Reviewer's report

Title: Assessment of Helicobacter pylori eradication in patients on NSAID treatment

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Reviewer: Atsushi Takagi

Reviewer's report:

Authors reported a post-hoc analysis of a randomized, double blind, placebo controlled H. pylori eradication trial in patients with NSAID usage, and concluded that histological examination provided the best sensitivity and specificity for evaluating success of H. pylori eradication and a percentage change of H. pylori IgG-antibody titer had better sensitivity and specificity than an absolute titer change.

This report includes important issues, but there are some problems to be dissolved.

This clinical trial was studied between 2000 and 2002. Currently, the determination of eradication by the urea breath test or H. pylori stool antigen test are recommended (Gut 2012;61:646-664). As authors refer, the PPI usage may result in false negative result. However, the comparison of histology with UBT and the stool test is necessary, if authors conclude histology is superior methods to diagnose eradication of H. pylori infection. Histology leads controversial results (Gut 2012;61:646-664).

A percent change of H. pylori IgG-antibody titer seem to be not sensitive or specific. EIA may be recommended in patients treated with PPI.

minor point

This study is a post-hoc analysis, however, treatment regimens must be described in Methods section.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.