Helicobacter pylori infection and its possible controlling public health measures at the present times

Sir,

Helicobacter pylori is is a Gram-negative, spiral shaped, microaerophilic bacterium that can colonize epithelial cells of the stomach and plays an important role in the pathogenesis of chronic gastritis, peptic ulcer disease, and, possibly, gastric carcinoma.[1] *H. pylori* infects the majority of the adult population in the world in particular in developing countries [Figure 1]. It has to be said that the prevalence rate of infection in different population may be different up to many epidemiological factors (diet, genetic). According to serology data in Asia, the prevalence rate is high in particular in Korea and Japan.[2] However, specific guidelines may be needed for the management of infection in different regions based on disease patterns.[3] Still we need to know whether *H. pylori* infection may be beneficial in certain circumstances and whether eradicating the infection may be disadvantageous to some subjects.[4] Vaccines are being tested in animals and humans. Despite many clinical trials, it is very early days yet. At the present point in time, there are no vaccines for the prevention of *H. pylori*.[5] It could be concluded that preventive efforts and particularly screening are useful in order to find out the susceptible cases. The association between gastro-oesophageal reflux disease and irritable bowel syndrome was significantly higher in our community compared with others.[6] Clarithromycin resistance was seen for *H. pylori* recently.[7] Smoking may benefit peptic ulcer patients with *H. pylori* infection.[8] New research in the future must be performed to find out different aspects of this question.

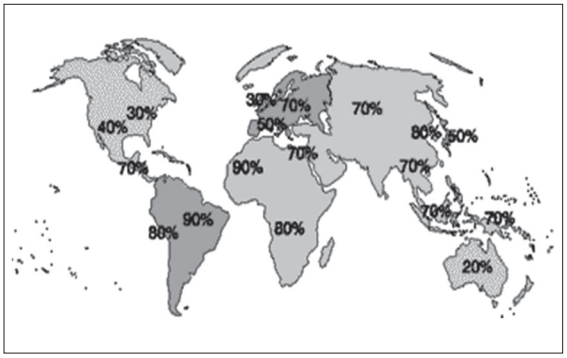

Figure 1: The situation of *H.pylori* in the world (From *H.plori* foundation 2008)

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