

# PREVALENCE OF *HELICOBACTER PYLORI* IN PEDIATRIC PEPTIC DISEASE

The association of *Helicobacter pylori* and gastric and duodenal ulcer in adult patients ranges from 70%-100%.<sup>1,4</sup> In children, peptic disease is rare<sup>5</sup> and most gastric ulcers in children below 10 years of age are secondary (shock, stress, drugs, etc.) rather than primary.<sup>5-7</sup>

This study was designed to determine the prevalence of *H. pylori* in pediatric patients suspected to have peptic disease. In 267 children (ages ranging from 2 to 16, mean 8.3 years), upper GI endoscopy was performed and biopsies were obtained. Results are shown in Table I.

The diagnosis of peptic disease was according to endoscopic and pathologic findings. In children, we found ulcers in 17.9%. The prevalence of *H. pylori* in all of our patients was 30.7% (82). In 11.1% of children below 5 years of age, *H. pylori* was positive. In patients with gastric ulcer, 84% were below 10 years of age, and *H. pylori* was positive in 25%. In patients above 10 years of age (16%), the prevalence of *H. pylori* was 32.3%. In duodenal ulcer patients (below 10 years of age), the prevalence of *H. pylori*

**Table I.** *H. pylori* status in 267 children suspected to have peptic disease.

Diagnosis	No: 267	Giemsa stain	Urease test
Gastritis	131 (49%)	39 (29.7%)	33 (25.2%)
Duodenitis	10 (3.7%)	5 (50%)	5 (50%)
Gastroduodenitis	53 (19.3%)	19 (26.3%)	19 (26.3%)
Gastric ulcer	19 (7.1%)	19 (26.3%)	19 (26.3%)
Duodenal ulcer	29 (10.8%)	29 (41.3%)	29 (41.3%)
Normal	25 (9.3%)	3 (12%)	2 (8%)

was 42% and in the above 10 years of age group the prevalence was 68%.

This study suggested that in older children *H. pylori* is a factor in duodenal and gastric ulcer. In younger children

## Brief Communications

however this factor was shown to be weaker, a finding suggesting that *H. pylori* is not involved in the etiology of many of these ulcers.

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