

# THE ROLE OF HELICOBACTER PYLORI IN THE ETIOPATHOGENY OF GASTRIC NEOPLASIA

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**Abstract:** *Helicobacter pylori*, a spiral bacterium of the stomach, infect more than half of the world's population. *H. pylori* is restricted to human gastric mucosa and can infect some other primates. *H. pylori* strains are genetically heterogeneous, and this attribute is useful in studies of transmission. *H. pylori* can be cultured, is sensitive to most antibiotics in vitro and is characterized by very strong urease activity. It is now widely accepted that, aside from gastritis and ulcers, *H. pylori* is also a causative agent of gastric lymphoma, specifically gastric B cell lymphoma of mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT). While antibiotic treatment eradicates the bacteria and promotes tumor regression, the effects of re-infection on disease are more severe. *H. pylori* can be detected in gastric biopsy specimens and indirectly by serology and analysis of breath after ingestion of labeled urea.

**Key words:** *Helicobacter pylori*, MALT, gastric lymphoma, gastric adenocarcinoma.

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