

# Contemporary Issues in Gastrointestinal Diseases for Clinical Pharmacists

## Introduction

### AIMS OF THE SYMPOSIUM

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DURING THE PAST DECADE, few areas in pharmacotherapy have received as much attention as gastric-acid disorders, but many questions remain unanswered. For example, the pathogenesis of gastric-acid disorders is not well defined, the diagnosis difficult, and the treatment somewhat controversial.

Following the addition of famotidine to the therapeutic class of parenteral histamine<sub>2</sub> (H<sub>2</sub>)-receptor antagonists, a symposium for clinical pharmacists was held to review recent pharmacotherapeutic advances and contemporary issues in the management of patients with gastric-acid disorders.

Topics of the symposium ranged from the pathophysiology of and methods of diagnosing gastric-acid disorders to pharmacoeconomic considerations and relative merits of the choice, effectiveness, and safety of modern treatments.

The speakers were chosen for distinction in their particular fields of research and clinical practice. This publication contains an edited version of the proceedings of that meeting. It is our hope that the information provided here will be not only interesting but also useful to pharmacists, physicians, and other health care providers involved in the management of patients with gastric-acid disorders and in formulary selection of H<sub>2</sub>-receptor antagonists for hospitals or practice sites.

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