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The high incidence rate of *Helicobacter pylori* infection in the Northwest of Iran**Hossein Bannazadeh Baghi, Nader Mohammadzadeh, Amir Mohammadzadeh, Mahin Ahangar Oskouee and Mohammad Aghazadeh**
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Helicobacter pylori infection is one of the most common infectious diseases across the world and is linked to the increased risk of human active chronic gastritis, peptic and duodenal ulcer and gastric cancer development. In order to examine the present seroprevalence of *H. pylori* infection in the Northwest part of Iran, specific ELISA for the existence of IgG antibodies against *H. pylori* was conducted on a representative sample size of 21429 (69.02% F, 29.98% M) sera who were referred to the Central Laboratory of Tabriz in the time period of three years (2012-2015). Statistical analysis was performed by means of SPSS v15.0 and Epi Info v3.2.2. Results were divided into nine groups according to age. The overall seroprevalence of *H. pylori* infection was 63.93% (63.77% F, 64.24% M), with no statistical difference between genders. Seropositivity rates increased gradually with age but reduced above the age of 71. The results showed that the *H. pylori* infection prevalence rate in the Northwest of Iran is higher than in developed countries, which may influence the high incident rate of gastric cancer in this region. Crowded living conditions and low socioeconomic status contribute to the dissimilarity of infection prevalence. Therefore, more research on *H. pylori* in Iran is the key to develop proactive and preventive methods for gastric cancer.

Biography

Hossein Bannazadeh Baghi is the holder of a PhD awarded to him by the Department of Virology, Parasitology and Immunology at Ghent University, Belgium. Currently, he is working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Microbiology at Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Iran. He is also a Research Member of the Infectious and Tropical Diseases Research Center, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran. He is the author and coauthor of several scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals.

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