

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, triglycer-

ides, 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.

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References

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