

***Helicobacter pylori* risk factors and resistance to clarithromycin among dyspeptic patients in Sri Lanka**

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Abstract

Infection with *H. pylori* is considered a major cause of chronic gastritis, peptic ulcer disease and gastric cancer. More than half of

the world population is infected with *H. pylori* and a 70% prevalence has been reported from Sri Lanka. Due to the difficulty in culture and Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing in the laboratory, it is treated empirically using clarithromycin as part of the triple therapy. The resistance to these antibiotics in Sri Lanka are not known. Thus it is of paramount importance to determine the clarithromycin resistance of *H. pylori* in Sri Lanka. The aim of this study was to determine the current proportion of *H. pylori* and to investigate the clarithromycin resistant A2142G and A2143G mutations present in the 23S rRNA gene of *H. pylori* strains. Further the risk factors for infection with *H. pylori* were investigated.