

World Digestive Health Day - May 29 2006



Dear Members,

May 29, 2006 is World Digestive Health Day and the focus this year is *Helicobacter pylori* infection, the most important risk factor for non-cardia gastric cancer. On this occasion, we urge the medical community to improve their screening and treatment programs and to educate their staff and colleagues.

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In order to help doctors worldwide detect and treat *Helicobacter pylori*, a special WGO-OMGE team of experts is currently writing a Guideline on *Helicobacter pylori* Infection which will be available free on the [website](#) in five languages in June 2006.

On behalf of the entire WGO-OMGE Executive, I urge everyone to take a moment out of their busy practices on May 29 to honour the scientific work of Marshall and Warren by focussing on the education and screening of this important infection.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry Cohen".

Henry Cohen
Secretary-General, WGO-OMGE

■ ***Helicobacter pylori* in developing countries**

In developing countries, *Helicobacter pylori* is a public health issue. The high prevalence of the infection requires the development of public health interventions. Vaccination with an effective vaccine is probably the only strategy that will make a decisive difference in prevalence and incidence worldwide. The World Gastroenterology Organisation plans to address these issues with the release of a guideline on *Helicobacter pylori* with specific relevance to developing countries.



■ Highlights of the *Helicobacter pylori* Infection Guideline:

- Quadruple vs triple therapy
- Patient Compliance
- Differences in 14, 10, 7 day therapy

***Helicobacter pylori* infection rates**

Adults in Developed Countries: 58 %

Adults in Developing Countries: 74%

Parkin DM, 2006

***Helicobacter Pylori* infects more than half the world's population.**

The complete guideline will be available online in June 2006 at:

» www.worldgastroenterology.org

■ International Digestive Cancer Alliance (IDCA) combats *Helicobacter pylori* in China

Gastric cancer is the second most frequent cause of a death from cancer worldwide. A protective effect of *Helicobacter pylori* eradication on gastric cancer is suggested but statistically not established. Therefore, the IDCA is in the process of initiating a large population-based intervention trial to prevent gastric cancer by eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* in the high-risk population of Linqu County, a rural area of Shandong Province, PR China. In this country, a high prevalence of *Helicobacter pylori* (70% among adults) and an exceptionally high prevalence of gastric cancer have been observed. We expect this new study to finally provide a definitive answer to the question of whether *Helicobacter pylori* eradication prevents gastric cancer. This new study will be a collaborative investigation between the Beijing University School of Oncology and the International Digestive Cancer Alliance.



Linqu County in China

This e-newsletter promotes the activities of the WGO-OMGE.

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