

Malaysian GI Registry: Epidemiology of *Helicobacter Pylori* Infection in Malaysia

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BACKGROUND

To study the epidemiology patterns of *Helicobacter pylori* in Malaysia.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Six tertiary hospitals (5 from Peninsular Malaysia and 1 from Sabah) participated in the electronic data collection in the Malaysian GI Registry. Patients who had rapid urease tests done during their OGDS performed from September 2008 to May 2009 for various indications were analyzed. Statistical analysis was done using Chi-square test and odd ratio was calculated for various variables.

RESULTS

Rapid urease test for *H pylori* were available for 4277 patients. 53.6% were male patients. The overall positive result for *H pylori* was 17.2%. 17.9% of male patients had positive *H pylori* as compare to 16.4% of female. There was no significant difference of *H pylori* infection rate between male and female patients ($p=0.20$). Highest *H pylori* positivity (37.0%) was found in patients originated from East Malaysia,

followed by Indians (20.4%), Chinese (15.0%) and Malays (6.8%). *H pylori* test was positive in 21.5% of foreigners. All other ethnic groups had significant higher odd of *H pylori* infection compare to Malays. [Chinese ($p<0.001$, OR=2.42), Indians ($p<0.001$, OR=3.50), other Malaysians ($p<0.001$, OR=8.03) and foreigners ($p<0.001$, OR=3.76)]. *H pylori* infection rates were increasing with age, 16.8% for those below 20 to the highest of 23.7% for those patients between 30 and 40. Subsequently the rates decrease progressively with age to the lowest of 7.2% for patients above 80. However, only patients more than 80 years old had statistically significant (compare to patients below 20 years old) lower *H pylori* infection rates; $p<0.02$, OR=0.38.

CONCLUSION

H pylori infection rate among Malaysians is low except for ethnic groups from Sabah. The infection rate is lower among younger age groups, though not statistically significant. These reflect the fact that *H pylori* are closely tied to socioeconomic conditions. You may type over these instructions.