Gastrointestinal Electrical Stimulation For the Treatment of Pancreatitis

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Description:
A method of preventing acute pancreatitis comprising positioning stimulatory electrodes in the stomach of an individual in need thereof; and administering repetitive trains of short pulse gastrointestinal electrical stimulation effective for suppressing the inflammatory response in the pancreas is provided herein. The electrodes are placed by laproscopic, endoscopic or surgical means. The gastrointestinal stimulation activates vagal reflexes. The activation of the vagal reflexes is via the gastric and pancreatic afferents. The gastrointestinal stimulation also activates the axonal reflexes. The activation of the axonal reflexes is via the dichotomous branches of the spinal nerves. The electrical stimulation is administered concurrently with an endoscopic procedure or immediately following an endoscopic procedure. Also, provided herein is a method of preventing inflammation of a visceral organ comprising positioning a stimulatory electrode in proximity of descending efferents in the vagus, innervating the visceral organ, of an individual in need thereof, and administering repetitive trains of short pulse electrical stimulation effective in activating nicotinic receptors.


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