



Title Dyspepsia
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Aim

To systematically review the evidence on the:

- effectiveness of *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*) eradication
- effectiveness of proton pump inhibitors (ppi) in treating different forms of dyspepsia
- effectiveness of screening for *H. pylori* in identifying stomach cancer
- cost-effectiveness of testing for and treating dyspepsia

Conclusions and results

- eradication of *H. pylori* in case of ulcers only (two antibiotics + ppi the most effective)
- ppi for GERD and NSAID-related ulcers only, not for functional dyspepsia
- screening of *H. pylori* is not motivated for stomach cancer prevention
- test-and-scope more cost-effective than test-and-treat

Recommendations

Not addressed

Methods

A comprehensive search strategy for published studies in English (for functional dyspepsia also German, Spanish, Swedish, Norwegian, and Italian) included various electronic (mainly MEDLINE and EmBase) and bibliographic sources, originally for the period 1966 through 1998, but later extended through February 1999.

Further research/reviews required

Additional research is needed to determine:

- the importance of genetic, life-style, and environmental factors, since not everyone infected with *H. pylori* develops ulcers (prospective epidemiological studies needed)
- the mechanisms in the mucosa of the stomach that protect from, or increase the risk for, development of ulcers
- if certain forms of *H. pylori* are more virulent than others, and if can they be diagnosed by simple methods.