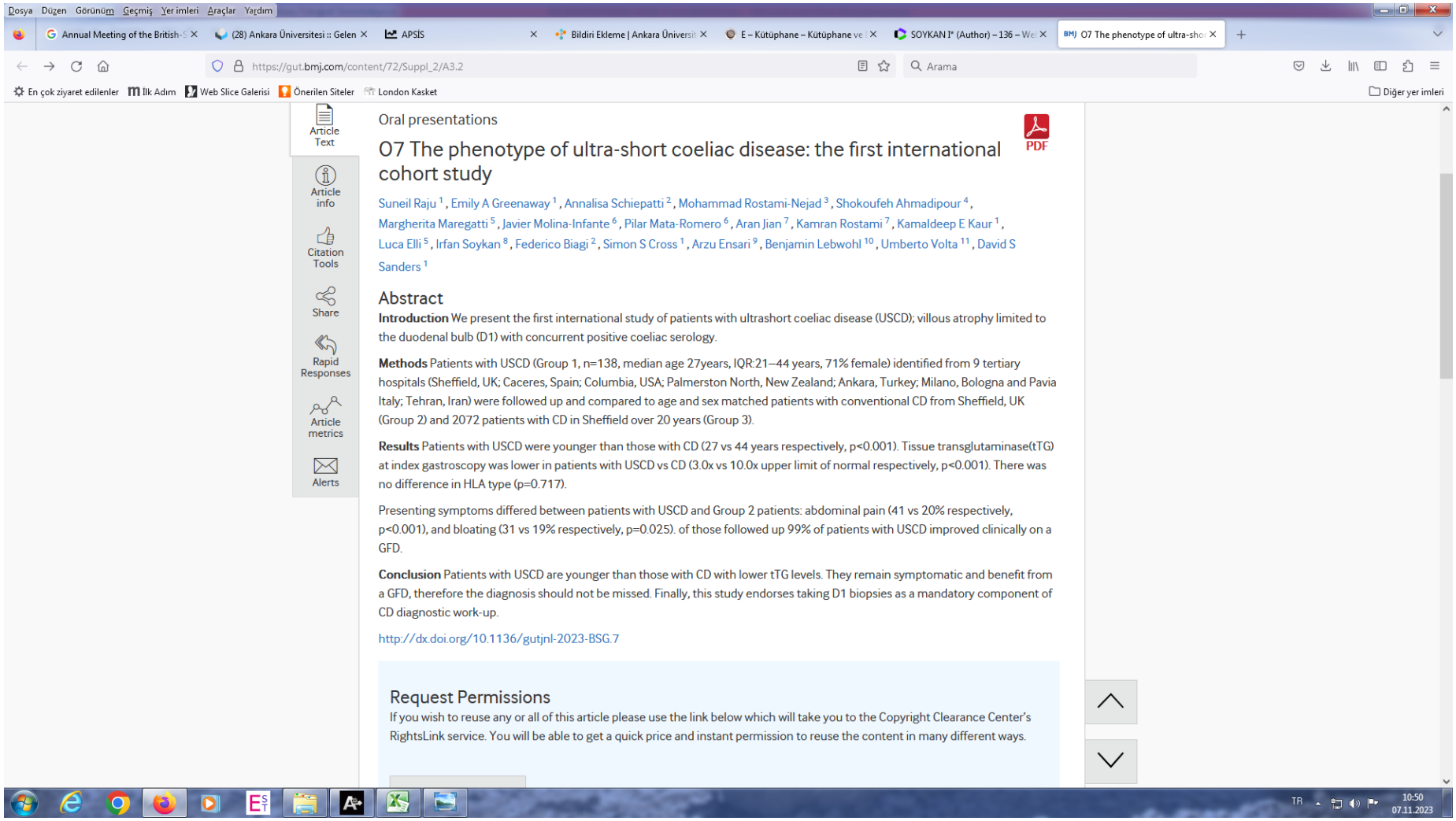

Oral presentations

O7 The phenotype of ultra-short coeliac disease: the first international cohort study

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Abstract

Introduction We present the first international study of patients with ultrashort coeliac disease (USCD); villous atrophy limited to the duodenal bulb (D1) with concurrent positive coeliac serology.

Methods Patients with USCD (Group 1, n=138, median age 27years, IQR:21–44 years, 71% female) identified from 9 tertiary hospitals (Sheffield, UK; Caceres, Spain; Columbia, USA; Palmerston North, New Zealand; Ankara, Turkey; Milano, Bologna and Pavia Italy; Tehran, Iran) were followed up and compared to age and sex matched patients with conventional CD from Sheffield, UK (Group 2) and 2072 patients with CD in Sheffield over 20 years (Group 3).

Results Patients with USCD were younger than those with CD (27 vs 44 years respectively, p<0.001). Tissue transglutaminase(tTG) at index gastroscopy was lower in patients with USCD vs CD (3.0x vs 10.0x upper limit of normal respectively, p<0.001). There was no difference in HLA type (p=0.717).

Presenting symptoms differed between patients with USCD and Group 2 patients: abdominal pain (41 vs 20% respectively, p<0.001), and bloating (31 vs 19% respectively, p=0.025). of those followed up 99% of patients with USCD improved clinically on a GFD.

Conclusion Patients with USCD are younger than those with CD with lower tTG levels. They remain symptomatic and benefit from a GFD, therefore the diagnosis should not be missed. Finally, this study endorses taking D1 biopsies as a mandatory component of CD diagnostic work-up.

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