H- Pylori Infection in Pediatric Patients Diagnosed w/ Eosinophilic Esophagitis at Fundacion Santa Fe De Bogota

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INTRODUCTION

Helicobacter pylori (Hp) infection is quite common, especially in low- and middle-income countries like Colombia, where 70 to 80% of the population is infected (Vesga et al., 2023). A protective effect of this bacterial infection on atopic diseases and other conditions, such as Eosinophilic Esophagitis (EoE), has been proposed, with a 43% reduction in the chance of presenting the latter compared to unexposed individuals (Shah et al., 2019).

OBJECTIVE

To determine the prevalence of *Helicobacter pylori (Hp)* infection in patients under 18 years of age with Eosinophilic Esophagitis (EoE) treated at the Pediatric Gastroenterology Section, Fundación Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia, from 2022 to 2024.

METHODS

An analytic observational cross-sectional study was performed with data retrospectively collected from 2022 to 2024, the information of 52 patients with a confirmed diagnosis of EoE (esophageal dysfunction with esophageal eosinophilia : ≥15 eos/hpf) was retrieved from the HIS-ISIS and MedSys v.5 clinical registry software. Chi-squared analyses were performed on Stata SE version 18.0.

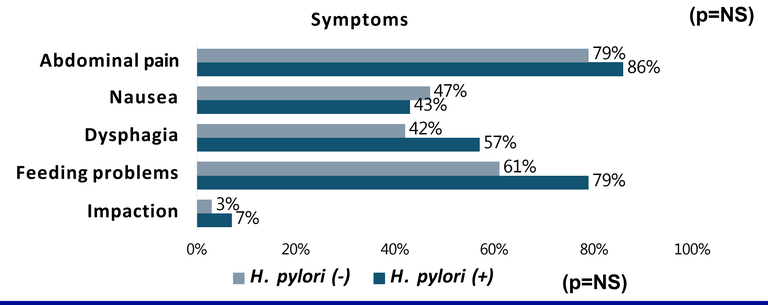
RESULTS

- n = 52
- Male: 65%.
- Patients with *H. pylori (+)* : 27%
- Patients with EoE and *H. pylori (+)* presented a family history of *H. pylori* and gastric cancer in higher frequency than those without *H. pylori* infection (p=NS)
- Three patients presented with esophageal stenosis. None of these patients had *H. pylori* infection (p=NS).
- There were no significant differences in clinical symptoms, personal, and family history (p=NS).

RESULTS

Table 1. General characteristics of patients with EoE with and without *H. pylori*

Total patients with EoE			
Category	*H. pylori*		Summary
	(+)	(-)	
N	14 (27%)	38 (73%)	52
Exclusive breast feeding	40%	25%	29.7%
Cesarean delivery	62%	39%	21
Av Gestation age [weeks]	38.03 ± 2.2	37.8 ± 1.75	37.85
Age of syntom onset [years]	8.14 ± 5.3	8.3 ± 5.2	8.25 ± 5.13
Age at diagnosis [years]	10 ± 3.9	10.4 ± 4.6	10.32±4.37



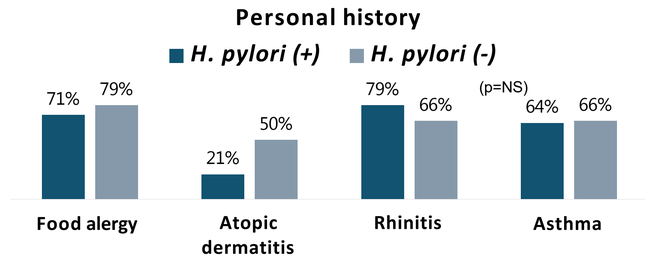
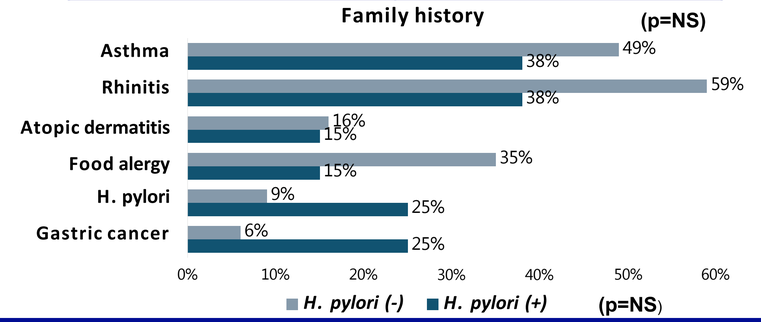


Table 2. Average EREFS score (mean, SD) (p=NS)

H. pylori +	*H. pylori -*
1.86 (0.26)	1.07 (0.35)



CONCLUSION

The prevalence of *H. pylori* infection was 27% in patients under 18 years of age diagnosed with EoE at Fundación Santa Fe de Bogotá, in the past two years, higher than the 7% reported by Shah et al. (Shah et al., 2019). No significant differences were found for cesarean history, breastfeeding, personal, and family history of allergies, EREFS score and number of eosinophils in biopsies. It is noteworthy that the patients with esophageal stenosis did not have *H. pylori (p=NS).* Future prospective research is required to understand the pathogenic role of *H. pylori* in EoE.

REFERENCES

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