

Letters to the Editor

Reply of Prevalence of *Helicobacter pylori* infection in patients with inflammatory bowel disease: pilot study

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Dear Editor,

In the first place, we wish to thank Dr. Pellicano et al. (1) for their kind comments and remarks. Indeed, a very recent meta-analysis (2) concludes that patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) have a lower prevalence of *H. pylori* infection (27.1%) as compared with control subjects (40.9%), which suggests a protective effect of *H. pylori* (Hp) in the development of IBD. Former research attributed such lower prevalence to prior therapy with sulfasalazine and/or antibiotics (3,4). Among these papers, Triantafillidis et al, (3) agree with these findings but their patients receiving no antibiotics had a prevalence of 55% versus 55.1% for controls. This evidence and that provided by Pellicano et al. (1) attempt to demonstrate that the true prevalence of Hp infection in patients with IBD is similar to or higher than that in control subjects, with no statistically significant differences. Our research is consistent with this (43% in IBD versus 40% in controls). Furthermore we get the impression that Hp eradication improves the course of IBD.

References

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