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EFFECT OF H_1 HISTAMINE ANTAGONIST ON EMPTYING OF HUMAN GALLBLADDER; AN ULTRASONOGRAPHIC STUDY

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There is experimental evidence that histamine stimulates emptying of the feline gallbladder, *in vivo*. In a prospective clinical trial we have examined the effect of oral terphenadine, a novel, selective H_1 histamine antagonist, on postprandial emptying of gallbladder. The study included 7 healthy volunteers. Gallbladder emptying was measured before and after treatment with 2x60 mg terphenadine daily, for three days. Ultrasonographs of the gallbladder were taken before the test meal and 30, 60 and 90 minutes after the test meal. The original mathematical model for calculating gallbladder volume from ultrasonographs was used. Terphenadine significantly decreased emptying of gallbladder during the first phase (30 minutes after meal). The final postprandial gallbladder volumes (at 90 minutes) after use of terphenadine were similar to those before the treatment. The results of our study suggest that novel histamine H_1 antagonists with weak antimuscarinic action decrease the velocity of gallbladder emptying, not affecting the extent of final emptying.