

Gluten : History parenthesis on celiac disease

Almost 2,000 years ago, one of the most famous Greek doctors, Aretus of Cappadocia, already reported celiac disease when he referred to the term koeliakos, literally "pain in the abdomen." The pathology was finally described in detail in 1887 by Samuel Gee, a British pediatrician, during a conference at the Hospital for Sick Children in London. According to S. Gee the disease had to be treated through food. So he tried several types of diets with his patients, including a Dutch mussel diet which had a positive impact on the health of his patients. However, during his lifetime, he was never able to determine which foodstuff triggered the disease.

In 1924, Sidney Valentin Haas, an American pediatrician, published a major study describing his use of a banana diet for the treatment of children with celiac disease.

But it was not until after World War II that the true cause of the disease was discovered. Indeed, during the period of famine and wheat shortage in the Netherlands in 1944-1945, the Dutch doctor Willem Karel Dicke observed that the state of health of the children improved greatly while the symptoms reappeared following the reintroduction. cereal, which will allow him to establish for the first time a link between celiac disease and wheat gliadin.

