



# Acceptability of active case-finding of celiac disease in the Netherlands.

## The GLUTENSCREEN study

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### BACKGROUND

Celiac disease (CD) is a common but severely underdiagnosed disorder. Secondary prevention is possible by mass screening or by active case-finding, but current evidence is insufficient to assess the balance of benefits and potential harms of these two strategies.

The GLUTENSCREEN-project for secondary prevention of CD by case-finding is on-going at the Preventive Youth Health Care centers (YHCCs) in the region Kennemerland, Netherland. After informed consent a point-of-care-test (POCT) for CD-antibodies is performed at a separate visit.

### AIM

To assess the acceptance by the target population: 1) of case finding as performed on the YHCCs; 2) of eventual mass screening at the same centres.

### METHODS

Standardized acceptance questionnaires were handed out to parents of children attending the YHCCs and sent to 135 healthcare professionals working at the YHCCs. Univariable logistic regression, descriptive and univariate analyses were performed.

### RESULTS

The first 1862 questionnaires returned by the parents were analysed

- 1008 from asymptomatic children not invited for case-finding
- 854 from invited children, including 204 who refused participation.

From the parents of children who had a POCT: 88% would be willing to participate again in a similar procedure; 10.8% (59/545) reported distress/anxiety because of the test-result. Of the parents who refused case-finding, 28.6% answered that they would have participate if the POCT had been performed during the regular YHCC-visit. 58% (78/135) Of the healthcare professionals reported that case-finding adds value to their preventive care. A CD-mass-screening programme was reported as acceptable by 69.2% (690/994), 77% (416/539) and 89% (25/28) of the parents of children asymptomatic, symptomatic and with CD diagnosed by case-finding, respectively.

### CONCLUSION

Both case-finding and mass-screening for early CD-diagnosis is well-accepted by the parents of young children in the Netherlands. The majority of the health care professionals support case-finding at the YHCCs.

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**CONFLICT OF INTEREST: NONE**