

Epidemiological study of H. pylori infection in Rezvanshahr city

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Background and objective: Helicobacter pylori infection is closely related to a large number of upper digestive tract diseases; but there has been no gold standard to detect this infection especially for clinical applications. Infection of this bacterium is related to economic and social status, personal hygiene, age as well as other factors. The present study was conducted to determine the prevalence of Helicobacter pylori infection in Rezvanshahr city and to investigate the relation between the infection and factors such as age, gender, education level and so forth. **Materials and methods:** This cross sectional descriptive survey was carried out for six months (Winter 2015 to Summer 2016) on 500 specimens (294 blood and 206 stool specimens) of the people who visited Rzvansahr clinical diagnosis laboratory. Data on demographic properties, antibiotic administration during the last month, stomach endoscopy, type of drinking water and the reason for visit were collected by a questionnaire. Stool samples were investigated using ELISA concerning Helicobacter infection (HpSAg) and serum samples were evaluated by ELISA to detect anti-Helicobacter IgG. Data were analyzed by chi square method (p 36 year old people which was statistically significant ($P=0.046$). The highest H. pylori positive results was observed in rural people (45.8%) which was higher than that of citizens (29.9%) indicating a significant correlation between residence location and infection ($P=0.0001$). Statistically, no significant correlation was observed between H.pylori positive results with education level ($p=0.45$), job status ($p=0.18$), family size ($p=0.55$), reason for visit ($p=0.44$), antibiotic administration during the last month ($p=0.49$), stomach endoscopy ($p=0.97$) and type of drinking water ($p=0.72$). **Conclusion:** The results of this research showed high rate of H. pylori infection in Rezvanshahr city with the highest infection rate being seen in middle-aged people. Gender, family size, job status, type of drinking water and education had no significant relation with H. pylori infection.

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