

Abstract

Survey the prevalence rate of *Helicobacter pylori* stool antigen in chronic urticaria patients

Background: Chronic urticaria is one of the most common skin diseases. However, in many cases, the cause remains unknown and seems to be an idiopathic disease. This disease takes more than 6 weeks and is often associated with angioedema. The pathogenic mechanisms that may exist between *Helicobacter pylori* infection and Chronic urticaria is still unknown. So we design this study to understand the relationship between *Helicobacter pylori* infection and this disease.

Materials and Methods: This study is a case-control study and done on patients with chronic urticaria and healthy persons matched with the patients. In this study we design a Questionnaire, it contained informations, including: Demographic informations, skin findings, education level, place of residence, occupation, family history of chronic urticaria, allergic skin disease, duration of the skin disease and informations of fecal antigen test. After completing Questionnaires, Patients were referred to the laboratory for performing fecal antigen test. After completing the Questionnaires and receive lab results, Datas were entered into SPSS v16 and to see the relationship between *Helicobacter pylori* infection and chronic urticaria t-test and chi-square test were used.

Results: 200 patients participated in this study, 100 patients with chronic urticaria and 100 healthy persons as control group. 58 percent were male and 42 percent were female. Average age was 37.59 ± 16.11 years and the most common age range was 30-21 years. 75% of people were from city, 84 percent were literate, 30 percent were self-employed, 10 patients (8 men in cases and 2 women in the control group) had a positive family history, but this difference was not statistically significant ($P = 0.052$). Average duration of disease was 10.73 ± 15.34 months and Angioedema was seen in 16% of patients. The most common underlying disease in cases and controls was eczema. In this study 36% of cases and 23% of control group were infected with *H. pylori*. The data analysis showed a significant interaction between *Helicobacter pylori* infection and chronic urticaria, ($P = 0.044$) (OR= 1.883) age ($P < 0.001$), location ($P = 0.001$) and Education ($P < 0.001$) underlying disease ($P = 0.030$) and occupation ($P < 0.001$), but any significant relationship between gender and the infection was not found.

Conclusion: After comparing the results with other studies it seems that *Helicobacter* is associated with prevalence of chronic idiopathic urticaria.

Key words: chronic urticaria, stool antigen, *Helicobacter pylori*