

Investigating the Distribution of Actinobacteria spp in Gastric Adenocarcinoma Patients with Helicobacter Pylori

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Abstract: **Background:** Adenocarcinoma is the most common type of stomach cancer that arises from the epithelial glands of the stomach. Most gastric adenocarcinomas are diagnosed in advanced stages and therefore the mortality rate in them is high. Stomach cancer is the second most common cause of cancer death worldwide, accounting for more than one million deaths each year. Infection with *H.pylori* is a major predisposing factor for gastric adenocarcinoma. Infection with this bacterium causes chronic and persistent stomach inflammation by inducing the expression of inflammatory cytokines that play an important role in stomach cancer. In addition to host factors, *H. pylori* pathogenic factors increase the risk of gastric cancer, especially *cagA*, which is encoded by the *cagA* gene. The purpose of this research is to investigate the role of Actinobacteria infection in gastric adenocarcinoma in patients with *Helicobacter pylori*. **Research method:** In this study, in the patient group, there were 24 (75.0%) men and 8 (25.0%) women, and in the control group, there were 10 (50.0%) men and 10 (0.0 50 percent) of women were examined. In order to investigate Actinobacteria and *Helicobacter pylori* infections, RT-PCR method was used. **Results:** The obtained results showed that 81.3% of patients were positive for *H.Pylori* (*Cag-A+*) and 18.3% were negative for *H.Pylori* (*Cag-A+*). Therefore, most of the patients were positive for *H. Pylori*. Also, sick people were examined for the level of Actinobacteria. The obtained results showed that 37.5% of sick people are positive for Actinobacteria. **Conclusion:** Since most patients (81.3%) are positive for *H. Pylori* (*Cag-A+*), this result shows that *H. Pylori* plays an important role in the occurrence of gastric adenocarcinoma. Also, 37.5% of the studied patients are also positive for Actinobacteria, which shows that this bacterium can also play an important role in the progression of the disease.

Keywords: gastric adenocarcinoma, *Helicobacter pylori*, Actinobacteria

1. Introduction

Gastric malignancy is one of the most important types of cancer and the most common fatal malignancy of the gastrointestinal tract, and despite a major decrease in the incidence of deaths caused by it in the last few decades, this disease is still the fourth most common cancer and the second most common cause of cancer death. remained in the world. Although stomach cancer is a global problem, nearly two-thirds of the cases of this cancer occur in developing countries (Gotoda, 2005). Despite recent advances in the diagnosis and treatment of gastric cancer, the long-term survival rate for patients with advanced gastric cancer is low because these patients often receive medical attention when they are in advanced stages of the disease (Gotoda et al., 2009) Therefore, there are no effective treatments for those suffering from this disease. Therefore, clarifying the molecular mechanisms of gastric carcinogenesis will be useful to increase the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of this disease. In many studies conducted on gastric cancer, it was shown that this cancer is a multi-gene disease and its occurrence has a complex multi-step process that includes disruption of the genetic order of proto-oncogenes and tumor suppressor genes, and recently has entered the field of miRNAs. miRNAs can act as a new type of oncogenes and tumor suppressor genes, and their positive or negative aberrant regulation and their targets are involved in various stages of cancers, including tumor growth, angiogenesis, apoptosis, and metastasis (Yasui et al., 2011). Stomach cancer is the second most common cancer in men and the

fourth in women in developing countries, but the death rate is second only to lung cancer, which can be argued because of the late diagnosis of this disease. Stomach cancer is diagnosed in less than 10% of cases in the early stages, and this late diagnosis may lead to the progression of the disease. Metastasis of lymphatic, abdominal or even distant organs, as well as reducing the survival time of patients with this disease (Tanizawa and Terashima, 2010). In order to determine the optimal treatment strategy, it is necessary to perform detailed work such as chemical endoscopy or virtual staining and echo-endoscopy (Gotoda, 2005). Stomach surgery and tumor removal is one of the common treatment methods of this disease. Although surgery is the standard treatment for stomach cancer, it has been seen that it leads to poor results, hence a clear understanding of gastric carcinogenesis and the identification of new molecular markers in order to Improving the management of gastric cancer is essential (Carneiro, 2012). Adenocarcinoma is the most common type of stomach cancer that arises from the epithelial glands of the stomach. According to Lauren's histological classification, adenocarcinoma is divided into two types, diffuse and intestinal, each of which has different epidemiological and diagnostic characteristics. Its intestinal type forms a pseudo-glandular structure and its diffuse form has a sieve-like nature. Intestinal form usually develops in older people from primary damage and spreads through blood vessels to the liver. Sporadic form of gastric adenocarcinoma occurs in any age group (Lerner, 2020). Most gastric adenocarcinomas are diagnosed in advanced stages and therefore the mortality rate in them is high. Its

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peripheral form is more closely related to environmental factors, and cancers of this type acquire a distinct pattern of genetic disorders. The diffuse form is more related to hereditary factors. In general, about 10% of stomach cancers occur in family groups and 1-3% are hereditary in nature. The most well-known familial syndrome of gastric cancer is hereditary diffuse gastric cancer (HDGC) (Oliveir et al., 2004). According to the estimate of the National Health Organization, the incidence of stomach cancer in Iran was 26.1 and 11.1 per 100, 000 people in men and women, respectively. It is also stated in the annual reports that in Iran, 22% of every 5, 000 deaths caused by cancer are related to stomach cancer, which is considered the second most common cancer (14%) and the fourth in women (7%) (Rugge et al., 2015). *Helicobacter pylori* is one of the successful pathogens that infects the epithelial cells of the stomach and has been classified as a first class carcinogen by the World Health Organization. In developed countries, *H. Pylori* infection is less than 50% of the adult population, and in developing countries, the rate of this infection is higher and covers nearly 80% of the adult population. This gram-negative bacillus can be colonized in the lower layers of the human stomach mucosa and survives in the stomach for a long time due to its high ability to adapt to the environment. *Helicobacter pylori* have several pathogenic factors such as urease, flagellum, BabA, VacA, CagA, HpaA, OipA, LPS, DupA, IceA, AlpA/AlpB, SabA, etc. It binds to the receptors of gastric epithelial cells and exerts its pathogenicity with other factors. Table No. 1-1 clearly shows the pathogenic factors of *Helicobacter pylori* from OipA, including BabA, VacA, CagA, and their relationship between diseases and cancer in different sources. *Helicobacter pylori* can cause diseases such as: duodenal ulcer, stomach ulcer, stomach cancer and lymphoma of lymphoid tissue along with gastric mucosa. Among the diseases caused by this bacterium, cancer is very important (Sugano , 2019).

2. Materials andMethods

Sample collection

In this case-control study, samples were collected along with a questionnaire on patients with gastric cancer, including (adenocarcinoma, lymphoid and non-lymphoid), following ethical rules. In this study, samples were taken from healthy and tumor cells of the stomach tissue of patients referred to

22 Bahman Hospital and Razavi Hospital in Mashhad and transferred to the laboratory of Shahin Far Medical School.

Inclusion criteria for patients included

- Patients with stomach cancer, including (adenocarcinoma, lymphoid and non-lymphoid)
- Appropriate concentration of DNA and RNA
- cDNA with suitable concentration to perform PCR

Study exclusion criteria

- Insufficient tissue volume in the paraffin block
- Defects in patients' files
- Presence of any other unreported malignancies in patients

Patients with immune system disorders

RT-PCR method

DNA extraction was performed using Biogen company kit. Then, DNA concentration and its purity were evaluated by reading DNA absorption with a nanodrop spectrophotometer. After confirming the concentration and quality of DNA, the severity of viral and bacterial infections and *Helicobacter pylori* was checked by Real-time PCR method. At the same time, the pathological examination was performed by a paletologist and the studied variables were determined in the patient group. In this method, RT-PCR was performed on all samples. The chemicals used in conventional PCR are shown in Table 1

Table 1: Chemicals used in PCR method

Applied volume	Chemicals
5 µl	Master mix 2x
0.5 µl	Primer 10pmol
10 nmol	DNA
maximum 10 µl	H ₂ O

The typical PCR plan is shown in table 2

Table 2: The typical PCR plan

45 cycles	15 min	95 °
	30 sec	95 °
	30 sec	58 °
	20 sec	72 °
	10 min	72 °

Primer

The desired primer sequence is also shown in table 3

Table 3: Primer sequence in RT-PCR method

Gene	Forward	Rivers
GAPDH	5'-ATGGGGAAGGTGAAGGTCG-3'	5'-GGGGTCATTGATGGCAACAATA-3'
H.Pylori (CAG)	5'-GTTGATAACGCTGTCGCTTC-3'	5'-GGGTTGTATGTAATTTTCCTAAA-3'
H.Pylori (VAG) s1/s2	5'-ATGGAAATACAACAAACACAC-3'	5'-CTGCTTGAATGCGCCAAAC-3'
H.Pylori (VAG) m1/m2	5'-CAATCTGTCCAATCAAGCGAG-3'	5'-GCGTCAAAAATAATTCCAAGG-3'

Statistical analysis of data

In the description of the data, appropriate statistical tables and indices such as the mean, etc. have been used, and in the

data analysis, the normality of the data has been investigated using the Shapiro-Wilk test. The software used in this

research is SPSS v.25 and the significance level of the tests is considered to be less than 5%.

3. Results and Discussion

Distribution of *H.pylori* (Cag-A+)

The results of the distribution of *H. pylori* (Cag-A+) in Figure 1 show that 81.3% of patients were positive for *H.pylori* (Cag-A+) and 18.8% were negative for *H.Pylori* (Cag-A+) as showed in figure 1 and table 4, this finding agreed with (Hanafiah et al., 2020) that found A total of 96.6% (n = 85) of the isolates were *cagPAI*-positive. Five genes in the *cagPAI* region (*cag1*, *cag5*, *cag6*, *cag8* and *cag21*) were detected in all isolates whereas *cag2* was detected in 34.1% (n = 29) and *cag14* in 51.7% (n = 44) of the isolates. Detection of other genes ranged from 69.4 to 98.8%. also agreed with (Khodadadi et al., 2020) that collected Thirty-four *H. pylori* gastric biopsies taken from Western Iranian patients that were diagnosed as gastritis, gastric ulcers, and adenocarcinoma were used that showed showed that 86.8% of the samples were *H. pylori*-positive. Moreover, the *cagA* gene prevalence was 51.50% in the samples. In addition, the adenocarcinoma outcome was significantly related to all selected genes. Likewise, some gastric diseases such as gastric ulcers, duodenal ulcer (DU), gastritis, lymphoid, and gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) were observed in adenocarcinoma cases. The comparison of *cagA* in East Asian countries and western countries showed that gastric cancer is more strongly associated with *H. pylori* strains carrying East Asian *cagA* in geographical regions where two different strains coexist (Wen et al., 2009). In this regard, the frequency of the *cagA* gene in Malaysia was reported to be higher than 94% (Souod et al., 2013). In addition, *cagA* prevalence in China and neighboring countries such as India was reported to be 93.2% and 96.2%, respectively (Aziz et al., 2014). Such a variety in the *cagA* gene frequency in different countries is due to differences in the infected population, geographic condition, and strains' genetic diversity. Kamogawa-Schifter et al.'s study (Kamogawa-Schifte et al., 2018) indicated that the prevalence of the *cagA* gene in people suffering from duodenal ulcers and gastric cancer was 78% and 86%, respectively. Similarly, the 65.50% frequency of *cagA* was found in peptic ulcer isolates in a study carried out in Turkey (Bahadori et al., 2017) Furthermore, *cagA* pervasiveness in Mexican patients was reported to be 57% in chronic gastritis, 58.3% in gastric cancer, and 61.4% in gastric ulcer (Roman-Roman et al., 2017).

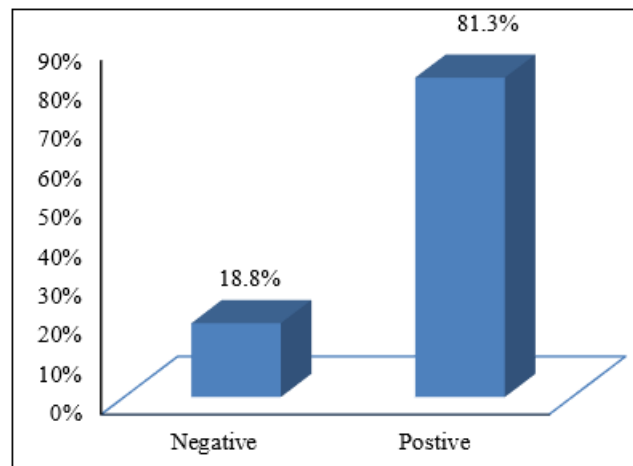


Figure1: Frequency distribution of *H.pylori* (Cag-A+)

Table 4: Distribution of *H.pylori* (Cag.A +)

<i>H.pylori</i> (Cag-A+)	n	%
negative	6	18.8%
positive	26	81.3%
total	32	100.0%

Distribution of Actinobacteria

The results of Actinobacteria distribution in figure 2 show that 37.5% of people were positive for Actinobacteria and 62.5% were negative for Actinobacteria. Recent evidence linking non-*Helicobacter* organisms with chronic gastritis includes studies in which the pH increases in response to treatment with histamine 2 (H2) receptor antagonists or proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) (Stockbruegger et al., 1985) A bacterial mixture consisting of *Acinetobacter* spp., *Pseudomonas* spp. and *Corynebacterium* spp. has been shown to stimulate gastrin and IL-8 (Ofori-Darko, et al., 2000) *A. lwoffii* not only colonizes the mouse stomach, but also induces hypergastrinemia, gastritis and increases gastric epithelial cell numbers, as observed with *H. pylori* (Zavros et al., 2002).

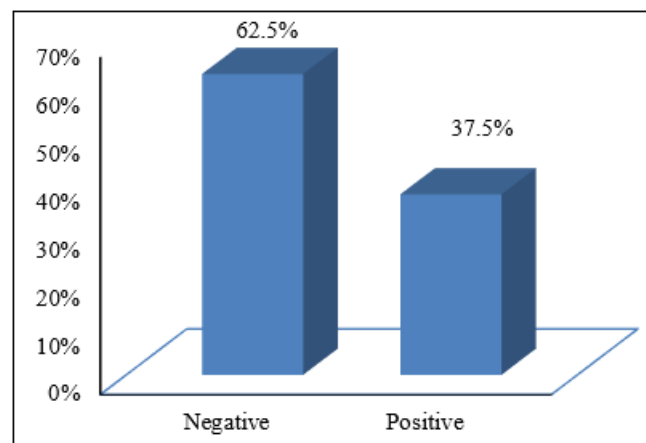


Figure2: Frequency distribution of Actinobacteria

Relationship between age of patients and Actinobacteria

The results of the relationship between patient age and Actinobacteria in figure 3 and table 5 showed that there is no significant difference (Student's test) between the average Actinobacteria of the two groups (P-Value=0.451). these findings were agreed with (Li et al., 2022) that studied potential association of the gut microbiota

composition, especially the abundance of *Actinobacteria*, as well as the differentiation of functional and resistance genes with age that found total of 11 phylum abundances in each group, of which only *Synergistetes* was significantly enriched in elderly subjects ($P=0.013$), but interestingly were not detected in young adults. The top 5 phyla were *Bacteroidetes*, *Firmicutes*, *Proteobacteria*, *Actinobacteria* and *Verrucomicrobia*. Compared with elderly subjects, only the relative abundance of *Firmicutes* and *Actinobacteria* in young adults seemed to be higher and the relative abundance of *Bacteroidetes*, *Proteobacteria*, and *Verrucomicrobia* appeared to be lower, but there statistical significance Jeffery et al. reported that the abundances of core microbiota such as *Bacteroides*, *Alistipes* and *Parabacteroides* were greater in elderly subjects, with the most diverse microbiota being *Coprococcus*, *Prevotella* and *Catenibacterium*, which were easily affected by diet [Perez-Cobas et al., 2003]

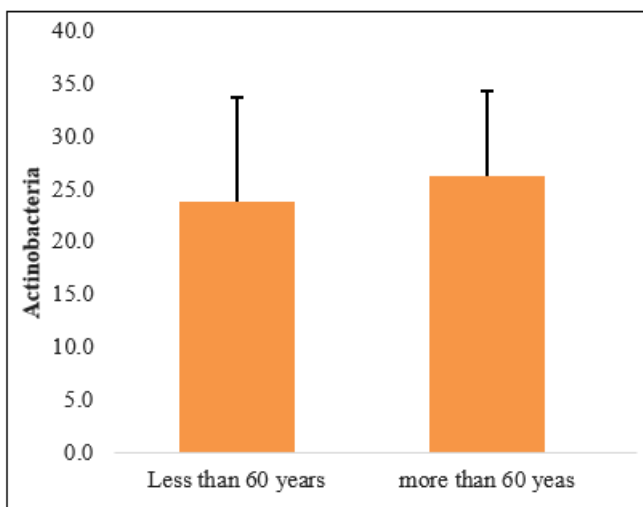


Figure3 Relationship of age with Actinobacteria

The relationship between gender of patients and Actinobacteria

As can be seen in table 5, there is no significant difference (Student's test) between the average Actinobacteria of the two groups ($P\text{-Value}=0.678$). Shin et al. (2019) looked at the connection between gut bacteria and women's and men's serum levels of estradiol and testosterone. Using 16s rRNA gene sequencing, the fecal microbiota of 57 men ($n = 31$) and women ($n = 26$) was evaluated. Participants were divided into three groups: Low, Medium, and High, according to the men's and women's serum testosterone and estradiol levels, respectively. There was a strong correlation between testosterone levels and the abundance of *Acinetobacter*, *Dorea*, *Ruminococcus*, and *Megamonas* in men. These findings give basic information useful for creating communication networks between human and microbial populations and show a correlation between sex steroid hormone levels and gut microbial diversity and composition.

Table 5: Relationship between gender and Actinobacteria

Gender	Mean	SD	min	max	Test statistics P-Value
Female	24.06	9.77	11.08	36.78	t=0.42 P-Value=0.678
Male	25.59	8.68	0.205	11.29	

Tumor stage Relationship with Actinobacteria

As can be seen in figure 4, there is a significant difference between the Actinobacteria average of the three groups ($P\text{-Value}=0.001^{**}$). Also, the result of pairwise comparisons using Tukey's method shows that there is a statistically significant difference between II-IV and IV-III ($P<0.05^*$).

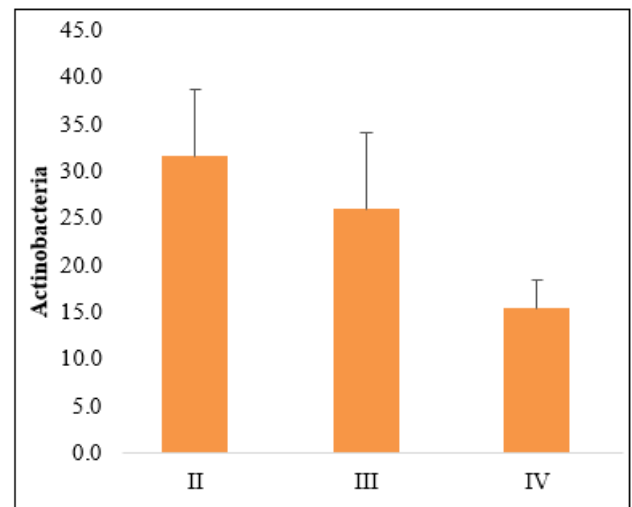


Figure4: Stage relationship with Actinobacteria

Reduced levels of *Corynebacterium*, *Lachnoanaerobaculum*, and *Halomonas* were recently found in lung tumor samples from patients with lung cancer (Najafi et al., 2021). On the other hand, a study conducted by Apopa and associates found that lung cancers had higher concentrations of Actinobacteria, Firmicutes, Cyanobacteria, Acidobacteria, and Chloroflexi. Furthermore, with relative abundances of 57% and 24%, respectively, the phyla *Bacteroidetes* and *Proteobacteria* predominated in lung cancer samples (Apopa et al., 2018). 89 patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) had lung tumor samples sequenced using 16S rRNA, which revealed that Actinobacteria, Proteobacteria, Firmicutes, and Bacteroidetes predominated in the tumors and surrounding tissue samples. However, at the phylum level, no notable variations were found. *Pseudomonas*, *Burkholderia*, and *Aquabacterium* were less prevalent in late-stage cancers than in early-stage tumors, whereas *Corynebacterium*, *Sphingomonas*, *Streptococcus*, *Neisseria*, *Halomonas*, *Kocuria*, *Parvimonas*, and *Rothia* were more prevalent (Kovaleva et al., 2020). According to Yu et al., non-malignant lung samples had a larger alpha diversity than malignant ones. Eighty percent of lung tissues that were not malignant had Proteobacteria, Firmicutes, Bacteroidetes, and Actinobacteria. The findings revealed that non-malignant lung tissue samples contained *Acinetobacter*, *Pseudomonas*, *Ralstonia*, and two unidentified genus-level groupings. Adenocarcinoma samples showed lower *Ralstonia* and higher *Thermus* than squamous cell carcinoma samples. *Thermus* levels were shown to be greater in stages IIIB and IV of lung cancer (Yu et al., 2016).

Relationship between H. pylori and Actinobacteria with Tumor grade

Figure 7 shows the relationship between Actinobacteria and tumor grade in patients with positive and negative *H. pylori*. The average of Actinobacteria in grade one patients with positive and negative *H. pylori* is 25.96 and 29.89 respectively, the average of Actinobacteria in grade two

patients with positive and negative *H. Pylori* is 22.23 and 34.17 respectively, and the average Actinobacteria in grade three patients with positive and negative *H. pylori* is equal to 18.81 and 0, respectively. and negative *H. pylori* is 22.23

and 34.17 respectively, and the average Actinobacteria in grade three patients with positive and negative *H. Pylori* is equal to 18.81 and 0, respectively

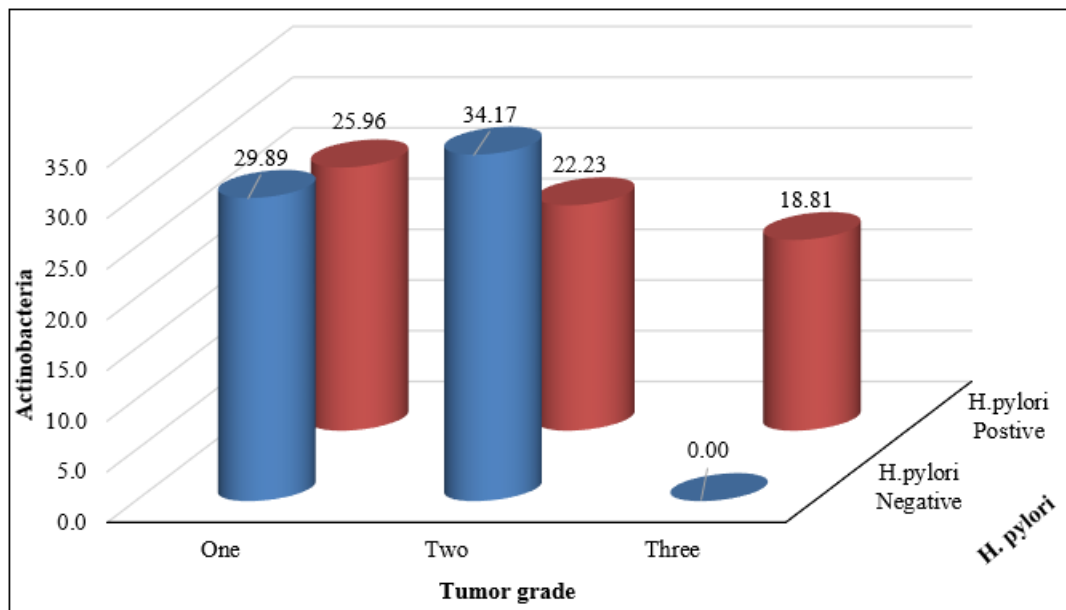


Figure 7: Relationship between *H. pylori* and Actinobacteria with Tumor grade

Infection with *H. pylori* is a major predisposing factor for gastric adenocarcinoma. Infection with this bacterium causes chronic and persistent stomach inflammation by inducing the expression of inflammatory cytokines that play an important role in stomach cancer. In addition to host factors, *H. pylori* pathogenic factors increase the risk of gastric cancer, especially *cagA*, which is encoded by the *cagA* gene. Different studies have shown that people who are infected with *Helicobacter* strains with *cagA* protein containing the EPIYA-D motif or a large number of EPIYA-C motifs, compared to people who are infected with *Helicobacter* strains lacking this protein, have a high risk of contracting stomach cancer (Keikha & Karbalaie, 2021). The pathogenic complexity of *Helicobacter pylori* is due to the fact that, on the one hand, by having a series of factors, it induces apoptosis, and on the other hand, it has factors that induce cell proliferation. In order to cause disease, the most important event is the initial binding to the receptors on the surface of the host cell (Olivares et al., 2005)

In terms of the gastric microbiota, the human stomach was formerly thought to be a sterile organ because of its high acidity (Espinoza et al., 2018). Nonetheless, *H. pylori* can live in the stomach's extremely acidic environment and colonize the human gastric mucosa (Schulz et al., 2015). Firmicutes, Bacteroidetes, Actinobacteria, Fusobacteria, and Proteobacteria are the main microbes in the healthy human stomach environment, according to the unique features of the gastric microbiota that have been discovered with the development of new methods for analyzing the microbial community (Guo et al., 2020; Guo et al., 2021). Because *H. pylori* dominates the stomach in people with the infection, non-*H. pylori* microbial abundances significantly decline (Das et al., 2017). Other symptoms of stomach microbiota dysbiosis have been discovered in addition to the alterations in microbial composition. In terms of microbial alpha

diversity, Gantuya et al. found that *H. pylori*-infected patients had significantly lower microbial diversity than those who were *H. pylori*-negative (Gantuya et al., 2019). *Helicobacter* abundance and the diversity of the stomach microbiome were found to be negatively correlated in another investigation (Das et al., 2017). *H. pylori* infection causes changes in the organization of the microbial community (beta diversity) in addition to microbial alpha diversity. A population-based investigation found that the beta diversity clearly distinguished between the *H. pylori* positive and negative groups (Llorca et al., 2017). Additionally, research on the ecological interactions of bacteria in the stomach environment revealed changes in the relationships between *H. pylori* and other microbes. In particular, network analyses revealed that *Helicobacter* had adverse interactions with other gastric microbiome microorganisms, according to an Indian study employing 16S rRNA gene sequencing (Das et al., 2017); Similar results were observed by another Chinese investigation (Guo et al., 2020). In terms of the quantity of interactions, Coker et al. discovered that an *H. pylori* infection lowers the quantity of interactions with the gastric microbiota (Coker et al., 2017).

4. Conclusion

Since most patients (81.3%) are positive for *H. pylori* (Cag-A +), this result indicates that *H. pylori* has an important role in the development of gastric adenocarcinoma. Also, 37.5% of the studied patients are positive for Actinobacteria, which showed that this bacterium can also play an important role in disease progression.

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