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Título: Helicobacter Pylori: Current Prevalence And Resistance To Clarithromycin In Symptomatic Children

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Resumo: INTRODUCTION. Infections caused by virulent Helicobacter pylori strains are steadily increasing in developing countries, along with a growing resistance to the antibiotics used for bacterial eradication. This study aims to provide current prevalence of H. pylori and to evaluate the presence of mutations associated with clarithromycin resistance in symptomatic children. METHODS. Two biopsies were used for the histopathological study and one biopsy to carry out the rapid urease test. The final sample, which is usually discarded, served to apply PCR and sequencing for a 23S rDNA gene fragment. Predictive values of PCR compared with gold standard (rapid urease test + histopathology) were calculated using Epidat 4.0 program. Test concordance was calculated with Kappa coefficient. RESULTS. 133 children with digestive symptoms and indications of esophagealgastroduodenoscopy participate in the research. 38% of the biopsies were positive for RUT and 37% were suggestive of the presence of H. pylori-type bacilli. Prevalence of H. pylori detected by PCR was 47% and the frequency of mutations associated with resistance to clarithromycin (A2142G and A2143G) was 8%. Sensitivity, specificity, PPV and NPV for the PCR were 92%, 79%, 71% and 94%, respectively. CONCLUSIONS. PCR amplification of 23SrDN from RUT biopsy followed by PCR products sequencing demonstrated to be a good method to establish H. pylori presence and the occurrence of mutations associated with resistance to clarithromycin. The low rate of resistance to this antibiotic suggests that in current conditions this treatment continues to constitute an appropriate initial intervention for the pediatric population.