

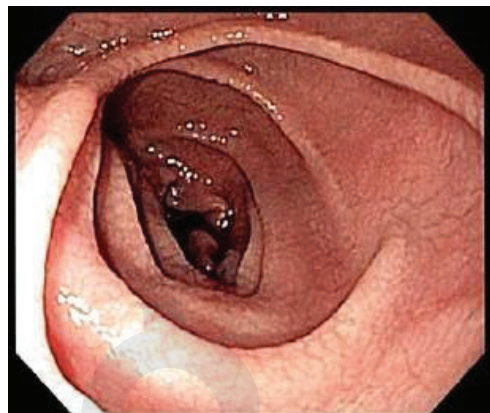
CELIAC DISEASE PATHOCHART

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

Celiac disease is an autoimmune disease that primarily affects the small intestine. It is caused by an intolerance to gluten, a protein found in wheat, barley, and rye.

ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

- Diarrhea
- Steatorrhea
- Distention
- Loss of appetite
- Malabsorption
- Malnutrition
 - → delayed growth in children
- Irritability in children



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<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=16706481>

DIAGNOSTICS

- Blood antibody testing
- Genetic testing
- Intestinal biopsy
- Endoscopy ("caked mud" appearance)

NURSING PRIORITIES

- Optimize nutrition
- Educate on proper dietary needs
- Ensure adequate fluid balance

THERAPEUTIC MANAGEMENT

- Only "cure" is gluten-free diet
- Severe cases may require symptom management/support

MEDICATION THERAPY

- Glucocorticoids
- Fluid replacement