

## **A test to easily determine if a child has coeliac disease**

**LOCATION:** Granada.

**DURATION:** 1'41''

**SUMMARY:** A new non-invasive technique that allows health professionals to determine if a child has coeliac disease with a simple finger-stick. Researchers from the University of Granada have developed this new system through a study conducted with almost 200 children. The result was positive in 3% of the cases.

### **VTR:**

A new non-invasive technique that allows health professionals to determine if a child has coeliac disease with a simple finger-stick. This fast technique has been developed by the University of Granada. A paediatrician from the health centre of the Granadian village of Maracena is the lead researcher of this study.

**VEGA ALMAZÁN**  
Paediatrician and researcher

*"A fast diagnosis test able to detect coeliac disease, a hair test. A fast, reliable and highly sensitive diagnosis tool that allows professionals to discard coeliac disease in case the result is negative."*

Many times this disease isn't detected by the doctor or the patient. It is caused by gluten intolerance. These researchers detected that a 3% of the 198 children they had studied was affected by the disease, a rate that is higher than the European average.

**VEGA ALMAZÁN**  
Paediatrician and researcher

*"Many times there are cases that do not present conclusive evidence, and most of the times this leads to a late diagnosis."*

**MERCEDES TOVAR**  
Dir. Maracena Health Centre

*"The diagnosed cases are just a small part of the existing cases, so it is important to detect the symptoms of the disease as soon as possible."*

**EDUARDO ORTEGA**  
Paediatrician

*"It is a chronic disease. It is a disease that, logically, causes more problems or symptoms when diagnosed late."*

The system used in this study doesn't need the intervention of a specialist. It is fast, and in children, it is a less invasive method than a blood analysis. This new device has been developed thanks to the collaboration of the Operon laboratory.

**VEGA ALMAZÁN**  
Paediatrician and researcher

*"A much easier technique, safer, which family doctors can carry out in their offices."*

A negative result in this test avoids the need to carry out a blood analysis or refer the patient to a specialist.

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