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Effect of *Helicobacter pylori* infection on insulin resistance in Asymptomatic Sudanese Patients

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Abstract

Introduction: *Helicobacter pylori* is associated with severe gastrointestinal pathologies. Moreover, it may cause an extra gastrointestinal disease such as atherosclerosis, insulin resistance, diabetes mellitus and some autoimmune diseases.

Aim To investigate the relation between *Helicobacter pylori* infection and Insulin Resistance in Sudanese healthy subjects.

Methods: In a case control study conducted in the period from May 2013 to May 2014, a total of a hundred and twenty patients were enrolled in this study; these patients were divided into two groups by matching age, sex. Group (A) patients were *Helicobacter pylori* positive. Group (B) subjects were *Helicobacter pylori* negative. The homeostasis model assessment (HOMA) was used to assess insulin resistance.

Results: In the present study, there was a statistically significant association between *Helicobacter pylori* positive patients (80/120; 66.67%) and insulin resistance (IR) compared to *Helicobacter pylori* negative patients (40/120; 33.33%) (P value <0.001). The mean value of IR was 3.21 ± 1.26 , 2.05 ± 1.20 respectively, for *Helicobacter pylori* positive and *Helicobacter pylori* negative patients.

There was no statistical significant difference between *Helicobacter pylori* positive and *Helicobacter Pylori* negative patients as regard to other investigations (P value >0.05).

Conclusion: The findings confirm the existence of an association between infection with *Helicobacter pylori* and insulin resistance.

Keywords: *Helicobacter pylori*; Insulin resistance; gastrointestinal disorders; diabetes Mellitus.

1. Introduction

Helicobacter pylori (*H. pylori*) is a gram negative, noninvasive, non-spore forming, spiral shaped bacteria. *H. pylori* infection is one of the most prevalent chronic infections worldwide [1]. *H. pylori* was cultivated first from human gastric mucosa in 1982 and has since emerged as one of the most common chronic bacterial infections in the world, affecting about 40% and 80% of the general population in developed and developing countries, respectively [2]. Infection with this bacterium induces gastric inflammation in most subjects and has been associated with an increased production of cytokines [3]. Also, gastric parietal cell auto-antibodies have been identified more frequently in diabetic patients with concomitant *H. pylori* infection compared with uninfected patients [4]. Moreover, it is associated with non-gastrointestinal tract conditions such as atherosclerosis, insulin resistance, diabetes mellitus and some autoimmune diseases [5, 6, 7].

The Insulin Resistance (IR) is a pathologic state in which normal insulin concentrations produce a subnormal response in the peripheral tissues, the association of *H. pylori* infection with insulin resistance has been reported [8, 9].

H. pylori infection increases insulin resistance (IR) since it causes a chronic inflammation and affects gastrointestinal hormones function in insulin regulation [10]. The prevalence of IR syndrome, and its component is rapidly increasing worldwide as a consequence of the ongoing obesity epidemic that significantly increases with age [11]. IR syndrome is included in degenerative conditions that have an increasingly high impact on aged population and their association with *H. pylori* infection, which affect more than half of the world population has only been addressed [12]. The present study was, therefore, to evaluate the relationship between the seropositivity for *H. pylori* and the HOMA-IR in Sudanese healthy subjects.

2. Material and methods

2.1. Subjects

The study was conducted from May 2013 to May 2014 at Fedail Hospital and Khartoum Teaching Hospital. A total of a hundred and twenty subjects were enrolled in this study. The participants were divided into two groups according to the presence of *H. pylori* infection. Eighty Patients were *H. pylori* positive and forty patients were *H. pylori* negative.

The local ethics committee approved the study. Before participation, volunteers were fully informed of the nature and purpose of the study and written consent was obtained from each.

2.2. Samples

Blood samples were obtained following an overnight fasting, samples were withdrawn from a cubital vein into blood tubes, then the serum was separated from the cells by centrifugation at 3000 r/min for 10 min and immediately stored on ice at 4 °C.

2.3. Diagnosis of *H. pylori* infection

H. pylori infection was determined using a serologic test with a reported sensitivity and specificity of 99.9% and 97%, respectively. 2 mL of blood was collected, and sera were separated for the determination of *H. pylori*-specific immunoglobulin G antibodies using chromatographic immunoassay (Bio Trancer™; *H. pylori* Rapid Card). Using control sera, the specimens were tested in duplicate according to the manufacturer’s specifications.

2.4. Exclusion criteria

Exclusion criteria included recent gastrointestinal by-pass surgery, pregnancy, and usage of supplemental vitamins several months prior to the study, *H. pylori* eradication therapy, and H2 receptor antagonist or proton pump inhibitor within the last 4 weeks or nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) within the last 2 weeks prior to study, existence of diabetes mellitus, hyperlipidemia, hypertension, coronary artery disease, rheumatoid arthritis, renal disease, smoking, cancer, systemic or local infection.

2.5. Biochemical measurements

2.5.1. Measurement of glucose, lipid profile and Insulin

Serum glucose concentration was measured by enzymatic glucose oxidase-peroxidase [GOD-POD] using commercial kits in an auto-analyser (C311 -Roche).

Triglyceride, total cholesterol, and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-cholesterol) concentrations were measured by enzymatic methods on C311 –Roche). Levels of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-cholesterol) were calculated by Friedewald formula.

LDL-cholesterol = [total cholesterol-(TG/5)-HDL-cholesterol]. Serum insulin levels were measured using an automated chemiluminescence autoanalyzer (Cobas e 411 Roche®).

2.5.2. Insulin resistance

The insulin resistance index was calculated on the basis of fasting values for glycaemia and insulinemia, according to the homeostasis model assessment (HOMA) [13]:

$$\text{Insulin resistance (HOMA-IR)} = \text{fasting insulinaemia } (\mu\text{U/mL}) \times \text{fasting glycaemia (mmol/L)} / 22.5.$$

2.6. Statistical evaluation

Data were expressed as mean ± standard deviation (SD). The means were compared using Independent sample t. test and a p-value ≤ 0.05 was considered as statistically significant.

3. Results

In the present study the patients with *H. pylori* positive was 66.7% and patients with *H. pylori* negative was 33.3%. The overall mean age was 51.63 ± 10.07 years. The mean of age was 50.29 ± 10.14 and 53.52 ± 9.75 years old in female and male patients respectively. Demographic characteristic of the subjects are shown in Table 1. There were no statistically significant differences between the two groups with regard to age and gender (P> 0.05) (Table 1). As shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Demographic data for *H. pylori* positive and negative group.

	<i>H. pylori</i> [Positive][n=80] Mean±SD	<i>H. pylori</i> [negative][n=40] Mean±SD	P value
Age [Years]	51.09 ± 10.0	50.29 ± 10.14	0.08
Sex [Female / Male]	42/38	28/12	NA

NA: not Significant, P value ≤ 0.05 considered significance

There was no statistical significant difference between *H. pylori* positive group and negative group for the investigations as regard the Hb, PCV, Platelet, Creatinine and lipid profile. P value >0.05.

Table 2: Laboratory findings by Mean ± SD for the studied groups (Hb, PCV, Platelet, serum creatinine and lipid profile).

	<i>H. pylori</i> [Positive] [n= 80] Mean±SD	<i>H. pylori</i> [negative] [n= 40] Mean±SD	P value
Hb [g/dl]	13.29 ± 1.5	13.08 ± 1.4	0.46
PCV [%]	40.66 ± 4.32	39.48 ± 4.13	0.33
Platelet [c/mm ³]	259.69 ± 53.14	267.07 ± 62.43	0.50
S. Creatinine [mg/dl]	0.80 ± 0.18	0.92 ± 0.25	0.41
S. Cholesterol [mg/dl]	170.95 ± 15.75	169.77 ± 14.67	0.69
S. Triglyceride [mg/dl]	127.56 ± 25.80	119.72 ± 30.19	0.14
S. HDL-C [mg/dl]	46.44 ± 8.20	44.08 ± 8.14	0.13
S. LDL-C [mg/dl]	99.80 ± 16.77	101.18 ± 17.80	0.67

P value ≤ 0.05 considered significance

There was a statistical significant association between the groups as regard to IR (3.21±1.26 ng/ml), (2.05±1.20 ng/ml) respectively, p value <0.001 (Table 3)

Table 3: Laboratory findings by Mean \pm SD for the studied groups (Fasting Blood Glucose, Insulin and insulin resistance)

	<i>H. pylori</i> [Positive] [n= 80] Mean \pm SD	<i>H. pylori</i> [negative] [n= 40] Mean \pm SD	P value
Fasting Blood Glucose [mmol/l]	5.56 \pm 0.71	5.57 \pm 0.46	0.54
Insulin [IU/ml]	12.87 \pm 4.52	8.38 \pm 4.46	0.00*
HOMA- IR	3.21 \pm 1.26	2.05 \pm 1.20	0.00*

P value \leq 0.05 considered significance

4. Discussion

Information about the association of insulin resistance with *H. pylori* infection is scarcity available [14, 15]. Aydemir *et al* [8] reported that insulin resistance is significantly related with *H. pylori* infection. However, Park *et al* [15] reported that no improvement in the metabolic parameters including insulin resistance could be observed following eradication of *H. pylori*. The results of this study are in consistent with those of Aydemir *et al*. [14], as this study did not investigate the effect of *H. pylori* eradication on insulin resistance, we were not able to compare these results with those of Park *et al* [15].

HOMA -IR in *H. pylori* positive cases were 3.21 ± 1.26 while it was 2.05 ± 1.20 in *H. pylori* negative cases with a high statistical significant difference between the two groups (P value <0.001) this is consistent with Gen R. *et al*, Ozdem S. *et al* and Gunji T. *et al*. [12, 16, 17]. The explanation for that could be chronic inflammation and an alteration in counter regulatory hormones are deemed responsible for IR pathogenesis. Although the pathogenic link between *H. pylori* infection and IR remains elusive, this infection may influence the pathophysiology of IR [18]. A significant association between increased oxidative stress and IR was studied with *H. pylori* infection. It has been reported that *H. pylori* infection is associated with increased tissue and systemic oxidative stress that were proposed as the main cause for the development of IR, B cell dysfunction, impaired glucose tolerance and type 2 diabetes mellitus [19] However, others reported that decreased somatostatin and increased gastrin hormone levels in patients with *H. pylori* infection may have a role in the development of IR as somatostatin regulates pancreatic insulin secretion and has an inhibitory effect on insulin release [8, 20]. Moreover, other researchers reported that chronic inflammation promotes platelets activation and platelets – leucocyte aggregations, which were involved in IR [21]. In contrary, others stated that there is no association between *H. pylori* infection and IR [16, 22]. The explanations of this difference were due to selection of diabetic and dyslipidemic patients in the study. In addition, the diagnosis of *H. pylori* infection was done by serum *H. pylori* immunoglobulin G antibody and not by histopathological examination of antral biopsies, which is considered as the gold standard diagnostic tool.

5. Conclusion

There was a strong association between *H. pylori* positive and insulin resistant.

Further studies on a large number of patients to prove the association between *H. pylori* and IR and to explore the benefit of *H. pylori* eradication in reduction of IR and vice versa.

6. Acknowledgment

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7. Conflict of interest

No potential conflicts of interest relevant to this article were reported.

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9. Author contributor

H.M.G. and M.H.E. conceived the specific aims of the article, designed, collected data, and prepared the data for analysis. H.K.F., M.E.T. and N.M.A. conducted the analysis and wrote the initial draft. S.A.E and M.E.T. contributed to the interpretation of the results. All authors contributed to the final draft of the manuscript. H.M.G. is guarantor of this work, and takes responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis.