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Impact Of Helicobacter Pylori In Hyperemesis Gravidarum Associated With Rosacea.

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Abstract

Background: Helicobacter pylori (H.pylori) infection is common in Egypt. It is implicated in causation of both hyperemesis gravidarum (H.G) and rosacea (chronic skin disease). It is diagnosed by positive serum IgG antibodies.Objective: is to detect any possible relationship between infection with H.pylori and (H.G) when associated with rosacea. Design: prospective controlled study. Setting: Ob. & Gyn., dermatology and clinical pathology departments, Mansoura Faculty of Medicine, Egypt.Subjects : 266 non obese women, singleton pregnancy, divided into three groups; group (I): H.G without rosacea (n=108), group (II): H.G with rosacea (n=46) and group (III), 112 pregnant women without H.G or rosacea. Results: No statistically significant difference (P>0.05) regarding age, gravidity, gestational age and Body mass index between three groups. Regarding the positive cases, from the qualitative and the quantitative point of view, IgG antibodies (group II versus III) showed extremely significance (P = 0.001), while group I versus II and I versus III showed significant difference (P = 0.019 & 0.021) respectively. Erythematous lesions of rosacea showed the most prevalent and significant skin lesion compared to papules and pustules (P = 0.14 and 0.15) respectively. Conclusions and recommendations: H.pylori infection is suggested to be one of the important factors in the pathogenesis of (H.G). When rosacea is associated with (H.G), the obstetrician should expect that H.pylori is often the culprit responsible for the pathogenesis of both. We recommended more studies to clarify the different non teratogenic drugs which can be used for eradication of H.pylori during the period of organogenesis. Hence a specific and a causative treatment of H.G. will be elicited.

Key words: Helicobatcer pylori, hyperemesis gravidarum and rosacea.

Introduction:

Hyperemesis gravidarum (H.G) is the most severe manifestation of the spectrum of nausea and vomiting of pregnancy, may complicate from 0.3 to 2% of all pregnancies $^{[1,2,3]}$. In extreme cases, dehydration, electrolyte imbalance, and acid base disturbances may lead to renal and hepatic injury^[4,5]. On the other hand, patients who manifest continuous weight loss and electrolyte disturbances may be at risk for decreased neonatal birth weight, growth restriction and fetal anomalies^[6,7,8] H.pylori organism is a spiral-**shaped gram negative rods found on** gastric mucosa particularly the antrum^[9,10]. It affects more than half of the population $^{[11,12]}$ is common in Egypt and acquistion of infection with this organism may cause H.G $^{[14,15,16]}$.

Rosacea is a chronic inflammatory skin disorder which usually affects young to middle aged individuals more commonly in women in the childbearing period in the flush area of the face, mainly the nose. It is characterized by, papules, pustules and telengiectases ^[17,18,19,20] On the other hand, the review of literature showed controversy regarding the relationship between H.pylori and rosacea. Many reaserches supported that rosacea may be caused by this microorganism^[21,18,22,23,24], others considered this relationship as a myth.^[25,26].

The development of H.pylori-specific fluorescent serum antibody tests allows economic screening for H.pylori infection. Due to this

Aim of study:

The aim of the study was to:

detect any possible relationship between infection with H.pylori and hyperemesis gravidarum when associated with rosacea..

Subjects and Methods

Study Design:-

prospective controlled study

Setting:-

Ob. & Gyn., dermatology and clinical pathology departments, Mansoura Faculty of Medicine.

Subjects:

During the period from May 2010 to October 2013, two hundred and sixty six

pregnant women (singleton prgnancy), non obese were recruited in this prospective controlled study from Ob. & Gyn. and Dermatology departments, Mansoura University Hospital. They were divided into three groups: group (I): Hyperemesis gravidarum without rosacea (n = 108), group (II): Hyperemesis gravidarum with rosacea (n = 46) and group (III): The control group comprising 112 pregnant women without hyperemesis and without rosacea.

The inclusion criteria for the gravidae with hyperemesis gravidarum were occurence of pernicious vomiting (more than three times/day), ketone in urine and exclusion of other diseases that may cause vomiting such as hyperthyrodism, hyperparathyroidism. renal and liver dysfunction, cholecystitis, and appendicitis. So the diagnostic work up started with confirmation of a single viable intrauterine pregnancy. excluding trophoblastic neoplasia. Then electrolytes, liver, thyroid, renal function tests were assayed and also urinelysis and complete blood picture were done

Rosacea patients were selected from cases of hyperemesis gravidarum associated with redness, oedema, papules and/or pustules affecting the perioral or the butterfly area after referral to the dermatology department, because rosacea should be distinguished from many skin lesions like choloasma gravidarum, butterfly rash of systemic lupus erythematosus and from seborrhoeic dermatitis ^[22.29]Then the **Results:** different types of lesions (erythema, papules and/or pustules) were graded separately.

The controls were recruited from the antenatal care outpatient clinic, considering that the inclusion criteria were the same like the study groups, except there was no hyperemesis gravidarum. Serum samples were obtained from all women and were kept frozen at -20oC until assayed in the clinical pathology department, Mansoura Faculty of Medicine. H.pylori specific IgG antibodies were detected with a specific enzyme-linked immuno-sorbent assay (ELISA) Kit (United Biotech Inc.), according the manufacturer's to instructions^[30]

Value higher than 40 Eu/ml was considered positive, less than 30 was negative, while 30-40 was equivocal. Optical density (O.D) was read at 450 nm with a microplate reader and the IgG values were obtained and expressed as units/ml (U/ml). Sample Eu/ml = (O.D of test sample / O.D of calibrator X Eu/ml of calibrator).

Data analysis:

Statistical analysis was done by using SPSS (statistical package for social science. The qualitative data were presented in the form of number and percentage. Chi-square test, F test (one way ANOVA) and Student "t" test were used. The test is significant when (P<0.05, highly significant (P<0.01) and extremely significant (P<0.001) (Park, 1997).

Group Criteria	Group I n = 108	Group II n = 46	Group III n = 112	test of significance
- Age				
mean + SD (years)	25.3 + 2.3	25.1 + 2.6	25.1 + 2.8	P = 0.8 (NS)
- Gravidity:				
Prim. No (%)	95 (87.9%)	38 (82.6%)	104 (92.8%)	P = 0.15
Multi No. (%)	13 (12.1%)	8 (17.4%)	8 (7.2%)	(NS)
- Gestational age				
(weeks)	8.3 + 1.4	8.4 + 1.2	8.3 + 1.2	P = 0.72 (NS)
- BMI	25.4 + 1.5	25.2 + 1.3	25.2 + 1.3	P = 0.51 (NS)

Table	(1):	The	clinical	criteria	of the	studied	groups.
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- Chi-square test was used

- NS = Non significant P > 0.05

- BMI = body mass index = weight Kgm / height in m2

Group Group I		oup I	Group II		Group III		Test of significance	
IgG	No	%	No	%	No	%	Total positive	Positive
a) Total positive	86	79.6	44	95.6	74	66.1	P1= 0.019*	P1=0.021*
- Positive >40 Eu/ml	80	74.1	40	93	42	37.5	P2=0.021*	P2=0.011*
- Equivacal positive (30-40)	6	5.5	4	8.6	32	29.6	P3=0.001***	P3=0.001***
b) Negaive <30	20	18.4	2	4.4	38	33.9		
Total	108	100	46	100	112	100		

Table (2): The levels of IgG antibodies of H.pylori in the sera of the studied groups

- Chi-square test was used

* P1 = group I versus group II

* P2 = group I versus group III | (tested for both total positive and positive

* P3 = group II versus group III | cases versus negative cases)

- * = Significant at P < 0.05 - ** = Highly significant at P < 0.01

- *** = Extremely significant at P < 0.001

- Total positive = positive + equivocal.

Table (3): The level of IgG antibodies of H.pylori (Eu/ml) in sera of the positive cases among the studied group

IgG	Level of IgG among the positive cases				
Groups	Mean + SD	Range			
Group I No. (80)	65.3 + 20.6	41 - 80			
Group II No. (40)	85.3 + 21.6	46 - 100.3			
Group III No. (42)	60.5 + 19.7	40 - 78.7			

- Test of significance (student t test)

* Group I versus group II (P1 = 0.001) = extremely significant

* Group I versus group III (P2 = 0.093) = significant

* Group II versus group III (P3 = 0.001) = extremely significant

Table (4):	The relation	between the skin	lesion of rosacea	and the level	of IgG of H.pylori
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IgG	Erythema	Papules	Pustules
	(n=30)	(n = 10)	(n = 6)
+ ve	29 (96.6%)	7 (70%)	4 (66.7%)
- ve	1 (3.4%)	3 (30%)	2 (33.3%)

- Chi-square test was used

- Erythema versus papules P1 = 0.014* significant

- Erythema versus pustules $P2 = 0.015^*$ significant

- Papules versus pustules P3 = 0.88 non-significant

* Significance at P < 0.05

Discussion:

In this study (Table 1), the selection criteria have included, singleton pregnancy, BMI should be within normal range (mean for the three groups was 25.26) as obesity during the first half of pregnancy is diagnosed if BMI exceeds 29.0 according to ^[31,32]. Also there was statistically significant no difference regarding gravidity, age, gestational age between the different groups. So we excluded risk factors associated with (H.G) like increased body weight^[33,34].

multiple pregnancy, trophoblastic disease, $[^{35,34}]$. Also, the mean age in the three groups was 25.16 years, as the advanced maternal age is associated with decreased risk for (H.G⁾[^{33,2}].

In table (2) , we noticed that, the highest prevalence of H.pylori was among cases of H.G associated with rosacea group II [total positive (positive cases + Equivocal) = 95.6%, followed by H.G without rosacea 79.6%, but in the conrol group, the prevalence was 66.1%]. On the

other hand, there was extremely significant difference between group II and the control (group III), P = 0.001. Also there was significant difference between group II and group I (hyperemesis without rosacea), P =0.019. Regarding the quantitative level of IgG, table (3), showed that the highest titre was among group II, and there was statistically significant differences between this group and group I and III. These results came partially hand in hand with that of 14 who reported that the prevalence of H.pvlori infection was 90.5% in the patients with H.G and 46.5% in controls. Also from table (2), we noted that the prevalence of H.pylori in group III was 66.1% which is higher than the reported prevalence in the general population 50% - 55% [37,38]. We can explain this by the changes in both humoral and cell-mediated immunity occuring during pregnancy. These changes may expose the pregnant women to an increased risk of infection with this microorganism^[39,8].

The association of H.pylori with H.G can be explained by the elevated serum steroid hormone and human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG), which leads to a shift in pH, which hypothetically leads to a change in the gastrointestinal pH. Also these pregnancy-induced hormonal changes are associated with concurrent gastrointestinal dysmotility. Hence the manifestations of subclinical H.pylori infection occurs. These explainations were more or less like that reported by ^{[40,41.4}; ^{42,5]} As a result of this infection, both systemic and local immune response are elicited in the host. The systemic response occurs as elevated serum specific antibody of IgG, IgA and IgM. Local response occurs as elevated IgA in gastric juice ^[43,29]. Serum IgG has the higher sensitivity and specifity and is superior to either IgM and IgA^[44,45,46]. From these data, Wu and his 38,28have defined H.pylori infection as positive serum а immunoglobulin G on doing an immunochromatographic assay.

IgG antibodies serological test was preferred for diagnosis of H.pylori in our study, due to its advantages over the biopsy tests (gastric or skin) in that it is non invasive, simple, sensitive, specific, rapid and of low cost ^[47,48]. So we did not perform histologic studies by gastroscopy or biopsy, considering the high reliability of the IgG assay and because of ethical reasons ^[49,50]

On the other hand many factors have been considered as a cause of rosacea: infective, alimentary, chemical, thermal, immunologic and endocrinologic, although none of them have been proven to be the actual cause, but mostly rosacea has often been linked with gastrointestinal disturbance ^[51.20]. This explains the highest prevalence of H.pylori when rosacea is associated with (H.G) as in our study. Also H.pylori can stimulate the synthesis of gastrin (a known flush inducer) and serum gastrin level is usually elevated in H.pylori infected population^[18,16]

In the current study, we noted that the erythematous type of rosacea is more prevalent than the other two types (papular and pustular) table (4) . These results were in cordance with that reported by ^[52,53] who conlcuded that the role of H.pylori is more probable in erythrotic rosacea than in its papulopustular and granulomatous stages. Also ^[54,55] reported similar results and added that erythema in particular responded better than other types of lesions to eradication of H.pylori. On the other hand by the standards of evidence-based medicine, studies have been often of low quality. The best evidence usually is not indicative of a role for H.pylori the extradigestive in manifestations^[56,57]

Lastly and not the least, as the transmission of maternal infection with H.pylori to the newborn is high ^[49,35]. So, it might be reasonable to treat hyperemesis gravidarum with a selected therapy which can eradicate H.pylori and at the same time should be safe during the period of

organogenesis^[58]. Apart from the therapeutic use of amoxicillin which is cateogry B according to food and drug [59] adminstration classification the administration of effective therapies against H.pylori - like: amoxocillin combined with omprazole, pantoprazole, clarithromycin and metronidazole till now are promising and are still a matter of discussion during organogenesis period ^[60,61].On the other hand some reports have noted marked rapid of hyperemesis improvement severe gravidarum, on oral erythromycin therapy for other non related conditions [62,61]. Also centers for disease control and the prevention are recommending the use of metronidazole in all the three trimesters of pregnancy^[60,61]

Conclussion and Recommendation

Chronic infection of H.pylori is suggested to be one of the important factors in the pathogenesis of hyperemesis gravidarum, even though it may not be the single cause of this disorder.

- When rosacea is associated with hyperemesis gravidarum, the obstetrician should expect that H.pylori is often the culprit responsible for the pathogenesis of both.

- More studies are recommended to clarify the different non teratogenic drugs which can be used for eradication of H.pylori during the period of organogenesis. Hence a specific and a causative treatment of hyperemesis gravidarum, well be elicited and at the same time, the transmission of this microorganism from the mother to the fetus is prevented.

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