

Helicobacter Pylori: Findings in a Native American Population

Abstract

Goals: To assess for Helicobacter pylori infection rate and associated findings: intestinal metaplasia, gastric neoplasia, anemia, etc in a given population.

Background: Patients treated according to standard clinical practice at a community hospital for symptoms suggesting upper GI pathology and subsequently referred for EGD at a community hospital were included in this study.

Study Methods: Retrospective, case series report of 154 EGD's (145 patients) performed by a single physician at one location. H pylori presence was assessed with serology and/or rapid urease test and/or histology. Hematology and chemistry labs were also analyzed.

Results: 72.51% (n = 95) patients were H. pylori positive; 11.92% (n = 13) had intestinal metaplasia (IM); 1 gastric adenocarcinoma. The number of histology specimens and positive H pylori on histology were correlated ($r = 0.948$; $p = 0.05$), but not specimen number and IM ($r = 0.628$; $p = 0.37$). More than 80% of patients tested had elevated globulins and decreased albumin/globulin ratio.

Conclusions: Increased number of pathology specimens was associated with increased detection of H pylori, but not of intestinal metaplasia. H pylori positivity was correlated with higher albumin levels. Widespread hyperglobulinemia and hypoalbuminemia warrants further study.