

Letter to the Editor

A question on *Helicobacter pylori* prevalence in obese Turkish patients

Dear Editor,

In a recent interesting paper, Dogan et al¹ investigated the gastric features and the histologic prevalence of *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*) infection in patients undergoing laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy (LSG). During the upper gastrointestinal endoscopy, four samples were taken from all stomach cases. The authors found that only the 18.9% of these patients had a normal stomach while the remnant had different types of gastritis, glomus tumor, and in one case gastrointestinal stromal tumor. After histological examination, *H. pylori* was present in 43.29% of patients¹.

In our opinion, considering Turkey, this is a low prevalence. Published data of the latest years have reported a histological *H. pylori* prevalence of 65% in patients who had gastrointestinal complaints in Southeastern regions². Moreover, in a national study performed by the more accurate urea breath test (UBT)³, the overall *H. pylori* prevalence was 75.8%. Considering the geographical distribution, the Northern and Western areas exhibited lower prevalence of *H. pylori* compared with the Middle, Eastern and Southern areas⁴.

Hence, taking into account the low prevalence of normal stomachs and the fact that the detection of this bacterium involved in the pathogenesis of gastritis, peptic ulcer and gastric cancer³, is a key step before LSG, it would be interesting know if the authors have considered to perform the UBT in patients with gastritis and negativity to histology.

Conflict of Interest

The Authors declare that they have no conflict of interests.

References

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