

Letter to the Editor

***Helicobacter pylori* and cardiovascular disease: any missing data?**

Dear Editor,

In a recent interesting review, Kucukazman et al¹ investigated the association between *Helicobacter pylori* infection and the risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD). To discuss this issue, the authors reported in Table I studies comparing the prevalence of *H. pylori* infection in CVD patients and non-CVD controls¹. Among these, they included 3 studies performed by our group in several areas of Northern Italy²⁻⁴.

I would like to highlight that another paper that met these inclusion criteria and included a large sample size was not reported. In particular, in a multicentre case-control study, performed in 4 Turin hospitals and in Sondalo hospital (Northern Italy), between June 1996 and June 1998, were included 223 consecutive male patients, aged 40-79 years (mean 60.2), admitted for acute myocardial infarction (AMI) and compared to controls, matched for geographical area and socio-economic status. The prevalence of *H. pylori* was significantly higher among patients with AMI (84.7%) compared to control population (61.8%, $p < 0.0001$, odds ratio 3.42 [2.12–5.54]). On the contrary, no difference was observed comparing the seroprevalence of more virulent strains (anti CagA-positive) of *H. pylori* among the two cohorts ($p = 0.17$)⁵.

A second key point is that considering prospective cohort studies (see Table II)¹ the authors discussed studies published in the period 1997-2003. However, as reported in a recent meta-analysis⁶, several papers have been published thereafter.

Since establishing a causal link between this infection and CVD would be of major public health importance⁷ and considering that the above reported paper included a large cohort, I think that it is important its inclusion among the case-control studies considered by Kucukazman et al¹.

Conflict of Interest

The Authors declare that they have no conflict of interests.

References

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