

The current state-of-the-art surgical alternative, laparoscopic Nissen fundoplication, “is a pretty good operation,” Dr. Smith said. “The gold standard ... is going to have to be unseated before any of the endoluminal therapies gain acceptance.”

The EndoCinch suturing system by Bard Medical Inc., which cinches the lower esophageal sphincter, is not highly efficacious, according to Dr. Smith. Results of using the EndoCinch system at the Mayo Clinic parallel those of published studies, revealing that just 25%-38% of GERD patients are able to discontinue proton pump inhibitor (PPI)

medications following the procedure.

The Plicator device from NDO Surgical Inc. has had better outcomes, with studies showing that more than half of patients can stop taking PPIs and experience significant improvements in their health-related quality of life after they have been treated with the jawlike device.

Results of Stretta trials were promising; although results were not seen after 6 months, outcomes were better at 12-month follow-up evaluations. This may be because, following the radiofrequency ablation to the deep submucosal space at the lower esophageal sphincter, colla-

gen deposition needed time to mature.

Dr. Smith disclosed that he is on the scientific advisory committee for Endogastric Solutions Inc., manufacturer of the EsophyX device, currently available only in Europe. This device allows the operator to isolate the distal esophagus with suction.

The EsophyX then is advanced into the stomach, where it partially retroflexes to allow placement of fasteners around the circumference of the esophagus.

In one study of 84 patients treated using the EsophyX, 77 were no longer taking PPI medications 3 months after the procedure, he said. ■

IBD Information Resource Available

The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation has a new information resource center that is designed to give support and information about those diseases to patients and physicians. It is staffed by public health educators with advanced degrees.

Interpretation services are offered for 170 languages. To get more information, call 888-MY-GUT-PAIN (888-694-8872) or visit the Web site at www.cdfa.org. The information center can also be contacted by sending an e-mail to info@cdfa.org. ■

In the treatment of very high triglycerides (≥ 500 mg/dL)

- **LOVAZA** dramatically lowered triglycerides by 45%¹
 - Treatment resulted in a median increase of 45% in LDL-C; treatment with **LOVAZA** resulted in an overall reduction of atherogenic cholesterol, as reflected by a 14% reduction in non-HDL-C ($P=0.0013$)¹⁻⁵
- **LOVAZA** demonstrates an excellent safety profile and proven tolerability¹
 - The most common adverse events reported were: eructation, infection, flu syndrome, dyspepsia, rash, taste perversion, and back pain

Indication:

LOVAZA™ (omega-3-acid ethyl esters) is indicated as an adjunct to diet to reduce very high (≥ 500 mg/dL) triglyceride (TG) levels in adult patients.

Usage Considerations:

In individuals with hypertriglyceridemia (HTG), address excess body weight and alcohol intake before initiating any drug therapy. Diet and exercise can be important ancillary measures. Look for and treat diseases contributory to hyperlipidemia, such as hypothyroidism or diabetes mellitus. Certain treatments (e.g., estrogen therapy, thiazide diuretics and beta blockers) are sometimes associated with very significant rises in serum triglyceride (TG) levels. Discontinuation of the specific agent may obviate the need for specific drug therapy for HTG.

Consider lipid-regulating agent use only when reasonable attempts have been made to obtain satisfactory results with non-drug methods. Advise patients that lipid-regulating agent use does not reduce the importance of adhering to diet. (See PRECAUTIONS section of full prescribing information.)

In patients with very high TG levels the effect of LOVAZA on the risk of pancreatitis has not been evaluated, nor has its effect on cardiovascular mortality and morbidity been determined.

Please see brief summary of full prescribing information on the adjacent page.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT www.LOVAZA.com

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted approval for the addition of new clinical data in the **LOVAZA** label. Please read our updated prescribing information for more details.

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