Non-invasive detection of Helicobacter pylori virulence genotypes ureA, vacA, cagA and babA٢ among asymptomatic Egyptian infants

Abstract

Helicobacter pylori is a microaerophilic spiral-shaped Gram-negative bacterium that infects approximately ٥٠% of the world's population, particularly in developing countries. Infections early in childhood are postulated to induce a low-grade chronic inflammatory condition. This study aimed to determine the prevalence of *H. pylori* virulence genotypes *ureA, vacA, cagA* and *babA*٢ among asymptomatic Egyptian infants and to define the possible infection associated risk factors. Non-invasive test using polymerase chain reaction on stool samples was used for detection of these genes. Prevalence of *H. pylori* among those infants was ٨٨.٩%. Prevalence of *ureA,vacA, cagA* and *babA*٢ was ٨٦.٩, ٩٨.٨, ٧١.٤ and ٦٧.٨%, respectively. Risk factors significantly associated with infection included bed sharing, premastication of food and nursery attendance (P<٠.٠٠٥). The prevalence of *H. pylori* infection among Egyptian infants is very high with high prevalence of virulence genotypes, so follow up of these infants and repetition of this study on a wider scale is recommended.