxia is quite common in non-celiac gluten sensitive (NCGS) patients with cerebellar ataxia being the most frequently diagnosed neurological syndrome; neuropathologically, there is cerebellar degeneration in this condition.^{reviewed in 7} Antibodies made against A β ₄₂ peptide cross-react with both alcohol- and water-soluble components of wheat.⁴ This indicates that patients with circulating antibodies to alpha-gliadin and GTP may be at greater risk for AD and other neurological disorders when the blood-brain barrier is breached.

References:

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3. Vojdani and Vojdani. Gluten and non-gluten proteins of wheat as target antigens in autism, Crohn's and Celiac disease. *J Cereal Sci*, 2017; 75:252-260.
4. Vojdani and Vojdani. Immunoreactivity of Anti-A β P-42 Specific Antibody with Toxic Chemicals and Food Antigens. *J Alzheimers Dis Parkinsonism*, 2018; 8(3):1-11.
5. Hadjivassiliou et al. Neurological dysfunction in coeliac disease and non-coeliac gluten sensitivity. *Am J Gastroenterol*, 2016; 111(4):561-567.
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7. Daulatzai. Non-celiac gluten sensitivity triggers gut dysbiosis, neuroinflammation, gut-brain axis dysfunction, and vulnerability for dementia. *CNS Neurol Disord Drug Targets*, 2015; 14(1):110-131.