

# Comment to case report on eosinophilic gastroenteritis

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The case report by Verheijden and Ennecker-Jans on eosinophilic gastroenteritis<sup>1</sup> is highly appreciated. We would like to add a word of caution in view of the potential dangers of indiscriminate initiation of steroid therapy. It is necessary to exclude latent tuberculosis and strongyloides infection in subjects at risk.<sup>2-5</sup> Travel history, insufficiently treated infections and abnormalities on the chest X-ray may be indicative. Reactivation of tuberculosis and strongyloides hyperinfection syndrome may lead to life-threatening complications. Clinical symptoms and radiographic findings are characteristically atypical; peripheral blood eosinophilia can be absent in strongyloides hyperinfections.

Testing prior to initiation of immunosuppressive treatment preferably by interferon- $\gamma$  release assays (IGRAs)<sup>6,7</sup> and strongyloides serology is easy and highly sensitive.<sup>5</sup>

## REFERENCES

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