

GLOBAL PHARMA SUMMIT

&

2nd International Conference on

GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY

November 23 - 24, 2018 | Bangkok, Thailand

Asian J Biomed Pharmaceut Sci 2018, Volume 8 | DOI: 10.4066/2249-622X-C5-015

HELICOBACTER PYLORI INFECTION IN CHILDREN WITH TYPE 1 DIABETES MELLITUS

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Background: *Helicobacter pylori* infection is one of the most common chronic bacterial infections. There is challenge on the real rate of prevalence of *H. pylori* in diabetic patients. This study was done to assess the prevalence of *H. pylori* infection in children suffering from type 1 insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus.

Methods: In this case-control study, 80 diabetic patients (as the target group) refer to the Endocrinology Clinic of Tabriz Educational and Treatment Center, Tabriz northwestern Iran and 80 non-diabetic patients (as the control group) from the group of children referring to the GI Clinic of the same center were enrolled in 2012 and 2013. Then *H. pylori* infection was assessed in two groups using measuring antibody (IgG) and stool antigen (HpSA).

Results: *H. pylori* infection tests were positive in 48 (60%) diabetic patients and in 32 (40%) in non-diabetic patients (P=0.030). There was a meaningful correlation between the frequency of *H. pylori* and the longer the duration of diabetes (P<0.001). No correlation was seen between *H. pylori* infection and other factors such as age of the patients (P=0.840), HbA1C level (P=0.312), age at which diabetes was diagnosed (P=0.800), average daily dosage of insulin (P=0.232), and presence of GI symptoms (P=0.430).

Conclusions: Type 1 diabetic children especially cases with the longer duration of diabetes, are at risk acquiring *H. pylori* infection. Therefore, screening of *H. pylori* infection is helpful on the follow up of these patients.

Keywords: Children; Diabetes Mellitus; *Helicobacter pyloris*.