

## SERUM LIPIDS IN PATIENTS WITH CROHN'S DISEASE.

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The serum lipid levels were measured in patients with inactive Crohn's disease (n=29). The results were compared to those found in two groups of control patients. The first group consisted of patients with diarrhea but without ileal disease or ileal resection (n=18). The second group comprise patients with normal bowel transit (n=25). Patients with Crohn's disease were found to have low concentrations of total cholesterol, low density lipoprotein-cholesterol and apoB. They had also low retention of homotaurocholic acid radiolabelled with 75 selenium (75SeHCAT), an analogue of cholic acid that behaves like the natural bile acid in the enterohepatic circulation, suggesting bile acid malabsorption in these patients.

A significant positive correlation was found between that serum lipids and 75SeHCAT retention values. It is concluded that patients with Crohn's disease have a low level of atherogenic lipoproteins (low density lipoproteins) caused by bile acid malabsorption. The lipoprotein pattern found in patients with Crohn's disease could protect these patients against the development of atherosclerosis.

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