

Editorial

The New Saddam Center for Gastroenterology

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Our G.I.T and liver center moved last month to its new place, the Center consist of two floors with 100 medical and surgical beds.

The ground floor is designed for the medical wards; 4 endoscopy procedure rooms, 4 interventional endoscopy rooms and Radiology procedure rooms, also it houses clinic for liver disease / colitis & celiac disease.

The first floor is for the surgical wards , with 4 operating rooms and intensive care unit of 8 beds. There is Fully equipped lecture room for 100 attendants , a fully equipped library with electronic and computer, connection to all departments and audiovisual transmission to the lecture room from the operating theaters and endoscopy rooms.

Since it's established 7 years ago the Center has seen a variety of G.I.T and liver diseases as seen in s supplement of this issue of the journal which point out to the following:

1. Reflux disease of the esophagus along with ulcer disease are the leading causes for dyspepsia.
2. Inflammatory bowel diseases mainly ulcerative colitis and to a lesser extent Crohn's disease are not uncommon in our country.
3. The bulk of admissions are due to chronic liver disease followed by pancreatobiliary diseases.
4. Celiac disease is frequent in children and adolescent and occasionally at older ages.
5. Biopsy interpretation of inflammatory bowel diseases and malabsorption pose a problem because of the prevalence of infectious and parasitic disease in our country.
6. The value of diagnostic laparoscopy in the evaluation of ascites is well established in shortening the hospital stay and is cost effective

in reducing lengthy investigations.

7. Imaging techniques including U/S , CT , MRI , MRCP need a special standard for we have seen controversies in their evaluations.
8. Interventional endoscopy and radiology proved its value in managing biliary obstruction & esophageal obstruction , stone retrieval endoscopic hemostasis & polypectomies.
9. GIT cancer is a serious rising problem especially metastatic diseases. Colorectal, pancreatobiliary & gastric are the main causes. We have seen it in younger ages with a tendency to be more undifferentiated tumor.
10. lessons from the mortality in the G.I.T center, the main causes of mortality are end stage liver disease and advanced malignancies.
11. EUS proved itself in the evaluation of sub mucosal lesions and we are training our self in this field.
12. Training in different aspect of gastroenterology is needed in collaboration with national and international organizations.
13. Our Center is planning to start liver transplantation program in the coming months.
14. We hope that our Center will be a training Center for our country and our area and for international organizations.

we welcome any ideas to improve our training and services and we hope to have communication and joint training and research programs with other centers in other parts of the world in all fields of Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

Editor in chief