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► **To cite this version:**

Xavier Roblin, Bruno Bonaz. Primary biliary cirrhosis.. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 2005, 353 (25), 2719-20; author reply 2719-20. inserm-00410568

HAL Id: inserm-00410568

<https://www.hal.inserm.fr/inserm-00410568>

Submitted on 10 Sep 2009

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Primary Biliary Cirrhosis

TO THE EDITOR: The association between primary biliary cirrhosis and celiac disease should have been emphasized more clearly in the recent review of primary biliary cirrhosis. The prevalence of celiac disease among patients with primary biliary cirrhosis is 10 times as high as in the general population.¹ Moreover, Sorensen et al.² found an incidence ratio of primary biliary cirrhosis of 27.6 among patients with celiac disease. Thus, in the event of primary biliary cirrhosis, clinicians should systematically rule out celiac disease. Certain symptoms of primary biliary cirrhosis, such as osteoporosis, asthenia, and liver anomalies, regress with a gluten-free diet in people who also have celiac disease. This screening is made even simpler because there are sensitive and specific markers for each of the two diseases.

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