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## High prevalence of *Helicobacter pylori* infection in the Northwest of Iran

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*Helicobacter pylori* infection is one of the most common infectious diseases on the globe and is associated with increased risk of human active chronic gastritis, peptic and duodenal ulcer and gastric cancer development. In order to investigate the current sero-prevalence of *H. pylori* infection in the Northwest part of Iran, specific ELISA for the existence of IgG antibodies against *H. pylori* was performed on a representative sample size of 21429 (69.02% F, 29.98% M) sera who were referred to the Central Laboratory of Tabriz in three years (2012 - 2015). Statistical analysis was conducted using SPSS v15.0 and Epi info v3.2.2 softwares. Results were categorized into nine groups according to the age. The overall sero-prevalence of *H. pylori* infection was 63.93% (63.77% F, 64.24% M), with no statistical difference between genders. Sero-positivity rates increased progressively with age but decreased above the age of 71. The results indicated that *H. Pylori* infection prevalence rate in the Northwest of Iran is higher than in developed countries, which may contribute to the high incident rate of gastric cancer in this area. Crowded living condition and low socio-economic status contribute to the difference of infection prevalence. Therefore, further research on *H. pylori* in Iran is vital to develop proactive and preventive mechanisms for gastric cancer.

### Biography

Hossein Bannazadeh Baghi is the holder of a PhD awarded to him by the Department of Virology, Parasitology and Immunology at Ghent University, Belgium. He completed his BSc and his MSc with honors and received national awards in his home country, Iran, for being the top student in the field of Microbiology. Currently he works as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Microbiology at Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran.

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