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POSITION STATEMENT

**Diagnosis and management of eosinophilic esophagitis in children: An update from the European Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (ESPGHAN)**

[Jorge Amil-Dias](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Amil%E2%80%90Dias/Jorge), [Salvatore Oliva](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Oliva/Salvatore), [Alexandra Papadopoulou](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Papadopoulou/Alexandra), [Mike Thomson](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Thomson/Mike), [Carolina Gutiérrez-Junquera](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Guti%C3%A9rrez%E2%80%90Junquera/Carolina), [Nicolas Kalach](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Kalach/Nicolas), [Rok Orel](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Orel/Rok), [Marcus Auth](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Auth/Marcus), [Danielle Nijenhuis-Hendriks](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Nijenhuis%E2%80%90Hendriks/Danielle), [Caterina Strisciuglio](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Strisciuglio/Caterina), [Olivia Bauraind](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Bauraind/Olivia), [Sonny Chong](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Chong/Sonny), [Gloria Dominguez Ortega](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Ortega/Gloria+Dominguez), [Sonia Férnandez Férnandez](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/F%C3%A9rnandez/Sonia+F%C3%A9rnandez), [Mark Furman](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Furman/Mark), [Roger Garcia-Puig](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Garcia%E2%80%90Puig/Roger), [Frederic Gottrand](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Gottrand/Frederic), [Matjaz Homan](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Homan/Matjaz), [Koen Huysentruyt](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Huysentruyt/Koen), [Aco Kostovski](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Kostovski/Aco), [Sebastian Otte](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Otte/Sebastian), [Francesca Rea](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Rea/Francesca), [Eleftheria Roma](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Roma/Eleftheria), [Claudio Romano](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Romano/Claudio), [Christos Tzivinikos](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Tzivinikos/Christos), [Vaidotas Urbonas](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Urbonas/Vaidotas), [Saskia Vande Velde](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Velde/Saskia+Vande), [Tsili Zangen](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Zangen/Tsili), [Noam Zevit](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/authored-by/Zevit/Noam)[**… See fewer authors**](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/jpn3.12188)

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Jorge Amil-Dias, Salvatore Oliva, and Alexandra Papadopoulou are joint first authors.

Disclaimers: These guidelines may be revised as necessary to account for changes in technology, new data, or other aspects of clinical practice and are intended to be an educational device to provide information that may assist clinicians in providing care to patients. These guidelines are not a rule and should not be construed as establishing a legal standard of care or as encouraging, advocating, requiring, or discouraging any particular treatment. Clinical decisions in any particular case involve a complex analysis of the patient's condition and available courses of action. Therefore, clinical considerations may require taking a course of action that varies from these guidelines.

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**Abstract**

Introduction

Eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE) is a chronic inflammatory disease of the esophagus characterized by symptoms of esophageal dysfunction and histologically by predominantly eosinophilic infiltration of the squamous epithelium. European Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (ESPGHAN) published a guideline in 2014; however, the rapid evolution of knowledge about pathophysiology, diagnostic criteria, and therapeutic options have made an update necessary.

Methods

A consensus group of pediatric gastroenterologists from the ESPGHAN Working Group on Eosinophilic Gastrointestinal Diseases (ESPGHAN EGID WG) reviewed the recent literature and proposed statements and recommendations on 28 relevant questions about EoE. A comprehensive electronic literature search was performed in MEDLINE, EMBASE, and Cochrane databases from 2014 to 2022. The Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation system was used to assess the quality of evidence and formulate recommendations.

Results

A total of 52 statements based on the available evidence and 44 consensus-based recommendations are available. A revision of the diagnostic protocol, options for initial drug treatment, and the new concept of simplified empiric elimination diets are now available. Biologics are becoming a part of the potential armamentarium for refractory EoE, and systemic steroids may be considered as the initial treatment for esophageal strictures before esophageal dilation. The importance and assessment of quality of life and a planned transition to adult medical care are new areas addressed in this guideline.

Conclusion

Research in recent years has led to a better understanding of childhood EoE. This guideline incorporates the new findings and provides a practical guide for clinicians treating children diagnosed with EoE.

**Highlights**

What is Known

* There is a discrepancy between symptoms and endoscopic and histologic features.
* Allergy testing is of no value in deciding which foods to eliminate.
* EoE may cause esophageal stenosis even in pediatric patients.
* Maintenance therapy after induction is necessary

What is New

* Validated tools are available for assessing symptoms and quality of life and should be incorporated in the management of children with EoE.
* Systemic steroids may be helpful in the treatment of severe esophageal strictures.
* A discrepancy between eosinophil depletion and symptomatic improvement requires reassessment of non-eosinophil-dependent inflammation.
* Implementation of programs for transition to adult care must be considered and started well before patients reach adulthood.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT**

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Supporting Information