

## Proportion of *Helicobacter pylori* Among Dyspeptic Patients Detected by Molecular Methods in a Teaching Hospital in Sri Lanka

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### Abstract

**Background:** Infection with *Helicobacter pylori* is considered as a major cause of chronic gastritis, peptic ulcer disease and gastric cancer. More than half of the world's population is infected with *H. pylori*. In Sri Lanka various groups have reported a prevalence ranging from 3% to 70% over the last decade.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to determine the current proportion of *H. pylori* and risk factors for *H. pylori* infections.

**Patients and Methods:** The study was a cross sectional, descriptive study in which 100 dyspeptic patients who were required to undergo endoscopy examination were included. The study was carried out at a Teaching Hospital in Sri Lanka. In-house urease test and PCR amplification of the *glmM* gene of *H. pylori* was performed to diagnose *H. pylori* infection. A questionnaire was filled to collect socio-demographic data from the dyspeptic patients.

**Results:** Eighteen dyspeptic patients were positive for *H. pylori* by both in-house CLO (Campylobacter-like organism test) test and polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Ten of cases were male (18%) while eight were female (17%). There was no association between the demographic factors and risk of *H. pylori* infection.

**Conclusions:** The proportion of *H. pylori* infections was found to be 18% in the study population. There was no significant association with *H. pylori* and the studied demographic factors.

**Keywords:** Helicobacter, Dyspepsia, Risk Factors, PCR