

Atrophic gastritis during acid-suppressive therapy with focus on ECL cell hyperplasia and intragastric bacteria

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Stellingen

- *Helicobacter pylori* is a clinically important bacterium, central to the pathogenesis of chronic atrophic gastritis.

(Thesis)

- Together with genetic factors, environmental factors are important for determination of the clinical outcome of *Helicobacter* disease.

(Thesis)

- Intra-gastric overgrowth of non-*Helicobacter pylori* bacteria may be a *co-factor* in the development of chronic atrophic gastritis during acid suppression.

(Thesis)

- *Helicobacter pylori* 'screen-and-treat' strategy is indicated before the start of long-term acid-suppressive therapy.

(Thesis)

- Elevated serum chromogranin A levels during long-term acid-suppressive therapy reflect gastric fundic enterochromaffin-like cell hyperplasia.

(Thesis)

- Interleukin-1 gene cluster polymorphisms that enhance the production of interleukin-1 β may favour the initiation of a set of responses to *Helicobacter pylori* that result in hypochlorhydria, corpus atrophy and increased risk of gastric cancer.

(El Omar, Nature 2000)

- In the early twenty-first century there are still some who believe that *Helicobacter pylori* does not cause gastric cancer, even though the epidemiological evidence is solid, and Koch's postulates have been satisfied. This major cause of cancer death could have been eliminated within a generation if there were sufficient medical education and political consensus.

(Axon, *H. pylori* Basic Mechanisms to Clinical Cure 2000)

- In a multidisciplinary team, the internist raises questions, the gastroenterologist investigates them, and the pathologist has the difficult task to answer them.

- As scientists, we desire to extrapolate the refinement and accuracy of mathematics to all scientific fields...as much as this is possible. Not only to unlock our potential to see 'in depth', but mainly to establish a balance with the universe of things... Mathematics is the instrument for total and ultimate human knowledge.

(F. Nietzsche)

- A paradox of history! Oppression had opposite effects: the opening of the human spirit; at least something to fight for...

- Things are not difficult to do. The difficult thing is putting ourselves in the state to do them.

(C. Brancusi)

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