

## **The Relation between Helicobacter Pylori Infection and the Severity of Rheumatoid Arthritis**

Sahar Saad, MSc, MD\* Neveen Rashad, MSc, MD\*\*

**Background:** The cause of autoimmune disease is not well-known; it is suggested that environmental, viral and bacterial factors might trigger the immune system.

**It was found that about 50% of the western and over 80% individuals in the developing countries are infected with Helicobacter pylori, a gram negative flagellated bacterium**

**Because of its ability to induce chronic immune response in the host, it has been suggested that H. pylori has a role in the development and aggravation of autoimmune diseases.**

**Objective:** To evaluate the relation between H. pylori infection and the severity of rheumatoid arthritis.

**Method:** Hundred rheumatoid arthritis patients were tested for the presence of H. pylori infection using urea breath test, and were evaluated for the severity of rheumatoid arthritis using DAS 28/ESR, as well as the levels of ESR and C-reactive protein (CRP).

**Results:** There was no significant difference either clinically or laboratory between H. pylori positive and H. pylori negative patients in rheumatoid activity except in CRP.

**Conclusion:** There was no relation between H. pylori infection and rheumatoid arthritis activity.

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\* Consultant Rheumatologist

\*\*Senior Registrar

Department of Internal Medicine  
King Hamad University Hospital  
Kingdom of Bahrain  
Email: sahar.saad@khuh.org.bh