

## Have you heard of the Rome III criteria?

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### Short Report:

Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders (FGIDs) are common worldwide and remain a challenge both in diagnosis and treatment. Because of a current lack of diagnostic biologic markers the diagnosis is still rest mainly on symptomatic criteria.(1,2), The Rome criteria are widely used in clinical practice and research and are now considered the diagnostic standard for FGIDs.(2), The newest modification of the criteria, the Rome III criteria, was recently presented in April 2006.(3), The Rome III criteria reflects upon a more than 15 years process to legitimize, classify and bring scientific credibility to the FGIDs.(4), Knowledge and application of the Rome criteria may increase diagnostic accuracy and decrease utilization of health care resources.(5)

We performed a survey among gastroenterologists and internists who attended the 6th Iranian Congress of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (November 2006), to see if they heard about the Rome III criteria and the current in used criteria for diagnosing Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS).

All gastroenterologists and 81% (17/21) of internists had heard of the Rome criteria for the diagnosis of IBS. Nine of 16 (60%) gastroenterologists had heard of the Rome III criteria, compared to 6 of 21 internists (28.5%). From those who had heard of the Rome III criteria, 53.3% (66.6% (6/9) of gastroenterologists and 33.3% (2/6) of internists reported that they are using it in diagnosing IBS.

Knowledge of Iranian gastroenterologists and internists about the Rome III criteria seems to be good. The lower knowledge of internists about the criteria and its application in their clinical practice points to the need for some other teaching modalities to get knowledge into the practice. We hope that introducing new diagnostic criteria as well as their additional diagnostic values to specialists can increase their knowledge and practice and a national congress seems to be a good opportunity.

**Keywords:** Rome III criteria, knowledge, diagnosis, irritable bowel syndrome, Iran

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