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

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.

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References