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Helicobacter pylori infection in children

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Introduction: Gastritis is associated with multiple etiologies, but in most pediatric cases of gastritis the etiology is unknown. Numerous studies have reported *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*) as etiological factor for mild to severe gastritis. We tried to evaluate the distribution of the infection with *H. pylori* by gender, age and place of origin.

Materials & Methods: We performed a retrospective study over a period of 3 years, over a lot of 1757 patients of both sexes, aged between 12 month old and 18 year old, admitted to a regional gastroenterology center in Northeast Romania, with clinical signs of gastritis which underwent upper gastrointestinal endoscopy.

Results: Out of the 1757 children diagnosed with various forms of gastritis, in 30.85% of cases the *H. pylori* infection was present. Distribution of children with *H. pylori* infection by gender revealed a frequency of 26.75% in males and 73.25% in women. In the study group, the average age of children who had *H. pylori* infection was higher (14.10+2.833 DS), compared with children without *H. pylori* (12.78+3.694 SD), an average difference of 1.3 years (95% confidence interval 0.96 to 1.66; $p < 0.001$). Distribution of children with *H. pylori* infection by place of origin highlighted a frequency of 24.72% in urban and 75.28% in rural areas.

Conclusion: The most important cause of gastritis identified in pediatric age is *H. pylori* infection. For the identification of *H. pylori* infection, endoscopy with biopsies, followed by the urease test and/or direct microscopy remains the gold standard.

Biography

Vasile Valeriu Lupu is a Lecturer of Pediatric, Faculty of Medicine, Grigore T. Popa University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Romania. He has obtained his PhD in 2011. He is a Member of the Romanian Society of Medical Genetics, Romanian Society of Gastroenterology and Pediatric Hepatology, European Pediatrics Association (since 2011), being also the General Secretary of the Romanian Society of Pediatrics (2009-2017). He is author of 168 scientific papers communicated at scientific congresses and conferences and 116 articles published (22 in ISI journals).

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