

Helicobacter Pylori-Beyond the Gut

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A number of articles involving Helicobacter Pylori can be seen in various worldwide journals but majority of the time, only the gastrointestinal tract is talked about. The role of Helicobacter pylori in causing gastritis and gastrointestinal malignancy is well known. But, besides the gastrointestinal tract, it can also cause diseases of the eye, brain, heart, blood, lungs and the reproductive system. An adequate knowledge/information needs to be shared among the medical professionals of various specialities regarding the organism.

This bacterium can be associated with various conditions like glaucoma, central serous chorioretinopathy, ocular adnexal mucosa associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma, anterior uveitis, blepharitis,^[1] Sjogren syndrome, anterior ischemic optic neuropathy, cerebrovascular diseases, migraine, Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, peripheral neuropathies^[2] and dry eye^[3] along with serious oral cavity diseases like periodontal disease, recurrent aphthous stomatitis, squamous cell carcinoma, burning, halitosis,^[4] leukoplakia and lichen planus.^[5] Idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, iron deficiency anemia, vitamin B12 deficiency, diabetes mellitus, stroke, lung cancer, preeclampsia, metabolic syndrome, raised

triglyceride and blood pressure levels are also noteworthy associations with this bacterium.^[6]

Hence, a complete systemic examination is recommended in any case having tests positive for Helicobacter Pylori.

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