Reply to:
Benefit of Helicobacter pylori eradication therapy in all systemic sclerosis patients regardless of clinical symptoms

Sirs,

We read the letter by Radić et al. that provided additional useful comments to our original article (1, 2). The authors investigated the prevalence and correlation between Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori) infection and severity and activity score of systemic sclerosis (SSc) and found a possible link between these two conditions. They questioned a pathological role of H. pylori in SSc and recommended an evaluation of H. pylori eradication and benefits in SSc patients.

We agree that further research is needed to determine the effect of H. pylori eradication on SSc disease activity. A systematic review from our group on the eradication of H. pylori on insulin resistance and altered metabolic parameters showed that H. pylori eradication significantly increased body weight, but there is no difference in insulin resistance, waist circumference, triglycerides, high-density and low-density lipoprotein-cholesterol or fasting blood glucose (3). However, that review only included five observational studies, which may limit the power to find a true effect of H. pylori eradication.

More studies in both the pathophysiology on possible pathogenesis of H. pylori in SSc and the effect of its treatment are needed.

W.C. YONG¹, MD
S. UPALA², MD
A. SANGUANKEO², MD, MPH
¹Department of Internal Medicine, Greenfield Family Medicine, Baystate Franklin Medical Center, Greenfield, MA, USA;
²Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand.

Please address correspondence to:
Dr Anawin Sanguankeo,
Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand.
E-mail: asangua1@jhmi.edu

Competing interests: none declared.

© Copyright CLINICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL RHEUMATOLOGY 2019.

References