



Management of *Helicobacter pylori* infection—the Maastricht IV/ Florence Consensus Report

Peter Malfertheiner,¹ Francis Megraud,² Colm A O'Morain,³ John Atherton,⁴ Anthony T R Axon,⁵ Franco Bazzoli,⁶ Gian Franco Gensini,⁸ Javier P Gisbert,⁹ David Y Graham,¹⁰ Theodore Rokkas,¹¹ Emad M El-Omar,⁷ Ernst J Kuipers,¹² The European Helicobacter Study Group (EHSG)

¹Department of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Infectious Diseases, Otto-von-Guericke University of Magdeburg, Magdeburg, Germany

²Department of Bacteriologie, INSERM U853, Université Bordeaux Segalen 2, Bordeaux, France

³Department of Gastroenterology, Adelaide and Meath Hospital, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland

⁴School of Clinical Sciences, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK

⁵Spire Leeds Hospital, Leeds, UK

⁶Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy

⁷Division of Applied Medicine, Aberdeen University, Aberdeen, UK

⁸University of Firenze, Firenze, Italy

⁹Hospital Universitario de La Princesa, IP and CIBEREHD Madrid, Spain

¹⁰VA Medical Center Houston, Texas, USA

¹¹Department of Gastroenterology, Henry-Dunant Hospital, Athens, Greece

¹²Erasmus MC University Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Correspondence to

Professor Peter Malfertheiner, Department of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Infectious Diseases, Otto-von-Guericke University of Magdeburg, Leipziger Str 44, Magdeburg 39120, Germany; peter.malfertheiner@med.ovgu.de

For author footnote see end of the article.

Accepted 22 February 2012

ABSTRACT

Management of *Helicobacter pylori* infection is evolving and in this 4th edition of the Maastricht consensus report aspects related to the clinical role of *H pylori* were looked at again in 2010. In the 4th Maastricht/Florence Consensus Conference 44 experts from 24 countries took active part and examined key clinical aspects in three subdivided workshops: (1) Indications and contraindications for diagnosis and treatment, focusing on dyspepsia, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs or aspirin use, gastro-oesophageal reflux disease and extraintestinal manifestations of the infection. (2) Diagnostic tests and treatment of infection. (3) Prevention of gastric cancer and other complications. The results of the individual workshops were submitted to a final consensus voting to all participants. Recommendations are provided on the basis of the best current evidence and plausibility to guide doctors involved in the management of this infection associated with various clinical conditions.

Management of *Helicobacter pylori* infection is evolving and so is our understanding of the role of the bacterium in various clinical conditions.

The European Helicobacter Study Group first took the initiative in 1996 in Maastricht to gather dedicated experts in the field and to review and discuss all relevant clinical data to arrive at recommendations for the clinical management of *H pylori* infection.¹ The Maastricht conference has since been repeated at intervals of 4–5 years.^{2 3}

Aspects related to the clinical role of *H pylori* were re-examined in Florence 2010 with the Maastricht methodology. The meeting focused on indications, diagnostics and treatments of *H pylori* infection with additional emphasis on disease prevention—in particular, prevention of gastric cancer.

In the 4th Maastricht/Florence Consensus Conference 44 experts from 24 countries took active part. Experts invited were chosen for their expertise and contribution to *H pylori* research and/or guideline methodology.

METHODOLOGY AND STRUCTURE OF CONFERENCE PROCESS

Current guidelines from Japan, Asia-Pacific, North America and Europe, as well as the 'Maastricht

methodology' were reviewed at an introductory plenary session.

Working groups examined the following three topics relating to *H pylori* infection:

- ▶ Indications and contraindications for diagnosis and treatment, focusing on dyspepsia, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) or aspirin use, gastro-oesophageal reflux disease and extraintestinal manifestations of the infection.
- ▶ Diagnostic tests and treatment of infection.
- ▶ Prevention of gastric cancer and other complications.

Individual questions were submitted to all participants, debated and modified according to a standard template. After a thorough discussion of each statement in one of the three working groups the strength of recommendations and the strength of the supporting evidence were graded according to the slightly modified system, used in our previous report⁵ (table 1). In a few statements where there are only experimental studies in support of the biological plausibility but no treatment studies, we did not quote the evidence, but graded the recommendation for the statement. For some statements the grade of recommendation did not match the level of evidence because either studies focusing on the same topic reported conflicting results or the interpretation of the studies by the experts led to a different grade of recommendation than expected from the level of evidence. Aspects related to the implementation of recommendations in daily clinical practice have also been taken into account.

The statements and recommendations were edited and finally agreed at the concluding plenary session. Consensus was defined as support by 70% or more of the experts. The recommendations resulting from this rigorous process are reported in the manuscript.

Commentaries on statements were written by the chairmen of individual workshops based on the data presented by the person assigned to elaborate the question; they include the conclusion of discussions held at the meeting. Coauthors were involved in the final editing of the commentaries. The previous strong recommendations for *H pylori* eradication, such as in patients with peptic ulcer disease,³ has been reconfirmed.

THE TEST-AND-TREAT STRATEGY (WORKSHOP 1)

Statement 1: A test-and-treat strategy is appropriate for uninvestigated dyspepsia in populations where the *H pylori* prevalence is high ($\geq 20\%$). This approach is subject to local cost–benefit considerations and is not applicable to patients with alarm symptoms, or older patients (age to be determined locally according to cancer risk)

Evidence level: 1a

Grade of recommendation: A

Statement 2: The main non-invasive tests that can be used for the test-and-treat strategy are the UBT and monoclonal stool antigen tests. Certain validated serological tests can also be used.

Evidence level: 2a

Grade of recommendation: B

H pylori is the most successful human pathogen infecting an estimated 50% of the global population. It is a common and potentially curable cause of dyspepsia and peptic ulcer disease. Test and treat is a strategy involving a non-invasive test being carried out in patients with dyspepsia to assess whether *H pylori* is present and then treatment of the infection if it is found; it thus avoids the cost, inconvenience and discomfort of endoscopy. The test-and-treat strategy is appropriate in situations where the risk of the patient having gastric cancer is low; in most countries this means dyspeptic patients below a locally determined age cut-off point (depending on local incidence of gastric cancer in different age groups) and without so-called ‘alarm’ symptoms or signs which are associated with an increased risk of gastric cancer. These include weight loss, dysphagia, overt GI bleeding, abdominal mass and iron deficient anaemia. In young patients with dyspepsia, testing for and treating *H pylori* is preferable to a strategy of just prescribing a proton pump inhibitor where the *H pylori* prevalence is $\geq 20\%$. The Urea Breath Test (UBT) and stool antigen testing are acceptable non-invasive tests for *H pylori* infection in this setting. For UBT, sensitivity is 88–95% and specificity 95%–100%.⁴ Stool antigen testing may be somewhat less acceptable to patients in some cultures but is equally valid, with a sensitivity of 94% and a specificity of 92%.⁵ A significant symptom benefit can be obtained from a test-and-treat strategy. This has been validated in a primary care cohort, which is the setting where most dyspeptic patients present.⁶ Test and treat must be used cautiously in populations with a low *H pylori* prevalence as it becomes less accurate in this setting.⁷ In patient groups with an increased risk of gastric cancer (over a local age cut-off point or with alarm symptoms or signs), the test-and-treat strategy is not recommended and a strategy of ‘endoscope and treat’ is preferred.⁸ In addition, non-invasive tests are less accurate in older adults.⁹

Acid and functional dyspepsia

Statement 3: *H pylori* eradication produces long-term relief of dyspepsia in one of 12 patients with *H pylori* and functional dyspepsia; this is better than any other treatment.

Evidence level: 1a

Grade of recommendation: A

Statement 4: *H pylori* can increase or decrease acid secretion depending on the intragastric distribution of inflammation.

Evidence level: 2b

Grade of recommendation: B

Many dyspeptic patients found to be infected by *H pylori* have functional dyspepsia (FD) rather than peptic ulcer disease. The benefit from eradication treatment is less clear in these patients than in those with peptic ulcer. At a population level, there is a significant improvement in the resolution of persistent symptoms in the *H pylori* eradication group (95% CI 6% to 14%) compared with placebo, with a number needed to treat of 12.¹⁰ Treatment response is difficult to predict for the individual patient. *H pylori* eradication led to a 25% reduction in dyspepsia consultations between 2 and 7 years of follow-up in a randomised controlled trial.¹¹ Another study suggested that *H pylori* eradication provides a similar long-term symptom reduction in patients with dyspepsia and duodenal ulcer.¹² The cost-effectiveness of *H pylori* eradication in FD varies between regions. In Europe *H pylori* eradication is cost-effective compared with offering no treatment but in the USA it is less certain that this is a cost-effective approach owing to the higher cost of eradication treatment.¹³ Overall response, however, is much better in regions where *H pylori* is highly prevalent and this is where it may be most cost-effective. Patients with FD in Asia would benefit from treatment for *H pylori* infection with an increased chance of symptom resolution as high as 3.6–13 after its eradication.^{14 15}

Successful treatment of *H pylori* infection may increase, decrease or have no overall effect on acid secretion. The effect on acid secretion depends upon the initial pattern of gastritis. People with an antral-predominant, body-sparing, non-atrophic gastritis have high stimulated acid production due to low somatostatin production in the antrum, higher gastrin levels compared with non-infected controls and so higher acid production by the uninflamed gastric corpus. Clinically, duodenal ulcer and non-ulcer dyspepsia are common in this group. In contrast, people with body-predominant and atrophic gastritis affecting the gastric body have low acid production despite the same hormonal changes. This phenotype is associated with premalignant gastric lesions and with an increased

Table 1 Grades of recommendation and evidence levels in support of the recommendations formulated in the Maastricht IV / Florence Consensus Report

Grade of recommendation*	Evidence level	Type of studies
A	1	1a Systematic review of randomised controlled trial (RCT) of good methodological quality and with homogeneity
		1b Individual RCT with narrow CI
		1c Individual RCT with risk of bias
B	2	2a Systematic review of cohort studies (with homogeneity)
		2b Individual cohort study (including low quality RCT, eg <80% follow-up)
		2c Non-controlled cohort studies/ecological studies
	3	3a Systematic review of case–control studies (with homogeneity)
		3b Individual case–control study
C	4	Case series/poor quality cohort or case–control studies
D	5	Expert opinion without explicit critical appraisal or based on physiology, bench research or ‘first principles’

*The highest grade of recommendation does not always correspond to the highest evidence level.

Guidelines

risk for gastric cancer.^{16 17} Therefore it can be concluded that the pattern of gastritis and associated disturbance in acid secretion determine disease outcomes. In both situations, treatment of *H pylori* resolves the gastritis and leads to an, at least partial, correction of the high or low acid state. While interesting, these changes in acid production after *H pylori* treatment have no proven clinical relevance and they should not be used as an argument to treat or not to treat *H pylori*.

H pylori and gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD)

Statement 5: On average, *H pylori* status has no effect on symptom severity, symptom recurrence and treatment efficacy in GORD. *H pylori* eradication does not exacerbate pre-existing GORD or affect treatment efficacy.

Evidence level: 1a

Grade of recommendation: A

Statement 6: Epidemiological studies show a negative association between the prevalence of *H pylori* and the severity of GORD and incidence of esophageal adenocarcinoma.

Evidence level: 2a

Grade of recommendation: B

At a population level, *H pylori* and GORD are negatively associated,¹⁸ and this is most marked for cytotoxin-associated gene product (CagA)-positive strains of *H pylori*. A review of 26 studies showed a rate of *H pylori* infection in patients with GORD of 39% compared with 50% in controls.¹⁹ Similarly, the sequelae of GORD, such as Barrett's oesophagus and oesophageal adenocarcinoma, are also less common in infected individuals.²⁰ However, eradication of *H pylori* in populations of infected patients, on average, neither causes nor exacerbates GORD.^{21–23} Therefore the presence of GORD should not dissuade practitioners from *H pylori* eradication treatment where indicated. In addition, the long-term efficacy of proton pump inhibitor (PPI) maintenance treatment for GORD is not influenced by *H pylori* status.²⁴ An interesting phenomenon has been observed whereby some *H pylori*-positive patients may develop a sudden-onset, transient epigastric pain shortly after the start of PPI treatment for reflux, but this again should not affect decisions on management, and more studies are needed to confirm and explore this phenomenon.²⁵

H pylori, aspirin and NSAIDs

Statement 7: *H pylori* infection is associated with an increased risk of uncomplicated and complicated gastroduodenal ulcers in NSAID and low-dose aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid (ASA)) users.

Evidence level: 2a

Grade of recommendation: B

Eradication reduces the risk of complicated and uncomplicated gastroduodenal ulcers associated with either NSAID or low-dose ASA use.

Evidence level: 1b

Grade of recommendation: A

Statement 8: *H pylori* eradication is beneficial before starting NSAID treatment. It is mandatory in patients with a peptic ulcer history.

Evidence level: 1b

Grade of recommendation: A

However, *H pylori* eradication alone does not reduce the incidence of gastroduodenal ulcers in patients already receiving long-term NSAID treatment. They require continued PPI treatment as well as eradication treatment.

Evidence level: 1b

Grade of recommendation: A

Statement 9: Testing for *H pylori* should be performed in ASA users with a history of gastroduodenal ulcer. The long-term incidence of peptic ulcer bleeding is low in these patients after receiving eradication even in the absence of gastroprotective treatment.

Evidence level: 2b

Grade of recommendation: B

Both *H pylori* infection and NSAID use are independent risk factors for the development of peptic ulcer disease and associated bleeding and these conditions are uncommon in those who do not have either risk factor. It has been shown that there is an increased risk when these factors are both present.²⁶ There is a difference between naive users and those receiving long-term NSAID

treatment in the benefits of searching for, and eradicating, *H pylori*. In naive users it is clearly beneficial to eradicate *H pylori*.^{27 28} In those who are already long-term users there is no clear benefit.^{29–31} A meta-analysis showed, however, that eradication seems less effective than treatment with a maintenance PPI for preventing NSAID-associated ulcers.³² Further research is needed on whether selective cyclo-oxygenase-2-inhibiting NSAIDs may be safer options. For aspirin, even given at low dose, *H pylori* eradication can prevent gastropathy and should be undertaken in patients with a history of peptic ulcers.^{33 34} In such patients, the residual risk of peptic ulcer bleeding due to continued aspirin use after *H pylori* has been successfully treated is very low.³⁵

H pylori and PPIs

Statement 10a: Long-term treatment with PPIs in *H pylori*-positive patients is associated with the development of a corpus-predominant gastritis. This accelerates the process of loss of specialised glands, leading to atrophic gastritis.

Evidence level: 1c

Grade of recommendation: A

Statement 10b: Eradication of *H pylori* in patients receiving long-term PPIs heals gastritis and prevents the progression to atrophic gastritis. However, there is no evidence that this reduces the risk of gastric cancer.

Evidence level: 1b

Grade of recommendation: A

Acid suppression affects the pattern and distribution of gastritis and favours corpus-predominant gastritis. It may accelerate the process of loss of specialised glands, leading to atrophic gastritis. In *H pylori*-positive patients, active inflammation increases in the corpus and decreases in the antrum during PPI treatment.^{36 37} This shift in gastritis appears to be accompanied by an increase in corpus atrophy.^{38 39} Studies in *H pylori*-infected Mongolian gerbils showed that PPI treatment accelerated the progression to gastric cancer.^{40 41} But there are no such data in humans.

H pylori and intestinal metaplasia

Statement 11a: There is accumulating evidence that after *H pylori* eradication, corpus function may improve. However, whether this is associated with regression of atrophic gastritis remains equivocal.

Evidence level: 2a

Grade of recommendation: B

Statement 11b: There is no evidence that *H pylori* eradication can lead to regression of intestinal metaplasia.

Evidence level: 2a

Grade of recommendation: B

H pylori eradication has the potential to prevent gastric cancers.⁴² A study on the effect of *H pylori* eradication on patients with premalignant lesions showed that eradication may prevent their progression.⁴³ It is thought though that a so-called 'point of no return' may exist in the histological cascade from chronic gastritis to adenocarcinoma after which eradication is unlikely to prevent gastric cancer. It appears that by the time intestinal metaplasia (IM) has become established eradication, although retarding the progression of IM, cannot completely prevent gastric cancer.^{44 45} This is not necessarily true for gastric atrophy, where there appears to be a discrepancy between the effect of eradication in the corpus and in the antrum. A meta-analysis of 12 studies on 2658 patients concluded that eradication of *H pylori* results in significant improvement in atrophy in the corpus but not in the antrum, but has no effect on gastric IM.⁴⁶

H pylori and gastric mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT) lymphoma

Statement 12: *H pylori* eradication is the first-line treatment for low-grade gastric marginal zone (MALT) lymphoma.

Evidence level: 1a

Grade of recommendation: A

Low-grade MALT lymphoma accounts for approximately 50% of cases of gastrointestinal non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Most are linked to *H pylori* infection and in the early (Iugano I/II) stage low-grade MALT lymphoma can be cured by *H pylori* eradication in 60–80% of cases.^{47–49} When the t(11,18) translocation is present, however, *H pylori* eradication is usually ineffective and these patients need adjunctive and alternative treatments.⁵⁰ All patients should be followed up intensively after *H pylori* treatment and given alternative treatments (chemotherapy or radiotherapy) if the lymphoma fails to respond or progresses.⁵¹

H pylori and extragastric diseases

Statement 13: There is evidence linking *H pylori* to the aetiology of otherwise unexplained iron-deficiency anaemia, idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP) and vitamin B12 deficiency. In these disorders, *H pylori* should be sought and eradicated.

Iron-deficiency anaemia

Evidence level: 1a

Grade of recommendation: A

ITP

Evidence level: 1b

Grade of recommendation: A

Vitamin B12 deficiency

Evidence level: 3b

Grade of recommendation: B

The evidence available shows no unequivocal causative association between *H pylori* and other extragastric disorders, including cardiovascular and neurological disorders.

Statement 14: The evidence available shows no definite causative protective effect of *H pylori* against the following disorders nor that its eradication causes or worsens them. However, further research is needed.

1. Asthma and atopy
2. Obesity and related illnesses

Statement 15: In *H pylori*-positive patients eradication treatment improves the bioavailability of thyroxine and l-dopa.

Evidence level: 2b

Grade of recommendation: B

The association of *H pylori* with unexplained iron-deficiency anaemia has been conclusively proved in adult and paediatric populations. Two separate meta-analyses in recent years have supported this association with one illustrating a clear link between *H pylori* infection and iron-deficiency anaemia and the other showing that *H pylori* eradication increases haemoglobin levels in these patients.^{52–53} Similarly, for adults with ITP, systematic reviews of past literature have shown an overall platelet response in more than 50% of the patients successfully treated for the infection and increased response rates in countries with a high prevalence of *H pylori* infection in background populations.^{54–56}

Interesting associations have been noted between *H pylori* and several neurological conditions, including stroke, Alzheimer's disease and idiopathic Parkinson's disease. However, these are insufficient to make a clear causal or therapeutic link.^{57–59} A similar situation pertains with respect to ischaemic heart disease, with several studies showing an association with disease.^{60–62} The strongest link between these conditions and *H pylori* infection pertains to infection with a CagA-positive strain. One study showed that seropositivity to CagA was significantly associated with the occurrence of acute coronary events.⁶³ Inverse associations have been observed between the declining rates of *H pylori* infection in some communities and the increasing prevalence of certain diseases such as asthma and obesity. Childhood infection with *H pylori* was negatively associated with asthma and allergy in a widely reported US cohort.⁶⁴ However, this phenomenon was not observed in a longitudinal community-based study which looked at serological markers of *H pylori* infection in Europe.⁶⁵ A large, population-based US cohort failed to show an association between *H pylori* status and body mass index (BMI).⁶⁶

H pylori infection has been linked with impaired absorption of certain drugs. The mechanism for this probably lies in decreased acid secretion in infected patients.⁶⁷ Clear associations have been observed between *H pylori* infection and poor bioavailability of both thyroxine and l-dopa, whereas *H pylori* treatment improves the bioavailability of both these drugs.^{68–69} However, there is no evidence that this is of direct clinical benefit to patients.

H pylori virulence factors and host genetic polymorphisms

Statement 16: Certain *H pylori* virulence factors and certain host genetic polymorphisms are known to affect the risk of any specific individual developing *H pylori*-associated disease. However, there is no evidence that strategies based on testing for these factors are useful for an individual patient.

Across populations, numerous studies have linked bacterial virulence factors and host genetic polymorphisms to patterns of gastritis and risk of disease, particularly peptic ulcer and gastric cancer.^{70–74} When combined, these markedly affect disease risk—for instance, one study showed an increased risk of gastric cancer with an OR of 87 when patients who were infected with strains with a particular vacuolating cytotoxin genotype (*vacA* s1) also happened to have a specific interleukin 1 β genotype (the T carrier polymorphism of IL-1B-511).⁷⁵ However, it is not yet possible to define a clinical role for testing for either bacterial virulence factors or host genetic polymorphisms in the management of individual patients.

MANAGEMENT OF *H PYLORI* INFECTION (WORKSHOP 2)

Diagnosis non invasive tests

Statement 1: The diagnostic accuracy of the stool antigen test (SAT) is equivalent to the UBT if a validated laboratory-based monoclonal test is used.

Evidence level: 1a

Grade of recommendation: A

Several non-invasive *H pylori* tests are established in clinical routine.

The UBT using essentially [¹³C]urea remains the best test to diagnose *H pylori* infection, has a high accuracy and is easy to perform.⁷⁶ During recent years new formats of the SAT using monoclonal antibodies instead of polyclonal antibodies, which lead to a constant quality of the reagents have been developed. The two formats available are: (1) laboratory tests (ELISAs) and (2) rapid in-office tests using an immunochromatographic technique. A meta-analysis of 22 studies including 2499 patients showed that laboratory SATs using monoclonal antibodies have a high accuracy both for initial and post-treatment diagnosis of *H pylori*.⁷⁷ These data have been confirmed by more recent studies.^{78–79} In contrast, the rapid in-office tests have a limited accuracy.^{80–81}

Therefore, when a SAT has to be used the recommendation is to use an ELISA format with a monoclonal antibody as reagent.

Statement 2: The serological tests are not all equivalent. Only validated IgG serology tests should be used owing to variability in the accuracy of different commercial tests.

Evidence level: 1b

Grade of recommendation: A

Statement 3: A validated IgG serology may be used in the setting of recent use of antimicrobial* and antisecretory drugs, or ulcer bleeding, atrophy and gastric malignancies.

Evidence level: 1b

Grade of recommendation: B

*Expert opinion (5D).

Serology is the third method commonly used as a non-invasive method to diagnose *H pylori* infection. Given that this infection is a chronic infection, IgG detection is only considered and the favoured method is ELISA.

Guidelines

Commercial tests use different antigen extracts. It appears that those with high and low molecular weight are more specific. The accuracy of the various commercial tests has been compared using well-documented serum samples,^{82 83} and showed marked variability. There are, however, several kits with an accuracy >90%. Only these validated commercial tests should be used.

As was already stated at previous Maastricht conferences, serology is the only test which is not affected by local changes in the stomach that could lead to a low bacterial load and to false-negative results of the other tests. This is owing to the fact that antibodies against *H pylori* and especially against its most specific antigen CagA, remain elevated despite transient decreases of the bacterial load and even for long periods (months, even years) after the disappearance of *H pylori* from the stomach.⁸⁴

Decreases of the gastric *H pylori* bacterial load arise from the use of antimicrobial agents, of antisecretory drugs and ulcer bleeding (see also the 'Treatment' section). Also, bacterial load may be permanently low in premalignant and malignant lesions, including extensive IM or MALT lymphoma.^{85 86}

H pylori serology combined with serum pepsinogen I/II ratio may constitute a non-invasive method to detect premalignant conditions, although it has a limited sensitivity.⁸⁷

► Test-and-treat strategy (cf. Statement 1, workshop 1)

This approach proposed at the Maastricht 2 Conference² is reviewed in the first part of this article.

► Diagnosis of *H pylori* infection in patients treated with PPI

Statement 4: In patients treated with PPIs: (1) if possible, PPI should be stopped for 2 weeks before testing by culture, histology, **rapid urease test, UBT or stool test.**

Evidence level: 1b **Grade of recommendation: A**
(2) if it is not possible, validated IgG serology can be performed.

Evidence level: 2b **Grade of recommendation: B**

PPIs are now widely available since some are generic drugs and even over-the-counter drugs in some countries. Because of their efficacy in treating pain and heartburn, they are widely used for symptomatic treatment of dyspepsia. As a consequence, when a patient consults for dyspeptic symptoms, there is a good chance that she/he is receiving a PPI treatment.

Several studies have shown that by increasing the gastric pH, PPI use leads to local changes in the stomach. The bacterial load decreases, especially in the antrum, causing false-negative results of the diagnostic tests, with the exception of serology.

Most of the studies have been carried out with UBT and showed a 10–40% rate of false-negative results.^{88 89} Similar results were obtained with the SAT^{90 91} and it has also proved to be the case with biopsy based tests (including culture, rapid urease test and histology)⁹² but PCR has not been evaluated.

Histology leads to more controversial results: the pathologists specialised in this field still consider this method suitable for diagnosing *H pylori* in the absence of detectable bacteria but in the presence of surrogate features (ie, polymorphonuclear cells), whereas other pathologists may not share the same opinion.

Given that *H pylori* antibodies remain present for months after suppression and even eradication of *H pylori*, serology is the only test not to be affected.

However, stopping PPIs 2 weeks before testing allows the bacteria to repopulate the stomach and the tests previously **negative (UBT, SAT, rapid urease test, histology, culture)** can once again become positive. Furthermore, no study has evaluated the washout period necessary after long-term PPI

treatment. **For UBT a study claimed that the use of a more acidic test meal would overcome the problem of false-negative tests.**⁹³

Anti H₂ drugs may also lead to some false-negative results but to a much lesser extent^{94 95} and the panel did not find it necessary to stop them before testing if using citric acid.

Endoscopy-based strategy

Statement 5: (1) It is important to perform culture and standard susceptibility testing to antimicrobial agents in a region or population of high clarithromycin resistance before prescription of the first-line treatment if the standard clarithromycin-containing triple therapy is being considered. Furthermore, culture and standard susceptibility testing should be considered in all regions before second-line treatment if endoscopy is carried out for another reason and generally when a second-line treatment has failed.

Evidence level: 5 **Grade of recommendation: D**
(2) If standard susceptibility testing is not possible, molecular tests can be used to detect *H pylori* and clarithromycin and/or fluoroquinolone resistance directly on gastric biopsies.

Evidence level: 1b **Grade of recommendation: A**

When an endoscopy is performed, biopsy-based tests such as a rapid urease test, histology and culture can be carried out. The interest of culture is mainly due to the possibility of performing antimicrobial susceptibility testing. The rationale relates to the fact that in the case of clarithromycin resistance the rate of success of the clarithromycin-containing triple therapy is very low, in the range of 10–30%.^{96 97} Several studies using tailored treatments based on *H pylori* susceptibility to antibiotics in comparison with standard empirical triple therapy have shown a better eradication rate⁹⁸ and may be cost-effective. While the cost-effectiveness may vary according to the cost of care in a given country, it is the expert's opinion that this approach is economically and ecologically sound in countries of high clarithromycin resistance or in specific populations in some areas.

After a first failure, if an endoscopy is carried out, culture (and standard susceptibility testing) should be considered in all regions before giving a second-line treatment because the chance of having a resistant organism is high, in the range of 60–70% for clarithromycin.

After a second failure, it should be performed in all cases as already recommended at the previous Maastricht conference.³

If culture (and standard susceptibility testing) is not possible, molecular tests (including fluorescence in situ hybridisation) can be used to detect *H pylori* and clarithromycin and/or fluoroquinolone resistance in gastric biopsies. Such tests have been developed recently^{99–101} and kits are commercially available,^{102 103} but it must be noted that the accuracy of fluoroquinolone molecular testing is not as reliable as for clarithromycin.

Attempts have been made to use stools instead of gastric biopsy specimens.¹⁰⁴ Owing to an improved sensitivity, molecular tests may detect resistant organisms when they constitute a small proportion of the total bacterial load present. Further studies will determine if molecular tests predict failure more accurately or not than phenotypic tests.¹⁰⁵

It must be stated that there is a cross-resistance in each family of antibiotics because the same resistance mechanism occurs: resistance to clarithromycin indicates resistance to all macrolides, resistance to levofloxacin indicates resistance to all fluoroquinolones including moxifloxacin, for example. There is no cross-resistance between different families of antibiotics which have different resistance mechanisms.¹⁰⁶ However, it is important to use the compound indicated—that is, clarithromycin for macrolides, tetracycline HCl and not doxycycline, levofloxacin or moxifloxacin but not ciprofloxacin for fluoroquinolones to get good results.

Statement 6: (1) If *H pylori* is cultured from gastric biopsy specimens, antibiotic susceptibility testing should include metronidazole.

Evidence level: 1b **Grade of recommendation: A**

(2) If susceptibility for clarithromycin is assessed by molecular tests, the addition of culture for the assessment of metronidazole resistance is not justified.

Evidence level: 5 **Grade of recommendation: D**

The rationale is that standard metronidazole susceptibility testing lacks reproducibility¹⁰⁷ and no molecular alternative exists.

It was shown, however, that globally metronidazole resistance, as determined, is associated with a lower *H pylori* eradication rate (from 5% to 25%)⁹⁶ also in sequential treatment¹⁰⁸ compared with cases where the strain is metronidazole susceptible and that increasing metronidazole dosage and treatment duration may partially overcome resistance.

Treatment

Regimens available

- ▶ The triple treatment including PPI-clarithromycin and amoxicillin or metronidazole proposed at the first Maastricht conference¹ to treat *H pylori* infection has become universal since it was recommended by all the consensus conferences held around the world. However, the most recent data show that this combination has lost some efficacy and often allows the cure of only a maximum of 70% of the patients, which is less than the 80% rate aimed for at the beginning and far below what should be expected for an infectious disease.¹⁰⁹
- ▶ While no new drug has been developed for this indication, a number of studies have been carried out in recent years using different combinations of known antibiotics. Most data were obtained with the so-called 'sequential treatment' which includes a 5-day period with PPI amoxicillin, followed by a 5-day period with PPI-clarithromycin-metronidazole (or tinidazole).^{110 111}
- ▶ It was also proposed that the three antibiotics should be taken simultaneously together with a PPI (non-bismuth quadruple therapy).^{112 113}
- ▶ There was also a renewal of the old recipe—that is, the bismuth-containing quadruple therapy following the development of a galenic formulation including bismuth salts, tetracycline and metronidazole in the same pill.^{114–116} A summary of treatment strategies is shown in tables 2 and 3.

Statement 7: PPI-clarithromycin-containing triple therapy without prior susceptibility testing should be abandoned when the clarithromycin resistance rate in the region is more than 15–20%.

Evidence level: 5 **Grade of recommendation: D**

There are several explanations for the decrease in efficacy of the standard triple therapy: compliance, high gastric acidity, high bacterial load, type of strains, but by far the most important is the increase in *H pylori* resistance to clarithromycin. The global clarithromycin resistance rate in Europe increased from 9% in 1998¹¹⁷ to 17.6% in 2008–9.¹¹⁸ Resistance increased in most parts of Europe, but it has now reached a prevalence >20% in most countries in Central, Western and Southern Europe, which is considered a high resistance rate. In Northern European countries it is <10%, which is considered a low resistance rate.⁹⁷

Following the European Medicines Agency recommendation on evaluation of medicinal products indicated for treatment of bacterial infection, three categories of bacterial species can be defined according to their susceptibility to a given antibiotic: usually susceptible (0–10% resistant), inconstantly susceptible (10–50% resistant) and usually resistant (>50% resistant). *H pylori* now falls into the second category, except for Northern Europe.¹¹⁹

In order to take into account the CIs of the prevalence obtained and the regional differences in a given country, a threshold of 15–20% was recommended to separate the regions of high and low clarithromycin resistance (figure 1).

Regions of low clarithromycin resistance

First-line treatment.

Statement 8: In areas of low clarithromycin resistance, clarithromycin-containing treatments are recommended for first-line empirical treatment. Bismuth-containing quadruple therapy is also an alternative.

Evidence level: 1a **Grade of recommendation: A**

In these regions the standard PPI-clarithromycin-containing regimen is still recommended as the first-line treatment as well as bismuth-containing regimens.

Different ways of improving the PPI-clarithromycin-amoxicillin/metronidazole regimens have been proposed:

- ▶ Increase the dose of PPI.

Table 2 Summary of treatment strategies

Statement	Level of evidence	Grade of recommendation
Proton pump inhibitor (PPI)-clarithromycin containing triple therapy without prior susceptibility testing should be abandoned when the clarithromycin resistance rate in the region is over 15–20%	5	D
In areas of low clarithromycin resistance, clarithromycin-containing treatments are recommended for first-line empirical treatment. Bismuth-containing quadruple treatment is also an alternative	1a	A
In areas of high clarithromycin resistance, bismuth-containing quadruple treatments are recommended for first-line empirical treatment. If this regimen is not available sequential treatment or a non-bismuth quadruple treatment is recommended	1a	A
The use of high-dose (twice a day) PPI increases the efficacy of triple therapy	1b	A
Extending the duration of PPI-clarithromycin-containing triple treatment from 7 to 10–14 days improves the eradication success by approximately 5% and may be considered	1a	A
PPI-clarithromycin-metronidazole (PCM) and PPI-clarithromycin-amoxicillin (PCA) regimens are equivalent	1a	A
Certain probiotics and prebiotics show promising results as an adjuvant treatment in reducing side effects	5	D
PPI-clarithromycin-containing treatments do not need to be adapted to patient factors except for dosing	5	D
After failure of a PPI-clarithromycin containing therapy, either a bismuth containing quadruple therapy of Levofloxacin containing triple therapy are recommended.	1a	A
Rising rates of Levofloxacin resistance should be taken into account	2b	B
After failure of second-line treatment, treatment should be guided by antimicrobial susceptibility testing whenever possible	4	A
The urea breath test or a laboratory based validated monoclonal stool test are both recommended as non-invasive tests for determining the success of eradication treatment. There is no role for serology	1a	A

Guidelines

Statement 9: The use of high-dose (twice a day) PPI increases the efficacy of triple therapy.

Evidence level: 1b

Grade of recommendation: A

There is indirect and direct evidence that high-dose PPI can improve the cure rates of *H pylori* treatment.

Indirect evidence comes from old multiple studies showing that high-dose PPI was necessary for the efficacy of dual therapies and the meta-analysis showing that twice-a-day PPI was better than a single daily dose in triple therapy.¹²⁰ In addition, cure rates of standard triple therapy depend on the availability of PPI, which itself depends on the CYP2C19 and MDR polymorphisms. A meta-analysis showed that extensive PPI metabolisers had lower eradication rates, while the difference was only seen with omeprazole.¹²¹ A lower eradication rate was also obtained when the MDR T/T genotype was present compared with the T/C and C/C genotypes.¹²²

Direct evidence comes from a meta-analysis showing that high-dose PPIs increase cure rates by around 6–10% in comparison with standard doses.¹²³ A subanalysis of these data showed that the maximal effect was seen in the studies comparing high doses of the more potent second-generation PPIs—namely, 40 mg of esomeprazole twice a day, with a standard dose of a first-line PPI also twice a day.¹²³ The rationale for this finding is that the difference in the degree of gastric secretion between arms is more important when using double doses of more potent PPIs. According to the data of this last subanalysis, increasing the dose of PPI from, for example, 20 mg omeprazole twice daily to 40 mg of esomeprazole or rabeprazole twice daily may increase cure rates by 8–12%.

- ▶ Increase the length of treatment.

Statement 10: Extending the duration of PPI-clarithromycin-containing triple therapies from 7 to 10–14 days improves the eradication success by about 5% and may be considered.

Evidence level: 1a

Grade of recommendation: A

Four meta-analyses have been carried out and yielded very similar results, that is, a 10-day treatment improves the eradication rate by 4% and a 14-day treatment improves the eradication rate by 5–6%, in comparison to a 7-day treatment.^{124–127} There was no difference regarding the rate of side effects. While the difference in efficacy is statistically significant, they may be considered relevant or not, according to other factors such as cost.

- ▶ use metronidazole instead of amoxicillin as the second antibiotic.

Statement 11: PPI-clarithromycin-metronidazole (PCM) and PPI-clarithromycin-amoxicillin (PCA) regimens are equivalent.

Evidence level: 1a

Grade of recommendation: A

The meta-analysis of Gisbert *et al*¹²⁸ was updated for the Maastricht IV conference. A subanalysis was performed on the trials using the same high dose of clarithromycin (500 mg) in both arms, showing an eradication of 71% for PCM and 65% for PCA, but the difference did not reach statistical significance (OR=0.82 (95% CI 0.58 to 1.16)).

When the PCM and PCA regimens were compared in patients with clarithromycin-resistant strains, a statistically significant difference was seen ($p < 0.001$), but this difference may be due to the heterogeneity of the studies. The few comparative studies analysed could not ascertain whether the differences observed were truly due to an effect of treatment or to confounders.

- ▶ Adding an adjuvant treatment.

Statement 12: Certain probiotics and prebiotics show promising results as an adjuvant treatment in reducing side effects.

Evidence level: 5

Grade of recommendation: D

Lactoferrin has been used to improve *H pylori* treatment. Two meta-analyses obtained the same results and showed that lactoferrin increases the efficacy of PPI-clarithromycin-containing triple therapies.^{129 130} However, the poor quality of many trials and the limited number of centres involved should be emphasised and preclude giving a positive recommendation.

Meta-analyses on the studies where Lactobacilli were used are heterogeneous as they mix different species and strains. Additional work needs to be performed to determine the strain, dose and administration to be used.^{131 131a}

A meta-analysis on the use of *Saccharomyces boulardii* as adjuvant to triple therapy showed promising results (OR=0.46 (95% CI 0.3 to 0.7)).¹³²

All these treatments are most likely to lead to a decrease of adverse events, especially diarrhoea and indirectly may help to improve the eradication rate. More studies need to be performed.

- ▶ Other factors.

Statement 13: PPI-clarithromycin-containing treatments do not need to be adapted to patient factors except for dosing.

Evidence level: 5

Grade of recommendation: D

Besides the CYP2C19 and MDR1 polymorphisms, which affect the availability of the PPI administered, and the interleukin (IL)-1 β polymorphisms, which affect the intragastric acidity present in the stomach in the case of *H pylori* infection, other factors have been considered: type of disease, BMI and smoking status.

Treating patients with peptic ulcer disease shows a consistently better outcome than treating patients with FD. Several studies have shown an association between clarithromycin resistance and FD status of the patients¹³³ without pinpointing the causes.

In patients with high BMI, especially obese people, the distribution volume of the drugs being higher, it is most likely that the concentration at the gastric mucosal level will be lower and the risk of failure higher.¹³⁴ In contrast, Asian patients who usually have a lower BMI will have a better outcome.

Smoking is also a risk factor for failure. The summary OR for eradication failure among smokers versus non-smokers was 1.95 (95% CI 1.55 to 2.45) corresponding to a mean difference of 8.4% in eradication rate in a meta-analysis.¹³⁵ The reason may be a reduction of antibiotic delivery due to a decreased gastric blood flow, a decrease in intragastric pH in cases of smoking, and nicotine could potentiate the vacuolating toxin activity of *H pylori* in gastric cells. It may also be a marker of poor compliance.

Second-line treatment.

Statement 14: (1) After failure of a PPI-clarithromycin-containing treatment, either a bismuth-containing quadruple therapy or levofloxacin-containing triple therapy is recommended.

Evidence level: 1a

Grade of recommendation: A

(2) Rising rates of levofloxacin resistance should be taken into account.

Evidence level: 2b

Grade of recommendation: B

The rationale is to abandon clarithromycin in an empirical second-line-treatment because there is a likelihood that selection of a clarithromycin-resistant strain occurred. Three pragmatic studies have evaluated the Maastricht 3 guidelines—that is, the sequence of triple therapy followed by quadruple therapy, in routine clinical practice.^{136–138} The three studies show that a high rate of eradication success can be achieved with the Maastricht 3 approach. Studies from Asia suggest that quadruple therapy is also effective as a second-line treatment in Asia.¹³⁹ A recent meta-analysis of quadruple therapy showed that metronidazole resistance had limited effect on the outcome when adequate dosages and durations are used. This meta-analysis also showed that compliance with quadruple therapy is high.^{116 140} Recent studies of quadruple therapy using a single capsule preparation have shown good efficacy.^{114–116} This treatment meets the proposed criteria for a second-line treatment¹³⁶: it does not contain the key antibiotic of the original regimen (clarithromycin),¹³⁷ the treatment is not affected by clarithromycin resistance,¹³⁹ metronidazole resistance in vitro does not affect the outcome of quadruple therapy significantly,¹⁴⁰ compliance with the regimen is high¹¹⁵ and the regimen is effective in most parts of the world.

Use of 10-day PPI-levofloxacin-amoxicillin is the other alternative second-line treatment based on the results obtained in recent years.^{141 142} However, the rapid acquisition of resistance may jeopardise its future efficacy. It is strongly advised that levofloxacin should not be used in a patient with chronic infectious bronchopneumopathy who may have received fluoroquinolones. Whenever possible it is recommended to test levofloxacin susceptibility before to prescribe it.

Third-line treatment.

Statement 15: After failure of second-line treatment, treatment should be guided by antimicrobial susceptibility testing whenever possible.

Evidence level: 4 **Grade of recommendation: A**

After two treatment failures, it appears recommendable to empirically prescribe antibiotics not previously used but, whenever possible, to obtain gastric biopsy specimens to culture *H pylori* and perform susceptibility testing.^{143 144} It will enable the best choice to be made among the various antibiotics that can be used and to which *H pylori* may develop resistance. Besides clarithromycin and levofloxacin already mentioned, rifabutin is another candidate that may be used.^{138 145 146}

Regions or populations of high clarithromycin resistance

First-line treatment.

Statement 16: In areas of high clarithromycin resistance, bismuth-containing quadruple therapies are recommended for first-line empirical treatment. If this regimen is not available, sequential treatment or a non-bismuth quadruple therapy is recommended.

Evidence level: 1a **Grade of recommendation: A**

In regions of high clarithromycin resistance, bismuth-containing quadruple therapies are the first choice. It appears mandatory to avoid clarithromycin use in the standard regimen under such circumstances if this antibiotic cannot be tested. The treatment recommended contains bismuth salts for which no resistance has been described, tetracycline for which resistance is seldom found in Europe and metronidazole for which in vitro resistance is common but can be overcome by increasing the length of treatment.

Several studies have shown good results with such regimens. Furthermore, despite the number of pills, the compliance was satisfactory and the bismuth-containing regimens do not lead to

more adverse events than the standard clarithromycin-containing triple therapy.¹⁴⁷

However, bismuth drugs may not be available in some areas. It is then necessary to prescribe sequential treatment. While not ideal because it contains clarithromycin, it has been shown that clarithromycin resistance could be overcome in a number of cases. Indeed, the success rate with clarithromycin-resistant strains was 75%.¹¹⁰ Non-bismuth quadruple therapy (the so called ‘concomitant’ treatment) is also an option.

Second line therapy.

Statement 17: (1) In areas of high clarithromycin resistance after failure of bismuth-containing quadruple therapy, levofloxacin containing triple therapy is recommended.

Evidence level: 5 **Grade of recommendation: D**

(2) Rising rates of levofloxacin resistance should be taken into account.

Evidence level: 2b **Grade of recommendation: B**

After failure of the second-line treatment (with bismuth-containing quadruple regimen), it is recommended to use the PPI-containing levofloxacin regimen.^{141 142} However, given the rise in resistance to this antibiotic, the prevalence must be taken into account.

Third-line therapy.

Statement 18: After failure of second-line therapy, treatment should be guided by antimicrobial susceptibility testing, whenever possible.

Evidence level: 4 **Grade of recommendation: A**

The recommendation is the same as in areas of low clarithromycin resistance.

Treatment options in patients with penicillin allergy

Statement 19: In patients with penicillin allergy, in areas of low clarithromycin resistance, for a first-line treatment, a PPI-clarithromycin-metronidazole combination may be prescribed and in areas of high clarithromycin resistance, the bismuth-containing quadruple therapy should be preferred.

As a rescue regimen, in areas of low fluoroquinolone resistance, a levofloxacin-containing regimen (together with a PPI and clarithromycin) represents a second-line alternative in the presence of penicillin allergy.

Evidence level: 2c **Grade of recommendation: B**

In this relatively common subgroup of patients, a triple therapy including a PPI, clarithromycin and metronidazole represents one of the most frequently recommended regimens in areas of low clarithromycin resistance.¹⁴⁸ A PPI, tetracycline, metronidazole regimen¹⁴⁹ is a better alternative in areas with high clarithromycin resistance, as well as the bismuth-containing quadruple therapy.

As a rescue treatment, levofloxacin is a good alternative¹⁵⁰ but its efficacy might be jeopardised by high resistance rates in some areas.

Follow-up after *H. pylori* treatment

Statement 20: The UBT or a laboratory-based validated monoclonal stool test are both recommended as non-invasive tests for determining the success of eradication treatment. There is no role for serology.

Evidence level: 1a **Grade of recommendation: A**

Statement 21: The time for testing the success of *H pylori* eradication after the end of treatment should be at least 4 weeks.

Evidence level: 2b **Grade of recommendation: B**

In special cases where a gastric ulcer or gastric MALT lymphoma has been diagnosed, follow-up is necessary with upper digestive endoscopy and then biopsy-based tests can be performed for

Guidelines

confirmation of *H pylori* eradication. In other situations, a non-invasive test is used.

There is now overwhelming evidence that UBT is an excellent test for follow-up after *H pylori* eradication.⁷⁶ The discussion concerns the timing after the end of eradication treatment. The relapse rate seen in the 6 months or the year after *H pylori* eradication is mainly related to recurrence of the same infection rather than a true reinfection. The proposed period of 4 weeks has therefore been questioned and proposals have been made to extend it to 6 or 8 weeks. However, recent data do not support this proposal.

Statement 22: (1) In uncomplicated duodenal ulcer (DU), prolonging acid inhibition with PPI is not recommended after *H pylori* treatment.

Level: 1a **Grade of recommendation: A**
(2) In gastric ulcers (GUs) and complicated DUs, prolonging PPI is recommended.

Level: 1b **Grade of recommendation: A**

H pylori is the key factor in peptic ulcer development and eradication is recommended for both DUs and GUs, as it has been shown that *H pylori* eradication effectively achieves ulcer healing rates of >90%.^{151 152} Moreover, prolonged acid inhibition with PPI is not required after successful *H pylori* eradication in uncomplicated DU.^{153 154}

On the other hand, data on the need to prolong PPI for GU healing after successful eradication are controversial.^{154–156} GU requires longer acid inhibition for healing than DU and endoscopic follow-up is needed to ensure complete GU healing. *H pylori* eradication should be confirmed in GU. However, prolonged PPI is also beneficial for improving healing when eradication has failed. Similarly, studies on complicated DU and GU also recommend prolonged PPI treatment after eradication.^{157 158} Therefore, PPI treatment should be continued after eradication treatment in GU until complete healing is achieved and in complicated DU until *H pylori* eradication is confirmed.

Statement 23: *H pylori* eradication treatment should be started at reintroduction of oral feeding in cases of bleeding ulcer.

Evidence level: 1b **Grade of recommendation: A**

Bleeding is a common and severe complication of peptic ulcer disease. It is well established that *H pylori* eradication can effectively prevent bleeding recurrence in infected patients.^{3 159} As the effect of PPI in preventing recurrent bleeding seems to be greater in *H pylori*-positive patients, the possibility of leaving *H pylori* infection untreated until the ulcer is completely healed has been hypothesised.¹⁶⁰ However, it has been shown that *H pylori* infection/eradication has no effect on early rebleeding rate in patients with peptic ulcer bleeding after endoscopic haemostasis.^{161 162} On the other hand, delaying treatment to after discharge leads to reduced compliance or loss to follow-up without receiving treatment.¹⁶³ Based on a decision analytic model, it has been recently proposed that empirical treatment of *H pylori* infection in patients with bleeding peptic ulcer, immediately after feeding is restarted, is the most cost-effective strategy for preventing recurrent haemorrhage.¹⁶⁴ The most influential variable in this analysis was the prevalence of *H pylori* infection in patients with peptic ulcer bleeding. In patients with peptic ulcer bleeding the prevalence of *H pylori* infection appears to be lower than in patients with uncomplicated peptic ulcer disease, varying, in recent European studies, from 43% to 56%, possibly explained by NSAID use.¹⁶⁵

In areas of low *H pylori* infection, instead of an empirical treatment, a test-and-treat strategy should be considered. In the setting of peptic ulcer bleeding, histology and rapid urease test maintain a high specificity, but are affected by a low sensitivity, possibly leading to undertreatment.^{166 167} Serology seems not to be influenced by upper gastrointestinal (GI) bleeding and has been recommended in this setting by previous Maastricht consensus reports. The accuracy of the UBT remains very high in these patients, despite PPI treatment.¹⁶⁸ Current consensus in upper gastrointestinal bleeding recommends performing a delayed test, 4–8 weeks after the bleeding episode.¹⁶⁹

Table 3 Treatment of *Helicobacter pylori*-positive peptic ulcer diseases

Statement	Level of evidence	Grade of recommendation
In uncomplicated DU, prolonging acid inhibition with PPI is not recommended after <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> treatment	1a	A
In GU and complicated DU, prolonging PPI is recommended	1b	A
<i>H pylori</i> eradication treatment should be started at reintroduction of oral feeding in cases of bleeding ulcer	1b	A

DU, duodenal ulcer; GU, gastric ulcer; PPI, proton pump inhibitor.

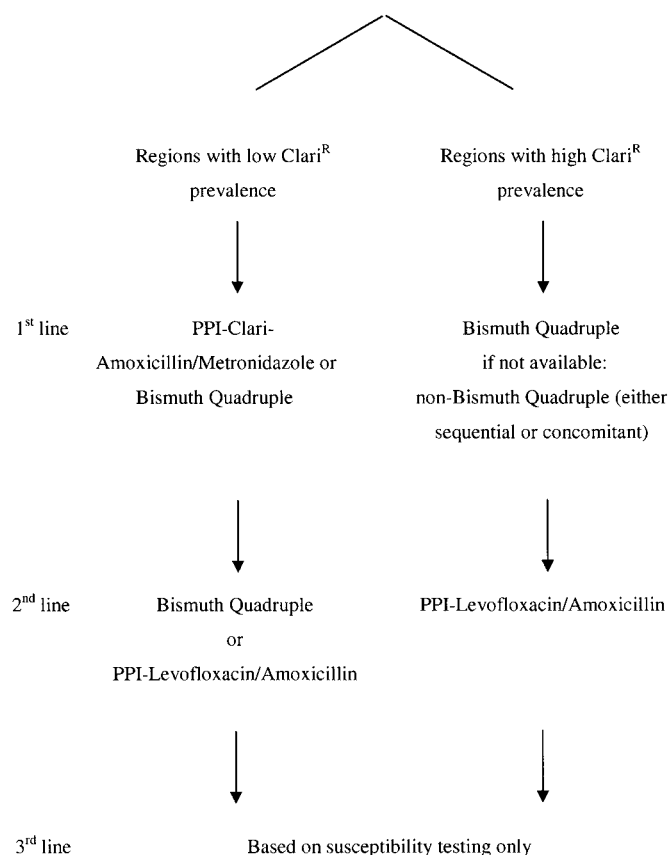


Figure 1 Treatment regimen should be selected according to areas of low and high clarithromycin resistance (Clari-R). Low prevalence of Clari-R if <20%, high prevalence if >20%. In case of failure of first-line treatment, second-line treatment is selected without resistance testing, whereas with further failure, third-line treatment should be chosen based on *Helicobacter pylori* cultures and antibiotic susceptibility testing. PPI, proton pump inhibitor.

PREVENTION OF GASTRIC CANCER AND OTHER COMPLICATIONS (WORKSHOP 3)

Statement 1: *H pylori* infection is the most consistent risk factor for gastric cancer. Its elimination is therefore the most promising strategy to reduce the incidence of gastric cancer

Evidence level: 1a

Grade of recommendation: A

Based on unequivocal scientific evidence, this statement was first released in the Maastricht 3 consensus report and has since been adopted by several international guidelines, including a recent S3-guideline.^{3 170–172} Scientific data collected since then reinforce the statement that *H pylori* infection is the most common proven risk factor for human non-cardiac gastric cancer.

The evidence is based on epidemiological data, experimental models in vitro and in vivo. There is biological plausibility from clinical observations and in therapeutic trials.^{173 174}

In the original epidemiological reports the risk for non-cardiac gastric cancer in *H pylori* infection was estimated to be threefold but based on more accurate methodologies and with proper controls epidemiological studies indicate the risk to be 20-fold or even higher.^{84 175} *H pylori* is confirmed to be a risk factor if the lesion is gastric in nature and to originate from below the cardia.¹⁷⁶

In vivo experimental models have demonstrated the causal role of *H pylori* infection in the cascade leading to gastric cancer.^{40 177} The transgenic expression of IL-1 β (a proinflammatory and acid-suppressive cytokine) in parietal cells lead to spontaneous gastritis, mobilisation of myeloid-derived suppressor cells and gastric dysplasia. These lesions progress to carcinoma when infected with *Helicobacter felis*.¹⁷⁸ In a mouse model of *Helicobacter*-induced gastric cancer bone marrow-derived cells were implicated as the potential origin for gastric cancer.¹⁷⁹

Observational and controlled trials

Eradication treatment is effective in preventing gastric cancer if it is given before preneoplastic conditions/ lesions have had time to develop. Intervention studies completed in Columbia,¹⁸⁰ China¹⁸¹ and Japan¹⁸² all suggest that *H pylori* eradication is the most effective approach to gastric cancer prevention, but that it is more effective in those who do not have atrophic gastritis or IM at baseline. A pooled analysis of six studies with a total of 6695 (mostly Asian) participants followed up for 4–10 years showed that the RR for gastric cancer after *H pylori* eradication was 0.65 (95% CI 0.43 to 0.98).¹⁸³ After eradication a significant reduction in cancer incidence was seen only in subjects with normal serum pepsinogen levels. This suggests that cancers developing after eradication are related to the presence of extensive atrophic gastritis present before the eradication treatment was given. *H pylori* eradication is beneficial in most subjects who have normal serum pepsinogen I and those with only mild atrophy.¹⁸⁴

Early eradication of *H pylori* in gastric cancer prevention has also been shown to be successful in experimental studies using Mongolian gerbils and mice.^{185 186}

Statement 2: There is strong evidence that *H pylori* infection exerts direct mutagenic effects in animal models and cell lines.

Evidence level: not quotable

Grade of recommendation: C

H pylori causes direct mutagenic effects in mice.^{187 188} This is related to the duration of infection and the gender of the animal.¹⁸⁹ Genetic instability of nuclear and mitochondrial DNA has also been reported in studies conducted on gastric cell lines.^{190 191} *H pylori* causes preneoplastic lesions and cancer in experimental in vivo models, demonstrating the causal role of *H pylori* infection in the cascade leading to gastric cancer. The most important single carcinogenic factor of *H pylori* may be CagA, which is injected by the bacteria into the host mucosal epithelial cells. Recently, transgenic expression of CagA has been shown to lead to carcinoma in the absence of coexisting gastritis in mice. This indicates that CagA is a bacterial oncogene.¹⁹²

There is no supportive human evidence to date, mainly because transgenic CagA expression is too artificial to be extrapolated into the human situation.

Statement 3: The risk for gastric cancer development is influenced by bacterial virulence factors, but no specific bacterial virulence markers can be recommended for clinical practice.

Evidence level: 1a

Grade of recommendation: A

Among bacterial pathogenetic factors that carry an increased risk for gastric cancer, CagA and VacA^{75 193 194} are by far the most important.

The oncogenic potential of bacterial virulence factors relates to distinct polymorphisms of CagA and VacA.^{195–197} EPIYA repeats of CagA enable differentiation to be made between Eastern and Western CagA-positive strains. This work indicates that Eastern strains have a much higher virulence than Western ones. The importance of geographical variability in the oncogenic potential of bacterial virulence is reflected by the difference in cancer incidence.^{198 199}

Statement 4: The risk of gastric cancer is influenced by host genetic factors but in clinical practice no specific marker can be recommended for genetic testing at present.

Evidence level: 1b

Grade of recommendation: A

The impact of a familial risk driven by the presence of *H pylori* infection is well established²⁰⁰ and is associated with host cytokine gene polymorphisms. The first observation of a polymorphism leading to an increased risk of atrophy and gastric cancer was IL-1 β . Since then other genes have been reported in this context, including tumour necrosis factor α , IL-10, interferon γ , IL-8.^{201–203}

Studies in a variety of geographical areas have shown wide variation in the OR for gastric cancer development that is related to altered gene expression of defined cytokine haplotypes.^{204–206}

Also, polymorphisms of immune regulatory genes, including pattern recognition factors initiating the innate immune system, are reported to be associated with an increased risk for gastric cancer.²⁰⁷

Statement 5: The influence of environmental factors is subordinate to the effect of *H pylori* infection.

Evidence level: 1a

Grade of recommendation: A

A number of nutritional and environmental elements contribute to the development of gastric cancer to various degrees. They include N-nitroso compounds, sodium and salted foods, tobacco, alcohol and others.^{208–213} There is a strong association between smoking and gastric cardia adenocarcinoma.

Guidelines

In contrast, the association between smoking and gastric non-cardia adenocarcinoma is less consistent.²¹² Most studies analysing the relationship between gastric cancer and environmental factors have not dealt with the presence or absence of *H pylori* infection.

Some nutritional substrates are claimed to provide some degree of protection against gastric cancer but there is little prospective evidence to support this.^{214 215} The essential information gathered from a more recent European study is that the effect of all nutritional components is strictly dependent on the presence of *H pylori* infection and that nutrition has only a small contributing role in the absence of the infection.^{216 217}

In October 2009, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, which forms part of the World Health Organization, classified acetaldehyde included in, and generated endogenously from, alcoholic beverages as a group I human carcinogen. This compound is found in alcoholic beverages and is also generated endogenously from them. Acetaldehyde which is also related to *H pylori* is a relevant carcinogen especially in patients with atrophic gastritis.²¹⁸

Regular NSAID intake may be beneficial in preventing gastric cancer. There is some evidence for this in patients with gastric ulcer, particularly in those infected by *H pylori*.

A recent meta-analysis concluded that the regular use of aspirin was associated with a reduced risk of non-cardiac gastric cancer, especially among Caucasians.²¹⁹

Statement 6: Histopathological changes at the morphological level indicate that:

1. gastric cancer is rare in the absence of chronic active gastritis;
2. the extent and severity of the gastritis together with atrophy and IM is positively associated with cancer.

Evidence level: 2b

Grade of recommendation: A

Gastric cancer is a multistep and multifactorial disease. *H pylori* infection is the most important factor in the pathogenesis of chronic gastritis^{42 43 220} and is an essential factor in 71–95% of all gastric cancers.⁸⁴ *H pylori* induces chronic active gastritis in all those infected.²²¹ Patients with corpus-dominant *H pylori* gastritis are at a substantially increased risk for gastric cancer.²²² Prospective data indicate that *H pylori*-infected subjects with atrophy and IM (5–6 × risk), pan-gastritis (15 × risk) and corpus-dominant gastritis (34 × risk) have a significantly increased risk developing gastric cancer.²²³ IM and atrophy are indicators of an increased risk of malignant transformation and serve as precancerous markers.²²⁴ IM, which occurs as a result of *H pylori* infection and after the development of atrophic gastritis,²²⁵ is common in the human stomach and is associated with an increased risk of gastric cancer.^{226 227} Intestinal-type adenocarcinoma is often preceded or accompanied by metaplastic changes, whereas diffuse-type adenocarcinoma can arise in non-metaplastic gastric mucosa. However, some cases of intestinal-type adenocarcinoma do arise from the gastric mucosa without IM.²²⁸

Less than 1% of gastric carcinomas can be attributed to hereditary diffuse gastric cancer. This is an autosomal dominant condition and is not related to *H pylori* infection or gastritis. The lifetime risk for gastric carcinoma for individuals with mutation of the CDH-1 gene is 40–70% for men and 60–80% for women.^{229–232}

Statement 7: Mechanisms at the functional level indicate:

1. atrophic corpus gastritis causes hypochlorhydria;
2. hypochlorhydria allows the overgrowth of non-*H pylori* organisms that are capable of producing metabolites with a carcinogenic potential.

Evidence level: 2c

Grade of recommendation: A

There is direct and indirect evidence of atrophic corpus gastritis leading to hypochlorhydria.²³³ Patients with a hypochlorhydria have an overgrowth of salivary and faecal-type organisms in the gastric lumen. Studies that have compared individuals receiving acid suppression or after truncal vagotomy with controls confirm that hypochlorhydria also leads to bacterial overgrowth. Some of these organisms can reduce nitrate to nitrite, causing a rise in intraluminal nitrite. Nitrosating bacteria present in the lumen are capable of generating potentially carcinogenic N-nitrosamines and reactive oxygen species.^{234–240}

Overgrowth in several bacterial species cohabiting with *H pylori* has been shown in conditions of hypochlorhydria and pharmacological acid suppression.^{241 242}

The hypochlorhydric stomach contains reduced or absent concentrations of the free oxygen scavenger ascorbic acid.

Ascorbic acid is an antioxidant that scavenges carcinogenic N-nitrosamines and reactive oxygen species. It is concentrated in the gastric mucosa, and in the healthy stomach luminal concentrations are higher than in plasma. Infection with *H pylori* causes the luminal concentration to fall. In the achlorhydric stomach it disappears almost completely.^{243–249}

Statement 8: *H pylori* eradication abolishes the inflammatory response and slows or may arrest the progression of atrophy. In some cases it may reverse atrophy.

Evidence level: 1a

Grade of recommendation: A

In the absence of preneoplastic conditions successful *H pylori* eradication restores the inflamed gastric mucosa to normal. The active inflammatory process characterised by infiltration with polymorphonuclear cells is usually abolished within 4 weeks but chronic inflammation with lymphocytic infiltration often persists for up to 1 year.²⁵⁰

The changes associated with atrophy do regress to a certain extent, but reports are conflicting.^{46 251 252} Data are limited because usually only a small number of biopsy specimens have been taken and this may lead to observer bias in its assessment. A recent meta-analysis indicated that gastric atrophy may be reversible only in the corpus, but not in the antrum. There is uniform agreement that IM is irreversible.^{46 250 251 253–266}

Statement 9: There is strong evidence that *H pylori* eradication reduces the risk of gastric cancer development.

Evidence level: 1c

Grade of recommendation: A

The plausibility of *H pylori* eradication in the prevention of gastric cancer was initially suggested based on the evidence obtained from epidemiological and interventional studies in animals and from observational studies in humans.⁴² Randomised controlled trials have further proved the beneficial effect of *H pylori* eradication on preneoplastic conditions^{43 44 180} and in primary and secondary gastric cancer prevention.^{45 267} Moreover, several important cohort studies have all confirmed the positive effect of *H pylori* eradication in the prevention of gastric cancer,^{182 184 223 268–272} and related aspects have been critically evaluated in meta-analyses^{183 251} and reviews.^{252 273}

Statement 10: The risk of gastric cancer can be reduced more effectively by employing eradication treatment before the development of preneoplastic conditions.

Evidence level: 1a

Grade of recommendation: A

A number of cohort studies have shown a decreased risk of gastric cancer development after *H pylori* eradication. A recent meta-analysis demonstrated that *H pylori* eradication leads to the reduction of gastric cancer risk.¹⁸³ In one study a significant

Table 4 *Helicobacter pylori* and gastric cancer—key statements relevant for prevention strategies

Statement	Level of evidence	Grade of recommendation
<i>Helicobacter pylori</i> infection is the most consistent risk factor for gastric cancer. Its elimination is therefore the most promising strategy to reduce the incidence of gastric cancer	1a	A
The influence of environmental factors is subordinate to the effect of <i>H pylori</i> infection	1a	A
<i>H pylori</i> eradication abolishes the inflammatory response and slows or may arrest the progression of atrophy. In some cases it may reverse atrophy	1a	A
There is strong evidence that <i>H pylori</i> eradication reduces the risk of gastric cancer development	1c	A
The risk of gastric cancer can be reduced more effectively by employing eradication treatment before the development of preneoplastic conditions	1a	A
<i>H pylori</i> eradication for gastric cancer prevention is cost-effective in certain communities with a high risk for gastric cancer	3	B
<i>H pylori</i> eradication offers additional clinical and financial benefits in addition to gastric cancer prevention	varies with disease (1a to 4)	A
A screen-and-treat strategy of <i>H pylori</i> should be explored in communities with a significant burden of gastric cancer	2c	A
Validated serological tests for <i>H pylori</i> and markers of atrophy (ie, pepsinogens) are the best available non-invasive tests to identify subjects at high risk of gastric cancer	1a	B
<i>H pylori</i> eradication to prevent gastric cancer should be undertaken in populations at high risk	1c	A
Preneoplastic high-risk conditions require endoscopic follow-up. Prospective studies are needed to determine the correct timing of follow-up	2c	A

reduction of gastric cancer after treatment was shown only in the group without preneoplastic conditions (lesions).⁴⁵ Early eradication of *H pylori* was shown to prevent gastric cancer in patients with peptic ulcer disease.^{182 272} The more advanced the preneoplastic condition is the more likely it is that the development of gastric cancer cannot be halted.^{172 274} The exact point of no return has not been identified.

Statement 11: *H pylori* eradication for gastric cancer prevention is cost-effective in certain communities with a high risk for gastric cancer.

Evidence level: 3

Grade of recommendation: B

The incidence of gastric cancer differs widely between populations and there is a wide range in the prevalence of *H pylori* infection between children and adults.²⁷⁵ When considering a *H pylori* eradication strategy, differences in *H pylori* virulence factors must be taken into account together with the effects of global population migration patterns and the available healthcare resources.

Screening young adults for *H pylori* could prevent one in every four to six gastric cancers in China and would represent a cost-effective strategy.²⁷⁶ In selected populations at very high risk of developing gastric cancer (eg, resected early gastric cancer), *H pylori* eradication should be reimbursed to prevent subsequent cancer and in order to reduce healthcare costs.²⁷⁷ Early once-in-a-lifetime *H pylori* eradication is more cost-effective than a surveillance strategy. However, this approach is still subject to the risk of reinfection, the ability to detect early gastric cancer and the timing of intervention.²⁷⁸ *H pylori* eradication for gastric cancer prevention is cost-effective in certain communities at high risk for gastric cancer.

Statement 12: *H pylori* eradication offers additional clinical and financial benefits in addition to gastric cancer prevention.

Evidence level: varies with disease (1a to 4)

Grade of recommendation: A

H pylori eradication treatment offers additional clinical and financial benefits besides gastric cancer prevention, as outlined in the section on indications.

Eradication prevents future *H pylori*-induced peptic ulceration of the stomach and/or duodenum.²⁷⁹ Patients with GI risk factors taking ASS are often not provided with concomitant gastroprotective drugs and thus at increased risk for

mucosal lesions in the presence of *H. pylori*.²⁸⁰ Furthermore, because prophylactic eradication reduces the risk of ASS, ulcer eradication indirectly prevents possible interaction between PPIs and dual antiplatelet treatment.²⁸¹ Eradication treatment reduces the risk of FD and prevents gastric MALT lymphoma. Iron-deficiency anaemia, ITP, lymphocytic gastritis and Morbus Menetrier may be prevented by eradication treatment as well. Finally, *H pylori* eradication heals gastritis (ICD-10) and may prevent the spread of the infection and reduces future costs arising from treatment of later *H pylori* associated disease. One prospective study has shown that a community test-and-treat policy in a developed country would pay for itself over 10 years.^{282–284}

Statement 13: A screen-and-treat strategy of *H pylori* should be explored in communities with a significant burden of gastric cancer

Evidence level: 2c

Grade of recommendation: A

Population-based screening is probably the best option for the primary prevention of gastric cancer. However, there are large differences in incidence between populations and this is mainly attributable to differences in *H pylori* virulence and dietary factors.^{199 217 285} The Asian-Pacific consensus¹⁷² has already recommended a policy of *H pylori* eradication in populations at high risk of gastric cancer. This approach should be considered in other high-risk areas around the world, including Europe.

Statement 14: Validated serological tests for *H pylori* and markers of atrophy (ie, pepsinogens) are the best available non-invasive tests to identify subjects at high risk of gastric cancer.

Evidence level: 1a

Grade of recommendation: B

Measurement of serum pepsinogen I detects severe preneoplastic conditions (ie, severe atrophy) and has gained attention as a candidate screening test for gastric cancer.²⁸⁶ Most cases detected by the pepsinogen method in Japan are asymptomatic early gastric cancers limited to the mucosa and these are particularly well suited for endoscopic treatment.^{287 288}

Serological screening is suitable for clinical use in countries with a relatively low incidence of gastric cancer because it enables endoscopic follow-up of cases with an abnormal serological profile suggestive of atrophic gastritis.²⁸⁹ Regionally validated serological testing for *H pylori* and markers of atrophy (ie, pepsinogens) together are therefore the best non-invasive

Guidelines

tests to identify subjects at high risk for gastric cancer. Subjects with severe gastric atrophy, in whom *H pylori* has disappeared and who are therefore serologically negative for *H pylori*, are at a particularly high risk.

The combination of *H pylori* infection and atrophic gastritis determined by serological examination is suitable for the identification of subjects with a high risk of gastric cancer.

Statement 15: Risk stratification of patients with premalignant gastric conditions is useful and should be based on the severity and distribution of lesions.

Evidence level: 2b **Grade of recommendation: B**

Patients with preneoplastic changes of the gastric mucosa are at an increased risk of developing gastric cancer.²⁷⁴ *H pylori* eradication treatment has the potential to prevent gastric cancer. However, recent reports after long-term follow-up have suggested that *H pylori* eradication does not prevent gastric cancer development in all infected patients, especially in those who have preneoplastic changes of the gastric mucosa before eradication treatment is given.⁴⁵ Therefore, risk stratification of patients with premalignant gastric conditions is useful and should be based on the severity and distribution of lesions.

The gastritis OLGA-staging conveys useful information on the potential clinicopathological outcome of the gastritis—in particular, the likelihood of progression to gastric cancer. The adoption of this system is therefore useful for patient management. According to OLGA-staging and *H pylori* status, patients with gastritis can be confidently stratified and managed according to their cancer risk. This has been shown for separate populations with different gastric cancer risk.^{290–292} More recently the OLGIM histological staging has been shown to be of similar value. In this histological system IM is used as the preneoplastic marker instead of atrophy.²⁹³

Statement 16: *H pylori* eradication to prevent gastric cancer should be considered in the following:

- first-degree relatives of family members with a diagnosis of gastric cancer;
- patients with previous gastric neoplasia already treated by endoscopic or subtotal gastric resection;
- patients with a risk of gastritis: severe pan-gastritis, corpus-predominant gastritis, severe atrophy;
- patients with chronic gastric acid inhibition for more than 1 year;
- patients with strong environmental risk factors for gastric cancer (heavy smoking, high exposure to dust, coal, quartz, cement and/or work in quarries);
- H pylori*-positive patients with a fear of gastric cancer.

Evidence level: 1a to 4 **Grade of recommendation: A**

H pylori eradication to prevent gastric cancer should be undertaken in patients at high risk. A first-degree relative of a family member with a diagnosis of gastric cancer is at high risk.²⁹⁴ First-degree relatives have a two to three times increased risk of developing gastric cancer.^{295–300} If more than one first-degree relative has contracted gastric cancer the risk for others is increased by a factor of 10. Patients with the CDH-1 mutation should be offered genetic consultation and prophylactic gastrectomy.^{301–307}

There is an absolute indication for eradication treatment in patients at high risk, but they also require follow-up. Patients who have had a previous gastric operation, prior gastric neoplasia (MALT lymphoma, adenoma, cancer), pan-gastritis, corpus-dominant gastritis and in conjunction with IM and atrophy are all at high risk.^{308–311}

Patients who have been receiving acid inhibition for >1 year and those who will be given long-term acid inhibition for >1 year are at increased risk.³¹² Patients exposed to one or more

strong environmental risk factors for gastric cancer such as heavy smoking, a high exposure to dust, coal, quartz, cement and/or work in quarries and those who live in a geographical area with a high incidence of gastric cancer should undergo eradication treatment.^{172 313 314}

Finally, *H pylori*-positive patients with fear of gastric cancer should receive eradication treatment.

Statement 17: *H pylori* eradication to prevent gastric cancer should be undertaken in populations at high risk.

Evidence level: 1c **Grade of recommendation: A**

H pylori infection is a necessary but not sufficient cause for gastric cancer. Recent *H pylori* guidelines recommend population screening and treatment for *H pylori* in high-risk regions.¹⁷² This strategy would be cost-effective where gastric cancer rates are high and most effective before the development of gastric atrophy. *H pylori* eradication for gastric cancer prevention should be undertaken in populations at high risk.

Statement 18: Factors to be considered for prevention strategies include:

- the incidence of gastric cancer in the community to be targeted;
- likely future trends in cancer incidence if intervention is not employed;
- the availability of primary care facilities and other logistics;
- the likely compliance of the chosen population;
- the availability of funding;
- the possibility of retesting and re-treatment in the event of eradication failure.

Evidence level: not quotable **Grade of recommendation: A**

Several factors should be considered when identifying populations in whom a prevention strategy is planned. The incidence of gastric cancer in the community to be targeted is relevant.¹⁹⁹ The likely future trends in the incidence of gastric cancer if intervention is not provided must be considered and the general availability of primary care facilities and other logistics such as funding are also important.^{315–317}

The likely compliance of the target population is another factor to be taken into consideration. Reinfection with *H pylori* after eradication is rare in developed countries but more common in developing countries at around 13%. So the need for retesting and re-treatment in the event of eradication failure or reinfection must be kept in mind when considering a preventive strategy.³¹⁸

Statement 19: The antibiotic combination should be chosen according to local *H pylori* antibiotic resistance patterns.

Evidence level: 2b **Grade of recommendation: B**

Antibiotic resistance is the most important factor responsible for the falling success rate of *H pylori* eradication treatment.^{319 320} Local surveillance of *H pylori* antibiotic resistance is mandatory and the antibiotic combination for *H pylori* eradication treatment should be chosen according to the local resistance patterns. A wider range of effective treatments is urgently required.

Statement 20: Vaccination would be the best option for eliminating *H pylori* infection in the population. A major effort to develop a vaccine should be made.

Evidence level: 4 **Grade of recommendation: A**

In 2010, the worldwide prevalence of *H pylori* infection ranged between 7% and 87%. The average prevalence in Europe is around 30%, a high immigration background needs to be taken into account.³²¹ A vaccination strategy would be the best option for eliminating *H pylori* infection in the population.³²² A vaccine

against *H pylori* is feasible in animals both for prevention and treatment. Its potential in humans requires further research.^{323 324}

A major effort should be made to develop a vaccine against *H pylori* in humans.

Statement 21: (a) Preneoplastic high-risk conditions require endoscopic follow-up.

(b) Prospective studies are needed to determine the correct timing of follow-up.

Evidence level: 2c

Grade of recommendation: A

Patients with high-risk conditions such as atrophic gastritis and IM are at an increased risk of developing gastric cancer.^{17 223 325}

Whether these lesions merit endoscopic follow-up and the optimal timing for this, require evaluation in prospective studies.

- ▶ Preneoplastic conditions to be considered for endoscopic follow-up
 - when there is a firm diagnosis of pernicious anaemia with histological confirmation of type A autoimmune atrophic gastritis;
 - if there are histological and/or serological signs of subtotal or total atrophic gastritis with hypo- or achlorhydria;
 - if there has been a diagnosis/removal of gastric adenoma(s).
- ▶ Regular follow-up should be considered in moderate to severe atrophy at 2–3 years intervals and 3–6 month intervals where there is dysplasia.

Key aspects related to gastric cancer prevention strategies involving *H pylori* are listed in table 4.

Author footnote

Disclosures The following participants disclosed *no financial relationship* relevant to this publication: LP Andersen, A Axon, F Bazzoli, A Burette, L Coelho, KM Fock, G Gasbarrini, G Gensini, J Gisbert, KL Goh, R Hunt, VA Isakov, L Kupcinskis, S Koletzko, EJ Kuipers, S Ladas, M Leja, JC Machado, Y Niv, A Ristimäki, T Rokkas, R Rugge, R Stockbrügger, M Vieth. The following participants disclosed a financial relationship: J Atherton: is a consultant for Axcan Pharma, Danone and Clinova Ltd X. Calvet: has participated in advisory boards of AstraZeneca, has served as speaker for AstraZeneca and Almirall-Prodesfarma and has received research support from AstraZeneca and Janssen-Cilag. F Chan: consultant: Pfizer, speaker's honoraria: AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Takeda, Steering Committee/Adjudication: Pfizer. Committee member for the CONDOR study. JC Delchier: is consultant for Aptalis Pharma in relation with the treatment of *H pylori* with Pylera. F Di Mario: none declared. E El-Omar: none declared. W Fischbach: research grant: Deutsche Krebshilfe, speaker's honoraria: Abbott, Aptalis, Falk, Merck Serono, Norgine, Novartis, Nycomed, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi-Aventis, Shire. Consultant: Fresenius Biotech, Norgine, Pfizer, Vifor Pharma. DY Graham: is an unpaid consultant for Novartis in relation to vaccine development for treatment or prevention of *H pylori* infection. He is also a paid consultant for Otsuka Pharmaceuticals regarding diagnostic testing and until recently has received royalties from Baylor College of Medicine on patients covering materials related to ¹³C-urea breath test. P Hungin: has received research funding, travel and speakers fee from Reckitt Benckiser for upper gastrointestinal problems. M Kist: research support by Nycomed Deutschland GmbH, Honoraria: Aptalis. Scientific Advisory Board: Aptalis. A Lanas: is advisor to AstraZeneca, Pfizer and Bayer. P Malfertheiner: speaker's fee: Aptalis, Falk Foundation, Abbott, AstraZeneca. Research grant: Novartis. K McColl: received consultancy fees from Reckitt Benckiser. V Mahachai: is currently obtaining grant support from Daiichi Sankyo, Japan. F Megraud: received research grants and served as consultant for Aptalis Pharma, Danone Research, and speaker for Aptalis Pharma, AstraZeneca. C O'Morain: has received research grants from Abbott and MSD and served on advisory boards of Abbott, Aptalis, Falk Pharma, MSD and Shire. A Pilotto: none declared. K Sugano: research grants from Astellas, AstraZeneca, Eisai and Takeda, fees for advisory board from Takeda and AstraZeneca and a lecture fee from Takeda. D Vaira: none declared. N Vakil: is consultant for AstraZeneca, Takeda, Otsuka, Ironwood, Orexo. Stock options: Meridian Diagnostics, Orexo.

Scientific secretaries P Lehours, A O'Connor, M Selgrad. We acknowledge the editorial assistance of Mrs. D. Deutschländer

Contributors LP Andersen (Denmark), J Atherton (UK), A Axon (UK), F Bazzoli (Italy), A Burette (Belgium), X Calvet (Spain), F Chan (Hongkong), L Coelho (Brazil), JC Delchier (France), F Di Mario (Italy), E El-Omar (UK), W Fischbach (Germany), KM Fock (Singapore), G Gasbarrini (Italy), G Gensini (Italy), J Gisbert (Spain), KL Goh (Malaysia), DY Graham (USA), P Hungin (UK), R Hunt (Canada), VA Isakov (Russia), M Kist (Germany), S Koletzko (Germany), EJ Kuipers (The Netherlands), L Kupcinskis

(Kaunas), S Ladas (Greece), A Lanas (Spain), M Leja (Lattvia), JC Machado (Portugal), V Mahachai (Thailand) P Malfertheiner (Germany), K McColl (England), F Megraud (France), Y Niv (Israel), C O'Morain (Ireland), A Pilotto (Italy), A Ristimäki (Finland), T Rokkas (Greece), M Rugge (Italy), R Stockbrügger (Italy), K Sugano (Japan), D Vaira (Italy), N Vakil (USA), M Vieth (Germany).

Funding This study was supported by an unrestricted grant: Menarini Foundation (Firenze, Italy).

Competing interests None.

Provenance and peer review Not commissioned; externally peer reviewed.

REFERENCES

1. Malfertheiner P, Megraud F, O'Morain C, *et al*. Current European concepts in the management of helicobacter pylori infection—the Maastricht consensus report. The European helicobacter pylori study group (EHPG). *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 1997;**9**:1–2.
2. Malfertheiner P, Megraud F, O'Morain C, *et al*. Current concepts in the management of Helicobacter pylori infection—the Maastricht 2-2000 Consensus Report. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2002;**16**:167–80.
3. Malfertheiner P, Megraud F, O'Morain C, *et al*. Current concepts in the management of Helicobacter pylori infection: the Maastricht III Consensus Report. *Gut* 2007;**56**:772–81.
4. Howden CW, Hunt RH. Guidelines for the management of Helicobacter pylori infection. Ad Hoc Committee on practice Parameters of the American College of gastroenterology. *Am J Gastroenterol* 1998;**93**:2330–8.
5. Vaira D, Malfertheiner P, Megraud F, *et al*. Diagnosis of Helicobacter pylori infection with a new non-invasive antigen-based assay. HpSA European study group. *Lancet* 1999;**354**:30–3.
6. Chiba N, Van Zanten SJ, Sinclair P, *et al*. Treating Helicobacter pylori infection in primary care patients with uninvestigated dyspepsia: the Canadian adult dyspepsia empiric treatment-Helicobacter pylori positive (CADET-Hp) randomised controlled trial. *BMJ* 2002;**324**:1012–16.
7. Moayyedi P, Axon AT. The usefulness of the likelihood ratio in the diagnosis of dyspepsia and gastroesophageal reflux disease. *Am J Gastroenterol* 1999;**94**:3122–5.
8. Ikenberry SO, Harrison ME, Lichtenstein D, *et al*. The role of endoscopy in dyspepsia. *Gastrointest Endosc* 2007;**66**:1071–5.
9. Niv Y, Niv G, Koren R. ¹³C-urea breath test for diagnosis of Helicobacter pylori infection in the elderly. *Dig Dis Sci* 2004;**49**:1840–4.
10. Moayyedi P, Deeks J, Talley NJ, *et al*. An update of the Cochrane systematic review of Helicobacter pylori eradication therapy in nonulcer dyspepsia: resolving the discrepancy between systematic reviews. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2003;**98**:2621–6.
11. Harvey RF, Lane JA, Nair P, *et al*. Clinical trial: prolonged beneficial effect of Helicobacter pylori eradication on dyspepsia consultations - the Bristol Helicobacter Project. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2010;**32**:394–400.
12. Maconi G, Sainaghi M, Molteni M, *et al*. Predictors of long-term outcome of functional dyspepsia and duodenal ulcer after successful Helicobacter pylori eradication—a 7-year follow-up study. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2009;**21**:387–93.
13. Moayyedi P. The health economics of Helicobacter pylori infection. *Best Pract Res Clin Gastroenterol* 2007;**21**:347–61.
14. Gwee KA, Teng L, Wong RK, *et al*. The response of Asian patients with functional dyspepsia to eradication of Helicobacter pylori infection. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2009;**21**:417–24.
15. Jin X, Li YM. Systematic review and meta-analysis from Chinese literature: the association between Helicobacter pylori eradication and improvement of functional dyspepsia. *Helicobacter* 2007;**12**:541–6.
16. El-Omar EM, Oien K, El-Nujumi A, *et al*. Helicobacter pylori infection and chronic gastric acid hypersecretion. *Gastroenterology* 1997;**113**:15–24.
17. De Vries AC, van Grieken NC, Looman CV, *et al*. Gastric cancer risk in patients with premalignant gastric lesions: a nationwide cohort study in the Netherlands. *Gastroenterology* 2008;**134**:945–52.
18. Cullen D, Hawkey G, Greenwood D, *et al*. *H. pylori* and gastroesophageal reflux disease: a community-based study. *Helicobacter* 2008;**13**:352–60.
19. O'Connor HJ. Review article: helicobacter pylori and gastro-oesophageal reflux disease-clinical implications and management. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 1999;**13**:117–27.
20. Rokkas T, Pistiolas D, Sechopoulos P, *et al*. Relationship between Helicobacter pylori infection and esophageal neoplasia: a meta-analysis. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2007;**5**:1413–17, 1417.
21. Yaghoobi M, Farrokhyar F, Yuan Y, *et al*. Is there an increased risk of GERD after Helicobacter pylori eradication?: a meta-analysis. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2010;**105**:1007–13.
22. Moayyedi P, Bardhan C, Young L, *et al*. Helicobacter pylori eradication does not exacerbate reflux symptoms in gastroesophageal reflux disease. *Gastroenterology* 2001;**121**:1120–6.
23. Qian B, Shijie M, Shang L, *et al*. Effect of *H. pylori* eradication on gastroesophageal reflux disease. *Helicobacter* 2011;**16**:255–65.
24. Klinkenberg-Knol EC, Nelis F, Dent J, *et al*. Long-term omeprazole treatment in resistant gastroesophageal reflux disease: efficacy, safety and influence on gastric mucosa. *Gastroenterology* 2000;**118**:661–9.

Guidelines

25. **Di Mario F**, Ingegnoli A, Dal Bò N, *et al*. Early epigastric pain after PPI administration: exacerbation of *Helicobacter pylori* corpus gastritis? *Helicobacter* 2004;**9**:92–4.
26. **Huang JQ**, Sridhar S, Hunt RH. Role of *Helicobacter pylori* infection and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs in peptic-ulcer disease: a meta-analysis. *Lancet* 2002;**359**:14–22.
27. **Chan FK**, Sung JJ, Chung SC, *et al*. Randomised trial of eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* before non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug therapy to prevent peptic ulcers. *Lancet* 1997;**350**:975–9.
28. **Chan FK**, To KF, Wu JC, *et al*. Eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* and risk of peptic ulcers in patients starting long-term treatment with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs: a randomised trial. *Lancet* 2002;**359**:9–13.
29. **de Leest HT**, Steen KS, Lems WF, *et al*. Eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* does not reduce the incidence of gastroduodenal ulcers in patients on long-term NSAID treatment: double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial. *Helicobacter* 2007;**12**:477–85.
30. **Lai KC**, Lau CS, Ip WY, *et al*. Effect of treatment of *Helicobacter pylori* on the prevention of gastroduodenal ulcers in patients receiving long-term NSAIDs: a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2003;**17**:799–805.
31. **Hawkey CJ**, Tulassay Z, Szczepanski L, *et al*. Randomised controlled trial of *Helicobacter pylori* eradication in patients on non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs: HELP NSAIDs study. *Helicobacter Eradication for Lesion Prevention. Lancet* 1998;**352**:1016–21.
32. **Vergara M**, Catalan M, Gisbert JP, *et al*. Meta-analysis: role of *Helicobacter pylori* eradication in the prevention of peptic ulcer in NSAID users. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2005;**21**:1411–18.
33. **Chan FK**, Chung SC, Suen BY, *et al*. Preventing recurrent upper gastrointestinal bleeding in patients with *Helicobacter pylori* infection who are taking low-dose aspirin or naproxen. *N Engl J Med* 2001;**344**:967–73.
34. **Lai KC**, Lam SK, Chu KM, *et al*. Lansoprazole for the prevention of recurrences of ulcer complications from long-term low-dose aspirin use. *N Engl J Med* 2002;**346**:2033–8.
35. **Chan F**, Ching J, Suen B, *et al*. *H. pylori* eradication on the long-term incidence of recurrent ulcer bleeding in high-risk aspirin users: a 10-year prospective cohort study (abstr). *Gastroenterology* 2011;**140**:S173–4.
36. **Schenk BE**, Kuipers EJ, Nelis GF, *et al*. Effect of *Helicobacter pylori* eradication on chronic gastritis during omeprazole therapy. *Gut* 2000;**46**:615–21.
37. **Lundell L**, Havu N, Miettinen P, *et al*. Changes of gastric mucosal architecture during long-term omeprazole therapy: results of a randomized clinical trial. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2006;**23**:639–47.
38. **Moayyedi P**, Wason C, Peacock R, *et al*. Changing patterns of *Helicobacter pylori* gastritis in long-standing acid suppression. *Helicobacter* 2000;**5**:206–14.
39. **Kuipers EJ**, Lundell L, Klinkenberg-Knol EC, *et al*. Atrophic gastritis and *Helicobacter pylori* infection in patients with reflux esophagitis treated with omeprazole or fundoplication. *N Engl J Med* 1996;**334**:1018–22.
40. **Hagiwara T**, Mukaisho K, Nakayama T, *et al*. Long-term proton pump inhibitor administration worsens atrophic corpus gastritis and promotes adenocarcinoma development in Mongolian gerbils infected with *Helicobacter pylori*. *Gut* 2011;**60**:624–30.
41. **Fox JG**, Kuipers EJ. Long-term proton pump inhibitor administration, *H. pylori* and gastric cancer: lessons from the gerbil. *Gut* 2011;**60**:567–8.
42. **Malfertheiner P**, Sipponen P, Naumann M, *et al*. *Helicobacter pylori* eradication has the potential to prevent gastric cancer: a state-of-the-art critique. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2005;**100**:2100–15.
43. **Correa P**, Fontham ET, Bravo JC, *et al*. Chemoprevention of gastric dysplasia: randomized trial of antioxidant supplements and anti-*Helicobacter pylori* therapy. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 2000;**92**:1881–8.
44. **Leung WK**, Lin SR, Ching JY, *et al*. Factors predicting progression of gastric intestinal metaplasia: results of a randomised trial on *Helicobacter pylori* eradication. *Gut* 2004;**53**:1244–9.
45. **Wong BC**, Lam SK, Wong WM, *et al*. *Helicobacter pylori* eradication to prevent gastric cancer in a high-risk region of China: a randomized controlled trial. *JAMA* 2004;**291**:187–94.
46. **Wang J**, Xu L, Shi R, *et al*. Gastric atrophy and intestinal metaplasia before and after *Helicobacter pylori* eradication: a meta-analysis. *Digestion* 2011;**83**:253–60.
47. **Wotherspoon AC**, Dogliani C, Dicc T, *et al*. Regression of primary low-grade B-cell gastric lymphoma of mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue type after eradication of *Helicobacter pylori*. *Lancet* 1993;**342**:575–7.
48. **Chen LT**, Lin JT, Tai JJ, *et al*. Long-term results of anti-*Helicobacter pylori* therapy in early-stage gastric high-grade transformed MALT lymphoma. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 2005;**97**:1345–53.
49. **Stathis A**, Chini C, Bertoni F, *et al*. Long-term outcome following *Helicobacter pylori* eradication in a retrospective study of 105 patients with localized gastric marginal zone B-cell lymphoma of MALT type. *Ann Oncol* 2009;**20**:1086–93.
50. **Wundisch T**, Thiede C, Morgner A, *et al*. Long-term follow-up of gastric MALT lymphoma after *Helicobacter pylori* eradication. *J Clin Oncol* 2005;**23**:8018–24.
51. **Ruskone-Fourmesttraux A**, Fischbach W, Aleman BM, *et al*. EGILS consensus report. Gastric extranodal marginal zone B-cell lymphoma of MALT. *Gut* 2011;**60**:747–58.
52. **Qu XH**, Huang XL, Xiong P, *et al*. Does *Helicobacter pylori* infection play a role in iron deficiency anemia? A meta-analysis. *World J Gastroenterol* 2010;**16**:886–96.
53. **Muhsen K**, Cohen D. *Helicobacter pylori* infection and iron stores: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Helicobacter* 2008;**13**:323–40.
54. **Pellicano R**, Franceschi F, Saracco G, *et al*. *Helicobacters* and extragastric diseases. *Helicobacter* 2009;**14**(Suppl 1):58–68.
55. **Arnold DM**, Bernotas A, Nazi I, *et al*. Platelet count response to *H. pylori* treatment in patients with immune thrombocytopenic purpura with and without *H. pylori* infection: a systematic review. *Haematologica* 2009;**94**:850–6.
56. **George JN**. Definition, diagnosis and treatment of immune thrombocytopenic purpura. *Haematologica* 2009;**94**:759–62.
57. **Palm F**, Urbaneck C, Grau A. Infection, its treatment and the risk for stroke. *Curr Vasc Pharmacol* 2009;**7**:146–52.
58. **Charlett A**, Dobbs RJ, Dobbs SM, *et al*. Blood profile holds clues to role of infection in a premonitory state for idiopathic parkinsonism and of gastrointestinal infection in established disease. *Gut Pathog* 2009;**1**:20.
59. **Kountouras J**, Boziki M, Gavalas E, *et al*. Eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* may be beneficial in the management of Alzheimer's disease. *J Neurol* 2009;**256**:758–67.
60. **Franceschi F**, Navarese EP, Mollo R, *et al*. *Helicobacter pylori* and atherosclerosis. A review of the literature. *Recenti Prog Med* 2009;**100**:91–6.
61. **Longo-Mbenza B**. *Helicobacter pylori* and atherosclerosis: can current data be useful for clinical practice? *Int J Cardiol* 2009;**135**:e76–7.
62. **Ayada K**, Yokota K, Kobayashi K, *et al*. Chronic infections and atherosclerosis. *Clin Rev Allergy Immunol* 2009;**37**:44–8.
63. **Franceschi F**, Niccoli G, Ferrante G, *et al*. CagA antigen of *Helicobacter pylori* and coronary instability: insight from a clinico-pathological study and a meta-analysis of 4241 cases. *Atherosclerosis* 2009;**202**:535–42.
64. **Chen Y**, Blaser MJ. Inverse associations of *Helicobacter pylori* with asthma and allergy. *Arch Intern Med* 2007;**167**:821–7.
65. **Fullerton D**, Britton JR, Lewis SA, *et al*. *Helicobacter pylori* and lung function, asthma, atopy and allergic disease—a population-based cross-sectional study in adults. *Int J Epidemiol* 2009;**38**:419–26.
66. **Ioannou GN**, Weiss NS, Kearney DJ. Is *Helicobacter pylori* seropositivity related to body mass index in the United States? *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2005;**21**:765–72.
67. **Lahner E**, Annibale B, Delle FG. Systematic review: *Helicobacter pylori* infection and impaired drug absorption. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2009;**29**:379–86.
68. **Bugdaci MS**, Zuhur SS, Sokmen M, *et al*. The role of *Helicobacter pylori* in patients with hypothyroidism in whom could not be achieved normal thyrotropin levels despite treatment with high doses of thyroxine. *Helicobacter* 2011;**16**:124–30.
69. **Pierantozzi M**, Pietroiusti A, Brusa L, *et al*. *Helicobacter pylori* eradication and l-dopa absorption in patients with PD and motor fluctuations. *Neurology* 2006;**66**:1824–9.
70. **Wroblewski L**, Peek R, Wilson K. *Helicobacter pylori* and gastric cancer: factors that modulate disease risk. *Clin Microbiol Rev* 2010;**4**:713–39.
71. **Basso D**, Zambon CF, Letley DP, *et al*. Clinical relevance of *H. pylori* cagA and vacA gene polymorphisms. *Gastroenterology* 2008;**135**:91–9.
72. **Schmidt H**, Ha D, Tayler E, *et al*. Variation in human genetic polymorphisms, their association with *H. pylori* acquisition and gastric cancer in a multi-ethnic country. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2011;**26**:1725–32.
73. **Gao L**, Nieters A, Brenner H. Cell proliferation-related genetic polymorphisms and gastric cancer risk: systematic review and meta-analysis. *Eur J Hum Genet* 2009;**12**:1658–67.
74. **Snaith A**, El-Omar E. *Helicobacter pylori*: host genetics and disease outcomes. *Expert Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2008;**4**:577–85.
75. **Figureiredo C**, Machado JC, Pharoah P, *et al*. *Helicobacter pylori* and interleukin 1 genotyping: an opportunity to identify high-risk individuals for gastric carcinoma. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 2002;**94**:1680–7.
76. **Gisbert JP**, Pajares JM. Review article: **13C-urea breath test** in the diagnosis of *Helicobacter pylori* infection—a critical review. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2004;**20**:1001–17.
77. **Gisbert JP**, de la MF, Abraira V. Accuracy of monoclonal stool antigen test for the diagnosis of *H. pylori* infection: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2006;**101**:1921–30.
78. **Deguchi R**, Matsushima M, Suzuki T, *et al*. Comparison of a monoclonal with a polyclonal antibody-based enzyme immunoassay stool test in diagnosing *Helicobacter pylori* infection after eradication therapy. *J Gastroenterol* 2009;**44**:713–16.
79. **Shimoyama T**, Kato C, Kodama M, *et al*. Applicability of a monoclonal antibody-based stool antigen test to evaluate the results of *Helicobacter pylori* eradication therapy. *Jpn J Infect Dis* 2009;**62**:225–7.
80. **Calvet X**, Lario S, Ramirez-Lazaro MJ, *et al*. Accuracy of monoclonal stool tests for determining cure of *Helicobacter pylori* infection after treatment. *Helicobacter* 2010;**15**:201–5.
81. **Schwarzer A**, Lottspeich C, Russmann H, *et al*. Evaluation of a novel rapid one-step monoclonal chromatographic immunoassay for detection of *Helicobacter pylori* in stool from children. *Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis* 2007;**26**:475–80.
82. **Feldman RA**, Deeks JJ, Evans SJ. Multi-laboratory comparison of eight commercially available *Helicobacter pylori* serology kits. *Helicobacter pylori Serology Study Group. Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis* 1995;**14**:428–33.
83. **Fauchere AR**, Charlier-Bret N, Couillon-Mallet A, *et al*. Evaluation comparative de 29 troussees commercialises pour le diagnostic serologique de l'infection par *Helicobacter pylori*: etude multicentrique du Groupe d'etude Francais des Helicobacters (GEFH). *Feuillet de Biologie* 2011;**298**:25–32.
84. **Ekstrom AM**, Held M, Hansson LE, *et al*. *Helicobacter pylori* in gastric cancer established by CagA immunoblot as a marker of past infection. *Gastroenterology* 2001;**121**:784–91.

85. **Lehours P**, Ruskone-Fourmestraux A, Lavergne A, *et al*. Which test to use to detect *Helicobacter pylori* infection in patients with low-grade gastric mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma? *Am J Gastroenterol* 2003;**98**:291–5.
86. **Kokkola A**, Rautelin H, Puolakkainen P, *et al*. Positive result by serology indicates active *Helicobacter pylori* infection in patients with atrophic gastritis. *J Clin Microbiol* 1998;**36**:1808–10.
87. **Miki K**, Ichinose M, Ishikawa KB, *et al*. Clinical application of serum pepsinogen I and II levels for mass screening to detect gastric cancer. *Jpn J Cancer Res* 1993;**84**:1086–90.
88. **Levine A**, Shevah O, Shabat-Sehayek V, *et al*. Masking of **13C urea breath test** by proton pump inhibitors is dependent on type of medication: comparison between omeprazole, pantoprazole, lansoprazole and esomeprazole. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2004;**20**:117–22.
89. **Ozturk E**, Yesilova Z, Ilgan S, *et al*. Performance of acidified 14C-urea capsule breath test during pantoprazole and ranitidine treatment. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2009;**24**:1248–51.
90. **Erzin Y**, Altun S, Dobrucali A, *et al*. Evaluation of two enzyme immunoassays for detecting *Helicobacter pylori* in stool specimens of dyspeptic patients after eradication therapy. *J Med Microbiol* 2005;**54**:863–6.
91. **Asfeldt AM**, Lochen ML, Straume B, *et al*. Accuracy of a monoclonal antibody-based stool antigen test in the diagnosis of *Helicobacter pylori* infection. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2004;**39**:1073–7.
92. **Graham DY**, Opekun AR, Hammoud F, *et al*. Studies regarding the mechanism of false negative urea breath tests with proton pump inhibitors. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2003;**98**:1005–9.
93. **Shirin H**, Levine A, Shevah O, *et al*. Eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* can be accurately confirmed 14 days after termination of triple therapy using a high-dose citric acid-based **13C urea breath test**. *Digestion* 2005;**71**:208–12.
94. **Gisbert JP**, Pajares JM. **13C-urea breath test** in the management of *Helicobacter pylori* infection. *Dig Liver Dis* 2005;**37**:899–906.
95. **Graham DY**, Opekun AR, Jogi M, *et al*. False negative urea breath tests with H₂-receptor antagonists: interactions between *Helicobacter pylori* density and pH. *Helicobacter* 2004;**9**:17–27.
96. **Fischbach L**, Evans EL. Meta-analysis: the effect of antibiotic resistance status on the efficacy of triple and quadruple first-line therapies for *Helicobacter pylori*. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2007;**26**:343–57.
97. **Megraud F**. *Helicobacter pylori* and antibiotic resistance. *Gut* 2007;**56**:1502.
98. **Wenzhen Y**, Yumin L, Quanlin G, *et al*. Is antimicrobial susceptibility testing necessary before first-line treatment for *Helicobacter pylori* infection? Meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. *Intern Med* 2010;**49**:1103–9.
99. **Oleastro M**, Menard A, Santos A, *et al*. Real-time PCR assay for rapid and accurate detection of point mutations conferring resistance to clarithromycin in *Helicobacter pylori*. *J Clin Microbiol* 2003;**41**:397–402.
100. **Cambau E**, Allerheiligen V, Coulon C, *et al*. Evaluation of a new test, genotype HelicoDR, for molecular detection of antibiotic resistance in *Helicobacter pylori*. *J Clin Microbiol* 2009;**47**:3600–7.
101. **Glocker E**, Kist M. Rapid detection of point mutations in the *gyrA* gene of *Helicobacter pylori* conferring resistance to ciprofloxacin by a fluorescence resonance energy transfer-based real-time PCR approach. *J Clin Microbiol* 2004;**42**:2241–6.
102. **Woo HY**, Park DI, Park H, *et al*. Dual-priming oligonucleotide-based multiplex PCR for the detection of *Helicobacter pylori* and determination of clarithromycin resistance with gastric biopsy specimens. *Helicobacter* 2009;**14**:22–8.
103. **Vecsei A**, Innerhofer A, Binder C, *et al*. Stool polymerase chain reaction for *Helicobacter pylori* detection and clarithromycin susceptibility testing in children. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2010;**8**:309–12.
104. **Kawai T**, Yamagishi T, Yagi K, *et al*. Tailored eradication therapy based on fecal *Helicobacter pylori* clarithromycin sensitivities. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2008;**23** (Suppl 2):S171–4.
105. **De Francesco V**, Zullo A, Ierardi E, *et al*. Phenotypic and genotypic *Helicobacter pylori* clarithromycin resistance and therapeutic outcome: benefits and limits. *J Antimicrob Chemother* 2010;**65**:327–32.
106. **Megraud F**, Lehours P. *Helicobacter pylori* detection and antimicrobial susceptibility testing. *Clin Microbiol Rev* 2007;**20**:280–322.
107. **Glupczynski Y**, Broutet N, Cantagrel A, *et al*. Comparison of the E test and agar dilution method for antimicrobial susceptibility testing of *Helicobacter pylori*. *Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis* 2002;**21**:549–52.
108. **Gatta L**, Vakil N, Leandro G, *et al*. Sequential therapy or triple therapy for *Helicobacter pylori* infection: systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials in adults and children. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2009;**104**:3069–79.
109. **Graham DY**, Fischbach L. *Helicobacter pylori* treatment in the era of increasing antibiotic resistance. *Gut* 2010;**59**:1143–53.
110. **Gisbert JP**, Calvet X, O'Connor A, *et al*. Sequential therapy for *Helicobacter pylori* eradication: a critical review. *J Clin Gastroenterol* 2010;**44**:313–25.
111. **Vaira D**, Zullo A, Vakil N, *et al*. Sequential therapy versus standard triple-drug therapy for *Helicobacter pylori* eradication: a randomized trial. *Ann Intern Med* 2007;**146**:556–63.
112. **Essa AS**, Kramer JR, Graham DY, *et al*. Meta-analysis: four-drug, three-antibiotic, non-bismuth-containing “concomitant therapy” versus triple therapy for *Helicobacter pylori* eradication. *Helicobacter* 2009;**14**:109–18.
113. **Gisbert JP**, Calvet X. Review article: non-bismuth quadruple (concomitant) therapy for eradication of *Helicobacter pylori*. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2011;**34**:604–17.
114. **Laine L**, Hunt R, El-Zimaity H, *et al*. Bismuth-based quadruple therapy using a single capsule of bismuth biscalcitrate, metronidazole and tetracycline given with omeprazole versus omeprazole, amoxicillin and clarithromycin for eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* in duodenal ulcer patients: a prospective, randomized, multicenter, North American trial. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2003;**98**:562–7.
115. **O'Morain C**, Borody T, Farley A, *et al*. Efficacy and safety of single-triple capsules of bismuth biscalcitrate, metronidazole and tetracycline, given with omeprazole, for the eradication of *Helicobacter pylori*: an international multicentre study. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2003;**17**:415–20.
116. **Malfertheiner P**, Bazzoli F, Delchier JC, *et al*. *Helicobacter pylori* eradication with a capsule containing bismuth subcitrate potassium, metronidazole and tetracycline given with omeprazole versus clarithromycin-based triple therapy: a randomized, open-label, non-inferiority, phase 3 trial. *Lancet* 2011;**377**:905–13.
117. **Glupczynski Y**, Megraud F, Lopez-Brea M, *et al*. European multicentre survey of in vitro antimicrobial resistance in *Helicobacter pylori*. *Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis* 2001;**20**:820–3.
118. **Megraud F**, Coenen S, Versporten A, *et al*. Surveillance of *Helicobacter pylori* resistance to antibiotics in Europe 2008-2009. (in press).
119. **EMEA**. *Note for guidance on evaluation of medicinal products indicated for treatment of bacterial infections*. European Medicines Evaluation Agency; London, 2004.
120. **Valve M**, Vergara M, Gisbert JP, *et al*. Single vs. double dose of a proton pump inhibitor in triple therapy for *Helicobacter pylori* eradication: a meta-analysis. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2002;**16**:1149–56.
121. **Padol S**, Yuan Y, Thabane M, *et al*. The effect of CYP2C19 polymorphisms on *H. pylori* eradication rate in dual and triple first-line PPI therapies: a meta-analysis. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2006;**101**:1467–75.
122. **Furuta T**, Sugimoto M, Shirai N. Effect of MDR1 C3435T polymorphism on cure rates of *Helicobacter pylori* infection by triple therapy with lansoprazole, amoxicillin and clarithromycin in relation to CYP 2C19 genotypes and 23S rRNA genotypes of *H. pylori*. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2007;**26**:693–703.
123. **Villoria A**. Acid-related diseases: are higher doses of proton pump inhibitors more effective in the treatment of *Helicobacter pylori* infection? *Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2008;**31**:546–7.
124. **Calvet X**, Garcia N, Lopez T, *et al*. A meta-analysis of short versus long therapy with a proton pump inhibitor, clarithromycin and either metronidazole or amoxicillin for treating *Helicobacter pylori* infection. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2000;**14**:603–9.
125. **Ford A**, Moayyedi P. How can the current strategies for *Helicobacter pylori* eradication therapy be improved? *Can J Gastroenterol* 2003;**17** (Suppl B):36B–40B.
126. **Fuccio L**, Minardi ME, Zagari RM, *et al*. Meta-analysis: duration of first-line proton-pump inhibitor based triple therapy for *Helicobacter pylori* eradication. *Ann Intern Med* 2007;**147**:553–62.
127. **Haydee B**, Salvana A, Ang ELR, *et al*. Duration of proton-pump inhibitor-based triple therapy for *Helicobacter pylori* eradication: a meta-analysis. *Gastroenterology*;138:5, suppl. 1:S-340.
128. **Gisbert JP**, Gonzalez L, Calvet X, *et al*. Proton pump inhibitor, clarithromycin and either amoxicillin or nitroimidazole: a meta-analysis of eradication of *Helicobacter pylori*. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2000;**14**:1319–28.
129. **Zou J**, Dong J, Yu X. Meta-analysis: Lactobacillus containing quadruple therapy versus standard triple first-line therapy for *Helicobacter pylori* eradication. *Helicobacter* 2009;**14**:97–107.
130. **Sachdeva A**, Nagpal J. Meta-analysis: efficacy of bovine lactoferrin in *Helicobacter pylori* eradication. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2009;**29**:720–30.
131. **Tong JL**, Ran ZH, Shen J, *et al*. Meta-analysis: the effect of supplementation with probiotics on eradication rates and adverse events during *Helicobacter pylori* eradication therapy. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2007;**25**:155–68.
- 131a. **Sachdeva A**, Nagpal J. Effect of fermented milk-based probiotic preparations on *H. pylori* eradication: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized-controlled trials. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2009;**1**:45–53.
132. **Szajewska H**, Horvath A, Piwoarczyk A. Meta-analysis: the effects of *Saccharomyces boulardii* supplementation on *Helicobacter pylori* eradication rates and side effects during treatment. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2010;**32**:1069–79.
133. **Broutet N**, Tchamgoue S, Pereira E, *et al*. Risk factors for failure of *Helicobacter pylori* therapy—results of an individual data analysis of 2751 patients. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2003;**17**:99–109.
134. **Abdullahi M**, Annibale B, Capoccia D, *et al*. The eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* is affected by body mass index (BMI). *Obes Surg* 2008;**18**:1450–4.
135. **Suzuki T**, Matsuo K, Ito H, *et al*. Smoking increases the treatment failure for *Helicobacter pylori* eradication. *Am J Med* 2006;**119**:217–24.
136. **Rokkas T**, Sechopoulos P, Robotis I, *et al*. Cumulative *H. pylori* eradication rates in clinical practice by adopting first and second-line regimens proposed by the Maastricht III consensus and a third-line empirical regimen. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2009;**104**:21–5.
137. **Lee JM**, Breslin NP, Hyde DK, *et al*. Treatment options for *Helicobacter pylori* infection when proton pump inhibitor-based triple therapy fails in clinical practice. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 1999;**13**:489–96.
138. **Gisbert JP**, Gisbert JL, Marcos S, *et al*. Empirical rescue therapy after *Helicobacter pylori* treatment failure: a 10-year single-centre study of 500 patients. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2008;**27**:346–54.
139. **Lee BH**, Kim N, Hwang TJ, *et al*. Bismuth-containing quadruple therapy as second-line treatment for *Helicobacter pylori* infection: effect of treatment duration and antibiotic resistance on the eradication rate in Korea. *Helicobacter* 2010;**15**:38–45.

140. **Luther J**, Higgins PD, Schoenfeld PS, *et al*. Empiric quadruple vs. triple therapy for primary treatment of *Helicobacter pylori* infection: systematic review and meta-analysis of efficacy and tolerability. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2010;**105**:65–73.
141. **Gisbert JP**, Morena F. Systematic review and meta-analysis: levofloxacin-based rescue regimens after *Helicobacter pylori* treatment failure. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2006;**23**:35–44.
142. **Saad RJ**, Schoenfeld P, Kim HM, *et al*. Levofloxacin-based triple therapy versus bismuth-based quadruple therapy for persistent *Helicobacter pylori* infection: a meta-analysis. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2006;**101**:488–96.
143. **Lamouliatte H**, Megraud F, Delchier J, *et al*. Second-line treatment for failure to eradicate *H. pylori*: a randomized trial comparing four treatment strategies. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2003;**18**:791–7.
144. **Cammarota G**, Martino A, Pirozza G, *et al*. High efficacy of 1-week doxycycline- and amoxicillin-based quadruple regimen in a culture-guided, third-line treatment approach for *H. pylori* infection. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2004;**19**:789–95.
145. **Van der PD**, Katelaris PH. The effectiveness of rifabutin triple therapy for patients with difficult-to-eradicate *Helicobacter pylori* in clinical practice. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2007;**26**:1537–42.
146. **Gisbert J**, Calvet X. Review article: rifabutin in the treatment of refractory *H. pylori* infection. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2012;**35**:209–21.
147. **Ford AC**, Malfertheiner P, Giguere M, *et al*. Adverse events with bismuth salts for *Helicobacter pylori* eradication: systematic review and meta-analysis. *World J Gastroenterol* 2008;**14**:7361–70.
148. **Gisbert JP**, Gisbert JL, Marcos S, *et al*. *Helicobacter pylori* first-line treatment and rescue options in patients allergic to penicillin. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2005;**22**:1041–6.
149. **Rodríguez-Torres M**, Salgado-Mercado R, Rios-Bedoya CF, *et al*. High eradication rates of *Helicobacter pylori* infection with first- and second-line combination of esomeprazole, tetracycline and metronidazole in patients allergic to penicillin. *Dig Dis Sci* 2005;**50**:634–9.
150. **Gisbert JP**, Perez-Aisa A, Castro-Fernandez M, *et al*. *Helicobacter pylori* first-line treatment and rescue option containing levofloxacin in patients allergic to penicillin. *Dig Liver Dis* 2010;**42**:287–90.
151. **Ford AC**, Delaney BC, Forman D, *et al*. Eradication therapy for peptic ulcer disease in *Helicobacter pylori* positive patients. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2006;(2):CD003840.
152. **Leodolter A**, Kulig M, Brasch H, *et al*. A meta-analysis comparing eradication, healing and relapse rates in patients with *Helicobacter pylori*-associated gastric or duodenal ulcer. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2001;**15**:1949–58.
153. **Marzio L**, Cellini L, Angelucci D. Triple therapy for 7 days vs. triple therapy for 7 days plus omeprazole for 21 days in treatment of active duodenal ulcer with *Helicobacter pylori* infection. A double blind placebo controlled trial. *Dig Liver Dis* 2003;**35**:20–3.
154. **Gisbert JP**, Pajares JM. Systematic review and meta-analysis: is 1-week proton pump inhibitor-based triple therapy sufficient to heal peptic ulcer? *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2005;**21**:795–804.
155. **Higuchi K**, Fujiwara Y, Tominaga K, *et al*. Is eradication sufficient to heal gastric ulcers in patients infected with *Helicobacter pylori*? A randomized, controlled, prospective study. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2003;**17**:111–17.
156. **van Zanten SV**, van der Knoop B. Gastric ulcer treatment: cure of *Helicobacter pylori* infection without subsequent acid-suppressive therapy: is it effective? *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2008;**20**:489–91.
157. **Arkkila PE**, Seppala K, Kosunen TU, *et al*. *Helicobacter pylori* eradication as the sole treatment for gastric and duodenal ulcers. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2005;**17**:93–101.
158. **Malfertheiner P**, Kirchner T, Kist M, *et al*. *Helicobacter pylori* eradication and gastric ulcer healing—comparison of three pantoprazole-based triple therapies. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2003;**17**:1125–35.
159. **Gisbert JP**, Khorrami S, Carballo F, *et al*. *H. pylori* eradication therapy vs. antisecretory non-eradication therapy (with or without long-term maintenance antisecretory therapy) for the prevention of recurrent bleeding from peptic ulcer. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2003;(4):CD004062.
160. **Sung JJ**, Marshall and Warren Lecture 2009: peptic ulcer bleeding: an expedition of 20 years from 1989–2009. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2010;**25**:229–33.
161. **Schilling D**, Demel A, Nusse T, *et al*. *Helicobacter pylori* infection does not affect the early rebleeding rate in patients with peptic ulcer bleeding after successful endoscopic hemostasis: a prospective single-center trial. *Endoscopy* 2003;**35**:393–6.
162. **Racz I**, Bircher K, Karasz T, *et al*. The influence of *Helicobacter pylori* infection on early rebleeding rate in patients with peptic ulcer bleeding. *Endoscopy* 2004;**36**:461–2.
163. **McAlindon ME**, Taylor JS, Ryder SD. The long-term management of patients with bleeding duodenal ulcers. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 1997;**11**:505–10.
164. **Gene E**, Sanchez-Delgado J, Calvet X, *et al*. What is the best strategy for diagnosis and treatment of *Helicobacter pylori* in the prevention of recurrent peptic ulcer bleeding? A cost-effectiveness analysis. *Value Health* 2009;**12**:759–62.
165. **van Leerdam ME**. Epidemiology of acute upper gastrointestinal bleeding. *Best Pract Res Clin Gastroenterol* 2008;**22**:209–24.
166. **Gisbert JP**, Abaira V. Accuracy of *Helicobacter pylori* diagnostic tests in patients with bleeding peptic ulcer: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2006;**101**:848–63.
167. **Sanchez-Delgado J**, Gene E, Suarez D, *et al*. Has *H. pylori* prevalence in bleeding peptic ulcer been underestimated? A meta-regression. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2011;**106**:398–405.
168. **Gisbert JP**, Esteban C, Jimenez I, *et al*. **13C-urea breath test** during hospitalization for the diagnosis of *Helicobacter pylori* infection in peptic ulcer bleeding. *Helicobacter* 2007;**12**:231–7.
169. **Barkun AN**, Bardou M, Kuipers EJ, *et al*. International consensus recommendations on the management of patients with nonvariceal upper gastrointestinal bleeding. *Ann Intern Med* 2010;**152**:101–13.
170. **Asaka M**, Kato M, Takahashi S, *et al*. Guidelines for the management of *Helicobacter pylori* infection in Japan: 2009 revised edition. *Helicobacter* 2010;**15**:1–20.
171. **Fischbach W**, Malfertheiner P, Hoffmann JC, *et al*. S3-guideline “*Helicobacter pylori* and gastroduodenal ulcer disease” of the German society for digestive and metabolic diseases (DGVS) in cooperation with the German society for hygiene and microbiology, society for pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition e. V., German society for rheumatology, AWMF-registration-no. 021 / 001. *Z Gastroenterol* 2009;**47**:1230–63.
172. **Fock KM**, Talley N, Moayyedi P, *et al*. Asia-Pacific consensus guidelines on gastric cancer prevention. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2008;**23**:351–65.
173. **Malfertheiner P**, Bornschein J, Selgrad M. Role of *Helicobacter pylori* infection in gastric cancer pathogenesis: a chance for prevention. *J Dig Dis* 2010;**11**:2–11.
174. **Polk DB**, Peek RM Jr. *Helicobacter pylori*: gastric cancer and beyond. *Nat Rev Cancer* 2010;**10**:403–14.
175. **Brenner H**, Arndt V, Stegmaier C, *et al*. Is *Helicobacter pylori* infection a necessary condition for noncardia gastric cancer? *Am J Epidemiol* 2004;**159**:252–8.
176. **Bornschein J**, Selgrad M, Warnecke M, *et al*. *H. pylori* infection is a key risk factor for proximal gastric cancer. *Dig Dis Sci* 2010;**55**:3124–31.
177. **Wei J**, Nagy TA, Vilgelm A, *et al*. Regulation of p53 tumor suppressor by *Helicobacter pylori* in gastric epithelial cells. *Gastroenterology* 2010;**139**:1333–43.
178. **Tu S**, Bhagat G, Cui G, *et al*. Overexpression of interleukin-1 β induces gastric inflammation and cancer and mobilizes myeloid-derived suppressor cells in mice. *Cancer Cell* 2008;**14**:408–19.
179. **Houghton J**, Stoicov C, Nomura S, *et al*. Gastric cancer originating from bone marrow-derived cells. *Science* 2004;**306**:1568–71.
180. **Mera R**, Fontham ET, Bravo LE, *et al*. Long term follow up of patients treated for *Helicobacter pylori* infection. *Gut* 2005;**54**:1536–40.
181. **You WC**, Brown LM, Zhang L, *et al*. Randomized double-blind factorial trial of three treatments to reduce the prevalence of precancerous gastric lesions. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 2006;**98**:974–83.
182. **Take S**, Mizuno M, Ishiki K, *et al*. The effect of eradicating *Helicobacter pylori* on the development of gastric cancer in patients with peptic ulcer disease. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2005;**100**:1037–42.
183. **Fuccio L**, Zagari RM, Eusebi LH, *et al*. Meta-analysis: can *Helicobacter pylori* eradication treatment reduce the risk for gastric cancer? *Ann Intern Med* 2009;**151**:121–8.
184. **Yanaoka K**, Oka M, Ohata H, *et al*. Eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* prevents cancer development in subjects with mild gastric atrophy identified by serum pepsinogen levels. *Int J Cancer* 2009;**125**:2697–703.
185. **Nozaki K**, Shimizu N, Ikehara Y, *et al*. Effect of early eradication on *Helicobacter pylori*-related gastric carcinogenesis in Mongolian gerbils. *Cancer Sci* 2003;**94**:235–9.
186. **Cai X**, Carlson J, Stoicov C, *et al*. *Helicobacter felis* eradication restores normal architecture and inhibits gastric cancer progression in C57BL/6 mice. *Gastroenterology* 2005;**128**:1937–52.
187. **Touati E**, Michel V, Thiberge JM, *et al*. Chronic *Helicobacter pylori* infections induce gastric mutations in mice. *Gastroenterology* 2003;**124**:1408–19.
188. **Touati E**, Michel V, Thiberge JM, *et al*. Deficiency in OGG1 protects against inflammation and mutagenic effects associated with *H. pylori* infection in mouse. *Helicobacter* 2006;**11**:494–505.
189. **Sheh A**, Lee CW, Masumura K, *et al*. Mutagenic potency of *Helicobacter pylori* in the gastric mucosa of mice is determined by sex and duration of infection. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 2010;**107**:15217–22.
190. **Machado AM**, Figueiredo C, Seruca R, *et al*. *Helicobacter pylori* infection generates genetic instability in gastric cells. *Biochim Biophys Acta* 2010;**1806**:58–65.
191. **Machado AM**, Figueiredo C, Touati E, *et al*. *Helicobacter pylori* infection induces genetic instability of nuclear and mitochondrial DNA in gastric cells. *Clin Cancer Res* 2009;**15**:2995–3002.
192. **Ohnishi N**, Yuasa H, Tanaka S, *et al*. Transgenic expression of *Helicobacter pylori* CagA induces gastrointestinal and hematopoietic neoplasms in mouse. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 2008;**105**:1003–8.
193. **Xia Y**, Yamaoka Y, Zhu Q, *et al*. A comprehensive sequence and disease correlation analyses for the C-terminal region of CagA protein of *Helicobacter pylori*. *PLoS One* 2009;**4**:e7736.
194. **Jung SW**, Sugimoto M, Graham DY, *et al*. *homb* status of *Helicobacter pylori* as a novel marker to distinguish gastric cancer from duodenal ulcer. *J Clin Microbiol* 2009;**47**:3241–5.
195. **Rhead JL**, Letley DP, Mohammadi M, *et al*. A new *Helicobacter pylori* vacuolating cytotoxin determinant, the intermediate region, is associated with gastric cancer. *Gastroenterology* 2007;**133**:926–36.
196. **Basso D**, Zambon CF, Letley DP, *et al*. Clinical relevance of *Helicobacter pylori* cagA and vacA gene polymorphisms. *Gastroenterology* 2008;**135**:91–9.
197. **Jang S**, Jones KR, Olsen CH, *et al*. Epidemiological link between gastric disease and polymorphisms in VacA and CagA. *J Clin Microbiol* 2010;**48**:559–67.

198. **Acosta N**, Quiroga A, Delgado P, *et al.* Helicobacter pylori CagA protein polymorphisms and their lack of association with pathogenesis. *World J Gastroenterol* 2010;**16**:3936–43.
199. **Yamaoka Y**, Kato M, Asaka M. Geographic differences in gastric cancer incidence can be explained by differences between Helicobacter pylori strains. *Intern Med* 2008;**47**:1077–83.
200. **Brenner H**, Bode G, Boeing H. Helicobacter pylori infection among offspring of patients with stomach cancer. *Gastroenterology* 2000;**118**:31–5.
201. **Hou L**, El-Omar EM, Chen J, *et al.* Polymorphisms in Th1-type cell-mediated response genes and risk of gastric cancer. *Carcinogenesis* 2007;**28**:118–23.
202. **El-Omar EM**, Rabkin CS, Gammon MD, *et al.* Increased risk of noncardia gastric cancer associated with proinflammatory cytokine gene polymorphisms. *Gastroenterology* 2003;**124**:1193–201.
203. **Amieva MR**, El-Omar EM. Host-bacterial interactions in Helicobacter pylori infection. *Gastroenterology* 2008;**134**:306–23.
204. **Kamangar F**, Cheng C, Abnet CC, *et al.* Interleukin-1B polymorphisms and gastric cancer risk—a meta-analysis. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomark Prev* 2006;**15**:1920–8.
205. **Wang P**, Xia HH, Zhang JY, *et al.* Association of interleukin-1 gene polymorphisms with gastric cancer: a meta-analysis. *Int J Cancer* 2007;**120**:552–62.
206. **Vincenzi B**, Patti G, Galluzzo S, *et al.* Interleukin 1beta-511T gene (IL1beta) polymorphism is correlated with gastric cancer in the Caucasian population: results from a meta-analysis. *Oncol Rep* 2008;**20**:1213–20.
207. **Santini D**, Angeletti S, Ruzzo A, *et al.* Toll-like receptor 4 Asp299Gly and Thr399Ile polymorphisms in gastric cancer of intestinal and diffuse histotypes. *Clin Exp Immunol* 2008;**154**:360–4.
208. **Jakszyn P**, Bingham S, Pera G, *et al.* Endogenous versus exogenous exposure to N-nitroso compounds and gastric cancer risk in the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC-EURGAST) study. *Carcinogenesis* 2006;**27**:1497–501.
209. **Takachi R**, Inoue M, Shimazu T, *et al.* Consumption of sodium and salted foods in relation to cancer and cardiovascular diseases: the Japan Public Health Center-based Prospective Study. *Am J Clin Nutr* 2010;**91**:456–64.
210. **Pham TM**, Fujino Y, Kikuchi S, *et al.* Dietary patterns and risk of stomach cancer mortality: the Japan collaborative cohort study. *Ann Epidemiol* 2010;**20**:356–63.
211. **Bertuccio P**, Praud D, Chatenoud L, *et al.* Dietary glycemic load and gastric cancer risk in Italy. *Br J Cancer* 2009;**100**:558–61.
212. **Freedman ND**, Abnet CC, Leitzmann MF, *et al.* A prospective study of tobacco, alcohol and the risk of esophageal and gastric cancer subtypes. *Am J Epidemiol* 2007;**165**:1424–33.
213. **Tsugane S**, Sasazuki S, Kobayashi M, *et al.* Salt and salted food intake and subsequent risk of gastric cancer among middle-aged Japanese men and women. *Br J Cancer* 2004;**90**:128–34.
214. **Agudo A**, Slimani N, Ocke MC, *et al.* Consumption of vegetables, fruit and other plant foods in the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC) cohorts from 10 European countries. *Public Health Nutr* 2002;**5**:1179–96.
215. **Serafini M**, Bellocco R, Wolk A, *et al.* Total antioxidant potential of fruit and vegetables and risk of gastric cancer. *Gastroenterology* 2002;**123**:985–91.
216. **Buckland G**, Agudo A, Lujan L, *et al.* Adherence to a Mediterranean diet and risk of gastric adenocarcinoma within the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC) cohort study. *Am J Clin Nutr* 2010;**91**:381–90.
217. **Gonzalez CA**, Jakszyn P, Pera G, *et al.* Meat intake and risk of stomach and esophageal adenocarcinoma within the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC). *J Natl Cancer Inst* 2006;**98**:345–54. http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/pr/2009/pdfs/pr196_E.pdf 2011.
218. **Yang P**, Zhou Y, Chen B, *et al.* Aspirin use and the risk of gastric cancer: a meta-analysis. *Dig Dis Sci* 2010;**55**:1533–9.
219. **de Martel C**, Franceschi S. Infections and cancer: established associations and new hypotheses. *Crit Rev Oncol Hematol* 2009;**70**:183–94.
220. **Dixon MF**, Genta RM, Yardley JH, *et al.* Classification and grading of gastritis. The updated Sydney system. International workshop on the Histopathology of gastritis, Houston 1994. *Am J Surg Pathol* 1996;**20**:1161–81.
221. **Matsuhisa T**, Matsukura N, Yamada N. Topography of chronic active gastritis in Helicobacter pylori-positive Asian populations: age-, gender- and endoscopic diagnosis-matched study. *J Gastroenterol* 2004;**39**:324–8.
222. **Uemura N**, Okamoto S, Yamamoto S, *et al.* Helicobacter pylori infection and the development of gastric cancer. *N Engl J Med* 2001;**345**:784–9.
223. **Hattori T**. Development of adenocarcinomas in the stomach. *Cancer* 1986;**57**:1528–34.
224. **Byrd JC**, Yan P, Sternberg L, *et al.* Aberrant expression of gland-type gastric mucin in the surface epithelium of Helicobacter pylori-infected patients. *Gastroenterology* 1997;**113**:455–64.
225. **Stemmermann GN**. Intestinal metaplasia of the stomach. A status report. *Cancer* 1994;**74**:556–64.
226. **Tahara E**. Molecular mechanism of stomach carcinogenesis. *J Cancer Res Clin Oncol* 1993;**119**:265–72.
227. **Namikawa T**, Hanazaki K. Mucin phenotype of gastric cancer and clinicopathology of gastric-type differentiated adenocarcinoma. *World J Gastroenterol* 2010;**16**:4634–9.
228. **Wolf EM**, Geigl JB, Svrcek M, *et al.* Hereditary gastric cancer. *Pathologie* 2010;**31**:423–9.
229. **Cisco RM**, Ford JM, Norton JA. Hereditary diffuse gastric cancer: implications of genetic testing for screening and prophylactic surgery. *Cancer* 2008;**113**(7 Suppl):1850–6.
230. **Oliveira C**, Senz J, Kaurah P, *et al.* Germline CDH1 deletions in hereditary diffuse gastric cancer families. *Hum Mol Genet* 2009;**18**:1545–55.
231. **Yatsuya H**, Toyoshima H, Tamakoshi A, *et al.* Individual and joint impact of family history and Helicobacter pylori infection on the risk of stomach cancer: a nested case-control study. *Br J Cancer* 2004;**91**:929–34.
232. **Malfertheiner P**. The intriguing relationship of *H. pylori* infection and acid secretion in peptic ulcer disease and gastric cancer. *Dig Dis* 2011;**29**:459–64.
233. **Forsythe SJ**, Dolby JM, Webster AD, *et al.* Nitrate- and nitrite-reducing bacteria in the achlorhydric stomach. *J Med Microbiol* 1988;**25**:253–9.
234. **Ruddell WS**, Bone ES, Hill MJ, *et al.* Gastric-juice nitrite. A risk factor for cancer in the hypochlorhydric stomach? *Lancet* 1976;**2**:1037–9.
235. **Ruddell WS**, Axon AT, Findlay JM, *et al.* Effect of cimetidine on the gastric bacterial flora. *Lancet* 1980;**1**:672–4.
236. **Sharma BK**, Santana IA, Wood EC, *et al.* Intra-gastric bacterial activity and nitrosation before, during and after treatment with omeprazole. *Br Med J (Clin Res Ed)* 1984;**289**:717–19.
237. **Stockbrugger RW**, Cotton PB, Eugenides N, *et al.* Intra-gastric nitrites, nitrosamines and bacterial overgrowth during cimetidine treatment. *Gut* 1982;**23**:1048–54.
238. **Thorens J**, Froehlich F, Schwizer W, *et al.* Bacterial overgrowth during treatment with omeprazole compared with cimetidine: a prospective randomised double blind study. *Gut* 1996;**39**:54–9.
239. **Reed PI**, Smith PL, Haines K, *et al.* Effect of cimetidine on gastric juice N-nitrosamine concentration. *Lancet* 1981;**2**:553–6.
240. **Sanduleanu S**, Jonkers D, De BA, *et al.* Double gastric infection with Helicobacter pylori and non-Helicobacter pylori bacteria during acid-suppressive therapy: increase of pro-inflammatory cytokines and development of atrophic gastritis. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2001;**15**:1163–75.
241. **Sanduleanu S**, Jonkers D, De BA, *et al.* Non-Helicobacter pylori bacterial flora during acid-suppressive therapy: differential findings in gastric juice and gastric mucosa. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2001;**15**:379–88.
242. **Mirvish SS**. Effects of vitamins C and E on N-nitroso compound formation, carcinogenesis and cancer. *Cancer* 1986;**58**(8 Suppl):1842–50.
243. **Guttenplan JB**. Inhibition by L-ascorbate of bacterial mutagenesis induced by two N-nitroso compounds. *Nature* 1977;**268**:368–70.
244. **Sobala GM**, Pignatelli B, Schorah CJ, *et al.* Levels of nitrite, nitrate, N-nitroso compounds, ascorbic acid and total bile acids in gastric juice of patients with and without precancerous conditions of the stomach. *Carcinogenesis* 1991;**12**:193–8.
245. **Sobala GM**, Schorah CJ, Sanderson M, *et al.* Ascorbic acid in the human stomach. *Gastroenterology* 1989;**97**:357–63.
246. **Sobala GM**, Schorah CJ, Shires S, *et al.* Effect of eradication of Helicobacter pylori on gastric juice ascorbic acid concentrations. *Gut* 1993;**34**:1038–41.
247. **O'Connor HJ**, Schorah CJ, Habibzadeh N, *et al.* Vitamin C in the human stomach: relation to gastric pH, gastroduodenal disease and possible sources. *Gut* 1989;**30**:436–42.
248. **Waring AJ**, Drake IM, Schorah CJ, *et al.* Ascorbic acid and total vitamin C concentrations in plasma, gastric juice and gastrointestinal mucosa: effects of gastritis and oral supplementation. *Gut* 1996;**38**:171–6.
249. **Tulassay Z**, Stolte M, Engstrand L, *et al.* Twelve-month endoscopic and histological analysis following proton-pump inhibitor-based triple therapy in Helicobacter pylori-positive patients with gastric ulcers. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2010;**45**:1048–58.
250. **Rokkas T**, Pistiolas D, Sechopoulos P, *et al.* The long-term impact of Helicobacter pylori eradication on gastric histology: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Helicobacter* 2007;**12**(Suppl 2):32–8.
251. **De Vries AC**, Kuipers EJ. Review article: helicobacter pylori eradication for the prevention of gastric cancer. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2007;**26**(Suppl 2):25–35.
252. **van der Hulst RW**, van der EA, Dekker FW, *et al.* Effect of Helicobacter pylori eradication on gastritis in relation to cagA: a prospective 1-year follow-up study. *Gastroenterology* 1997;**113**:25–30.
253. **Tepes B**, Kavcic B, Zaletel LK, *et al.* Two- to four-year histological follow-up of gastric mucosa after Helicobacter pylori eradication. *J Pathol* 1999;**188**:24–9.
254. **Sung JJ**, Lin SR, Ching JY, *et al.* Atrophy and intestinal metaplasia one year after cure of *H. pylori* infection: a prospective, randomized study. *Gastroenterology* 2000;**119**:7–14.
255. **Kim N**, Lim SH, Lee KH, *et al.* Long-term effects of Helicobacter pylori eradication on intestinal metaplasia in patients with duodenal and benign gastric ulcers. *Dig Dis Sci* 2000;**45**:1754–62.
256. **Ohkusa T**, Fujiki K, Takashimizu I, *et al.* Improvement in atrophic gastritis and intestinal metaplasia in patients in whom Helicobacter pylori was eradicated. *Ann Intern Med* 2001;**134**:380–6.
257. **Ito M**, Haruma K, Kamada T, *et al.* Helicobacter pylori eradication therapy improves atrophic gastritis and intestinal metaplasia: a 5-year prospective study of patients with atrophic gastritis. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2002;**16**:1449–56.
258. **Annibale B**, Di GE, Caruana P, *et al.* The long-term effects of cure of Helicobacter pylori infection on patients with atrophic body gastritis. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2002;**16**:1723–31.
259. **Yamada T**, Miwa H, Fujino T, *et al.* Improvement of gastric atrophy after Helicobacter pylori eradication therapy. *J Clin Gastroenterol* 2003;**36**:405–10.
260. **Zhou L**, Sung JJ, Lin S, *et al.* A five-year follow-up study on the pathological changes of gastric mucosa after *H. pylori* eradication. *Chin Med J (Engl)* 2003;**116**:11–14.
261. **Ley C**, Mohar A, Guarner J, *et al.* Helicobacter pylori eradication and gastric preneoplastic conditions: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomark Prev* 2004;**13**:4–10.

Guidelines

263. **Salih BA**, Abasiyanik MF, Saribasak H, *et al*. A follow-up study on the effect of *Helicobacter pylori* eradication on the severity of gastric histology. *Dig Dis Sci* 2005;**50**:1517–22.
264. **Lahner E**, Bordi C, Cattaruzza MS, *et al*. Long-term follow-up in atrophic body gastritis patients: atrophy and intestinal metaplasia are persistent lesions irrespective of *Helicobacter pylori* infection. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2005;**22**:471–81.
265. **Arkkila PE**, Seppala K, Farkkila MA, *et al*. *Helicobacter pylori* eradication in the healing of atrophic gastritis: a one-year prospective study. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2006;**41**:782–90.
266. **Toyokawa T**, Suwaki K, Miyake Y, *et al*. Eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* infection improved gastric mucosal atrophy and prevented progression of intestinal metaplasia, especially in the elderly population: a long-term prospective cohort study. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2010;**25**:544–7.
267. **Fukase K**, Kato M, Kikuchi S, *et al*. Effect of eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* on incidence of metachronous gastric carcinoma after endoscopic resection of early gastric cancer: an open-label, randomised controlled trial. *Lancet* 2008;**372**:392–7.
268. **Kosunen TU**, Pukkala E, Sarna S, *et al*. Gastric cancers in Finnish patients after cure of *Helicobacter pylori* infection: a cohort study. *Int J Cancer* 2011;**128**:433–9.
269. **Ogura K**, Hirata Y, Yanai A, *et al*. The effect of *Helicobacter pylori* eradication on reducing the incidence of gastric cancer. *J Clin Gastroenterol* 2008;**42**:279–83.
270. **Takenaka R**, Okada H, Kato J, *et al*. *Helicobacter pylori* eradication reduced the incidence of gastric cancer, especially of the intestinal type. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2007;**25**:805–12.
271. **Uemura N**, Mukai T, Okamoto S, *et al*. Effect of *Helicobacter pylori* eradication on subsequent development of cancer after endoscopic resection of early gastric cancer. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomark Prev* 1997;**6**:639–42.
272. **Wu CY**, Kuo KN, Wu MS, *et al*. Early *Helicobacter pylori* eradication decreases risk of gastric cancer in patients with peptic ulcer disease. *Gastroenterology* 2009;**137**:1641–8.
273. **Ito M**, Takata S, Tatsugami M, *et al*. Clinical prevention of gastric cancer by *Helicobacter pylori* eradication therapy: a systematic review. *J Gastroenterol* 2009;**44**:365–71.
274. **De Vries AC**, Kuipers EJ, Rauws EA. *Helicobacter pylori* eradication and gastric cancer: when is the horse out of the barn? *Am J Gastroenterol* 2009;**104**:1342–5.
275. **Selgrad M**, Bornschein J, Malfertheiner P. Guidelines for treatment of *Helicobacter pylori* in the East and West. *Expert Rev Anti Infect Ther* 2011;**9**:581–8.
276. **Yeh JM**, Kuntz KM, Ezzati M, *et al*. Exploring the cost-effectiveness of *Helicobacter pylori* screening to prevent gastric cancer in China in anticipation of clinical trial results. *Int J Cancer* 2009;**124**:157–66.
277. **Shin DW**, Yun YH, Choi IJ, *et al*. Cost-effectiveness of eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* in gastric cancer survivors after endoscopic resection of early gastric cancer. *Helicobacter* 2009;**14**:536–44.
278. **Lee YC**, Lin JT, Wu HM, *et al*. Cost-effectiveness analysis between primary and secondary preventive strategies for gastric cancer. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomark Prev* 2007;**16**:875–85.
279. **Malfertheiner P**, Chan FK, McColl KE. Peptic ulcer disease. *Lancet* 2009;**374**:1449–61.
280. **Bhatt DL**, Scheiman J, Abraham NS, *et al*. ACCF/ACG/AHA 2008 expert consensus document on reducing the gastrointestinal risks of antiplatelet therapy and NSAID use. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2008;**103**:2890–907.
281. **Targovnik LE**, Metge CJ, Leung S. Underutilization of gastroprotective strategies in aspirin users at increased risk of upper gastrointestinal complications. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2008;**28**:88–96.
282. **Ford AC**, Forman D, Bailey AG, *et al*. A community screening program for *Helicobacter pylori* saves money: 10-year follow-up of a randomized controlled trial. *Gastroenterology* 2005;**129**:1910–17.
283. **Hansen JM**, Wildner-Christensen M, Hallas J, *et al*. Effect of a community screening for *Helicobacter pylori*: a 5-Yr follow-up study. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2008;**103**:1106–13.
284. **van Leerdam ME**, Vreeburg EM, Rauws EA, *et al*. Acute upper GI bleeding: did anything change? Time trend analysis of incidence and outcome of acute upper GI bleeding between 1993/1994 and 2000. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2003;**98**:1494–9.
285. **Gonzalez CA**, Lopez-Carrillo L. *Helicobacter pylori*, nutrition and smoking interactions: their impact in gastric carcinogenesis. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2010;**45**:6–14.
286. **Miki K**, Morita M, Sasajima M, *et al*. Usefulness of gastric cancer screening using the serum pepsinogen test method. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2003;**98**:735–9.
287. **Miki K**, Urita Y. Using serum pepsinogens wisely in a clinical practice. *J Dig Dis* 2007;**8**:8–14.
288. **Miki K**. Gastric cancer screening using the serum pepsinogen test method. *Gastric Cancer* 2006;**9**:245–53.
289. **De Vries AC**, Kuipers EJ. Epidemiology of premalignant gastric lesions: implications for the development of screening and surveillance strategies. *Helicobacter* 2007;**12** (Suppl 2):22–31.
290. **Rugge M**, Kim JG, Mahachai V, *et al*. OLGA gastritis staging in young adults and country-specific gastric cancer risk. *Int J Surg Pathol* 2008;**16**:150–4.
291. **Rugge M**, de BM, Pennelli G, *et al*. OLGA can guard the barn. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2009;**104**:3099–2.
292. **Rugge M**, de BM, Pennelli G, *et al*. Gastritis OLGA-staging and gastric cancer risk: a twelve-year clinico-pathological follow-up study. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2010;**31**:1104–11.
293. **Capelle LG**, De Vries AC, Haringsma J, *et al*. The staging of gastritis with the OLGA system by using intestinal metaplasia as an accurate alternative for atrophic gastritis. *Gastrointest Endosc* 2010;**71**:1150–8.
294. **Rokkas T**, Sechopoulos P, Pistiola D, *et al*. *Helicobacter pylori* infection and gastric histology in first-degree relatives of gastric cancer patients: a meta-analysis. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2010;**22**:1128–33.
295. **Chen MJ**, Wu DC, Ko YC, *et al*. Personal history and family history as a predictor of gastric cardiac adenocarcinoma risk: a case-control study in Taiwan. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2004;**99**:1250–7.
296. **Foschi R**, Lucenteforte E, Bosetti C, *et al*. Family history of cancer and stomach cancer risk. *Int J Cancer* 2008;**123**:1429–32.
297. **Gao Y**, Hu N, Han X, *et al*. Family history of cancer and risk for esophageal and gastric cancer in Shanxi, China. *BMC Cancer* 2009;**9**:269.
298. **Kondo T**, Toyoshima H, Tsuzuki Y, *et al*. Aggregation of stomach cancer history in parents and offspring in comparison with other sites. *Int J Epidemiol* 2003;**32**:579–83.
299. **Munoz N**, Plummer M, Vivas J, *et al*. A case-control study of gastric cancer in Venezuela. *Int J Cancer* 2001;**93**:417–23.
300. **Shin CM**, Kim N, Yang HJ, *et al*. Stomach cancer risk in gastric cancer relatives: interaction between *Helicobacter pylori* infection and family history of gastric cancer for the risk of stomach cancer. *J Clin Gastroenterol* 2010;**44**:e34–9.
301. **Blair V**, Martin I, Shaw D, *et al*. Hereditary diffuse gastric cancer: diagnosis and management. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2006;**4**:262–75.
302. **Chun YS**, Lindor NM, Smyrk TC, *et al*. Germline E-cadherin gene mutations: is prophylactic total gastrectomy indicated? *Cancer* 2001;**92**:181–7.
303. **Cisco RM**, Norton JA. Hereditary diffuse gastric cancer: surgery, surveillance and unanswered questions. *Future Oncol* 2008;**4**:553–9.
304. **Fitzgerald RC**, Caldas C. Clinical implications of E-cadherin associated hereditary diffuse gastric cancer. *Gut* 2004;**53**:775–8.
305. **Lynch HT**, Silva E, Wirtzfeld D, *et al*. Hereditary diffuse gastric cancer: prophylactic surgical oncology implications. *Surg Clin North Am* 2008;**88**:759–78. vi–vii.
306. **Rogers WM**, Dobo E, Norton JA, *et al*. Risk-reducing total gastrectomy for germline mutations in E-cadherin (CDH1): pathologic findings with clinical implications. *Am J Surg Pathol* 2008;**32**:799–809.
307. **Suriano G**, Yew S, Ferreira P, *et al*. Characterization of a recurrent germ line mutation of the E-cadherin gene: implications for genetic testing and clinical management. *Clin Cancer Res* 2005;**11**:5401–9.
308. **Sinning C**, Schaefer N, Standop J, *et al*. Gastric stump carcinoma - epidemiology and current concepts in pathogenesis and treatment. *Eur J Surg Oncol* 2007;**33**:133–9.
309. **Stalnikowicz R**, Benbassat J. Risk of gastric cancer after gastric surgery for benign disorders. *Arch Intern Med* 1990;**150**:2022–6.
310. **Tersmette AC**, Offerhaus GJ, Tersmette KW, *et al*. Meta-analysis of the risk of gastric stump cancer: detection of high risk patient subsets for stomach cancer after remote partial gastrectomy for benign conditions. *Cancer Res* 1990;**50**:6486–9.
311. **Tersmette AC**, Giardiello FM, Tytgat GN, *et al*. Carcinogenesis after remote peptic ulcer surgery: the long-term prognosis of partial gastrectomy. *Scand J Gastroenterol Suppl* 1995;**212**:96–9.
312. **Poulsen AH**, Christensen S, McLaughlin JK, *et al*. Proton pump inhibitors and risk of gastric cancer: a population-based cohort study. *Br J Cancer* 2009;**100**:1503–7.
313. **Chung HW**, Noh SH, Lim JB. Analysis of demographic characteristics in 3242 young age gastric cancer patients in Korea. *World J Gastroenterol* 2010;**16**:256–63.
314. **Sjodahl K**, Lu Y, Nilsen TI, *et al*. Smoking and alcohol drinking in relation to risk of gastric cancer: a population-based, prospective cohort study. *Int J Cancer* 2007;**120**:128–32.
315. **Azevedo NF**, Huntington J, Goodman KJ. The epidemiology of *Helicobacter pylori* and public health implications. *Helicobacter* 2009;**14**(Suppl 1):1–7.
316. **Miendje Deyi VY**, Vanderpas J, Bontems P, *et al*. Marching cohort of *Helicobacter pylori* infection over two decades (1988-2007): combined effects of secular trend and population migration. *Epidemiol Infect* 2011;**139**:572–80.
317. **Kato M**, Asaka M. Recent knowledge of the relationship between *Helicobacter pylori* and gastric cancer and recent progress of gastroendoscopic diagnosis and treatment for gastric cancer. *Jpn J Clin Oncol* 2010;**40**:828–37.
318. **Niv Y**, Hazazi R. *Helicobacter pylori* recurrence in developed and developing countries: meta-analysis of **13C-urea breath test** follow-up after eradication. *Helicobacter* 2008;**13**:56–61.
319. **De Francesco V**, Margiotta M, Zullo A, *et al*. Claritromycin resistance and *Helicobacter pylori* genotypes in Italy. *J Microbiol* 2006;**44**:660–4.
320. **Agudo S**, Perez-Perez G, Alarcon T, *et al*. High prevalence of claritromycin-resistant *Helicobacter pylori* strains and risk factors associated with resistance in Madrid, Spain. *J Clin Microbiol* 2010;**48**:3703–7.
321. **Ford AC**, Axon AT. Epidemiology of *Helicobacter pylori* infection and public health implications. *Helicobacter* 2010;**15**(Suppl 1):1–6.
322. **Rupnow MF**, Chang AH, Shachter RD, *et al*. Cost-effectiveness of a potential prophylactic *Helicobacter pylori* vaccine in the United States. *J Infect Dis* 2009;**200**:1311–17.
323. **Del Giudice G**, Malfertheiner P, Rappuoli R. Development of vaccines against *Helicobacter pylori*. *Expert Rev Vaccines* 2009;**8**:1037–49.
324. **Aebischer T**, Bumann D, Epple HJ, *et al*. Correlation of T cell response and bacterial clearance in human volunteers challenged with *Helicobacter pylori* revealed by randomised controlled vaccination with Ty21a-based *Salmonella* vaccines. *Gut* 2008;**57**:1065–72.
325. **McColl KE**. Clinical practice. *Helicobacter pylori* infection. *N Engl J Med* 2010;**362**:1597–604.



Management of *Helicobacter pylori* infection —the Maastricht IV/ Florence Consensus Report

Peter Malfertheiner, Francis Megraud, Colm A O'Morain, et al.

Gut 2012 61: 646-664

doi: 10.1136/gutjnl-2012-302084

Updated information and services can be found at:

<http://gut.bmj.com/content/61/5/646.full.html>

These include:

References

This article cites 319 articles, 70 of which can be accessed free at:

<http://gut.bmj.com/content/61/5/646.full.html#ref-list-1>

Email alerting service

Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Topic Collections

Articles on similar topics can be found in the following collections

[Editor's choice](#) (58 articles)

[Pancreatic cancer](#) (531 articles)

[Campylobacter, Salmonella, Shigella, Escherichia coli](#) (230 articles)

[Helicobacter pylori](#) (209 articles)

[Dyspepsia](#) (259 articles)

[Gastro-oesophageal reflux](#) (317 articles)

Notes

To request permissions go to:

<http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions>

To order reprints go to:

<http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform>

To subscribe to BMJ go to:

<http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/>