Chinese literature associated with diagnosis of Helicobacter pylori

Yi Wan, Yong-Yong Xu, Jhan-Hui Jiang, Fan-Shu Kong, Fu-Bo Xue, Yu-Xiang Bai, Bo-Rong Pan, Jun Ren, Dai-Ming Fan

Yi Wan, Yong-Yong Xu, Jhan-Hui Jiang, Fan-Shu Kong, Fu-Bo Xue, Yu-Xiang Bai, Bo-Rong Pan, Jun Ren, Dai-Ming Fan, Department of Health Statistics, Fourth Military Medical University, Xi’an 710032, Shaanxi Province, China

Fan-Shu Kong, Department of Postgraduate, Fourth Military Medical University, Xi’an 710032, Shaanxi Province, China

Bo-Rong Pan, Jun Ren, Department of Oncology of Xijing Hospital, Fourth Military Medical University, Xi’an 710032, Shaanxi Province, China

Dai-Ming Fan, Department of Gastroenterology of Xijing Hospital, Fourth Military Medical University, Xi’an 710032, Shaanxi Province, China

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Correspondence to: Dai-Ming Fan, Department of Gastroenterology of Xijing Hospital, Fourth Military Medical University, Xi’an 710032, Shaanxi Province, China. fandaim@fmmu.edu.cn

Telephone: +86-29-3375221 Fax: +86-29-2539041

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Abstract

AIM: To synthetically analyze and probe into the diagnosis of H pylori infection, we followed the principles of evidence-based medicine.

METHODS: A total of 22 papers of prevalence survey and case-control studies were selected for studying about diadynamic methods. Using meta-analysis, we analyzed the different diadynamic methods of H pylori in China.

RESULTS: Through meta-analysis, among the five diadynamic methods, the accuracy of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was the highest (98.47%) and PCR was the most sensitive method (Sp: 99.03%).

CONCLUSION: Among the five diadynamic methods, the accuracy of PCR is the highest and PCR is the most sensitive method to diagnose the infection of H pylori.

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INTRODUCTION

Since Helicobacter pylori (H pylori) was first isolated in 1982, the association of H pylori and related diseases has become the hot spot of gastroenterological studies. The distribution of H pylori infection is worldwide, and the prevalence rate of H pylori among populations is very high. With the deepening of H pylori researches, studies about H pylori, which aimed at effectively controlling the infection, were of great significance in preventing and curing the chronic stomach troubles. Because of the independence of each study and limit to the region and sample source, a great majority of studies did not have enough evidence and totally unanimous conclusion, which influenced the reliability of the conclusion. However, meta-analysis method could appraise and analyze synthetically the results of study with the same research purpose[10], thus improving the efficiency of statistics, solving the problem with inconsistent results of studies, and making the conclusion of study more reliable. Therefore, we used meta-analysis to analyze synthetically the results of studies associated with H pylori diagnosis so as to express them more accurately.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Literature selection and data

A Chinese biology and medicine database (CBM) search of non-review articles since 1995 was performed with the MeSH headings “Helicobacter pylori”, “diagnosis”, “polymejer chain reaction”, “enzyme-linked immunosordent assay” and “urea enzymes test”.

Standard of selection The research objects were the population who could possibly suffer from H pylori, and the results of study had intact statistics. H pylori-positive result judgment H pylori cultivation was positive or one or two of the followings were positive: H pylori morphology (smear, histology or immunohistochemistry), urea enzyme test (RUT, 13C or 14C-urea breath test), PCR detection, serologic test (ELISA or immunoblotting test, etc.).

Standard of rejection The sample size was too small for statistical study, children less than one year old who possibly carried mother’s antibody, studies without definite detection of H pylori or strict quality control.

Study on diadynamic methods of H pylori The literature study result were classified as follows: Twenty-two reports consisted of: [2-23] appraised synthetically according to 5 commonly used clinical diagnostic methods, the evaluation targets included sensitivity (Se), specificity (Sp) and accuracy (π). Bibliographic retrieval results of 13C-urea breath test, 14C-urea breath test, ELISA, RUT and PCR are shown in Tables 1-5.

Table 1 Related literature of 13C-urea breath test

| Study No. (i) | H pylori positive | H pylori negative | Se (%) | Sp (%) | π (%) | PV. (%) | PV. (%) |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|--------|--------|-------|---------|---------|
| a            | c                | b                | d      |
| 1            | 36               | 0                | 0      | 24     | 100   | 98.50   | 99.40   | 100     | 100     |
| 2            | 148              | 5                | 0      | 165    | 96.70 | 100     | 98.41   | 97.06   | 100     |
| 3            | 13               | 0                | 1      | 23     | 100   | 95.83   | 97.41   | 100     | 92.86   |
| 4            | 39               | 3                | 0      | 10     | 92.86 | 100     | 94.23   | 76.92   | 100     |
| 5            | 42               | 0                | 0      | 10     | 100   | 96.97   | 99.42   | 100     | 100     |
| 6            | 52               | 2                | 3      | 13     | 96.30 | 81.25   | 92.86   | 94.55   | 86.67   |
| 7            | 47               | 1                | 0      | 32     | 97.92 | 100     | 98.75   | 97.14   | 100     |
| 8            | 147              | 3                | 0      | 3      | 98    | 90.70   | 97.86   | 96.10   | 95.30   |
| 9            | 74               | 3                | 0      | 49     | 96    | 100     | 97.56   | 94.23   | 100     |
**Methods**

In the statistical analysis of data, Meta-analysis method with a fixed effect model and a random effect model was used to reach an integrated conclusion\(^{24-26}\).

**RESULTS**

Among the five diadynamic methods, the accuracy of PCR was the highest and PCR was the most sensitive method, specificity of \(^{13}\)C-urea breath test was the highest, the sensitivity and accuracy of RUT were the lowest, specificity of ELISA was the lowest (Table 6).

| Diadynamic methods | Se (%) | Sp (%) | π (%) |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| \(^{13}\)C-urea breath test | 99.34 | 95.09 | 97.76 |
| \(^{14}\)C-urea breath test | 97.56 | 94.96 | 96.40 |
| ELISA | 93.96 | 81.78 | 90.09 |
| PCR | 98.25 | 99.03 | 98.47 |
| RUT | 95.58 | 71.19 | 87.02 |
DISCUSSION

This study used bibliographic retrieval to collect the relevant materials of *H pylori* infection, and meta-analysis, including combination of statistics in many studies by weight and equalized test, to analyze the diagnosis of *H pylori* infection.

The five diadynamic methods of *H pylori* infection all had a high sensitivity, specificity and accuracy, among which PCR was most sensitive and accurate. 1C-urea breath test was the most specific. As an ideal diadynamic method, it should have the following advantages: a high sensitivity and specificity, minimal incursions into or no damage to patients, simple and convenient in manipulation, less sophisticated technique or equipment, low cost and easy acceptance by patients. However, in fact, it is difficult for one diadynamic method to possess all these qualities. Above all, among the five diadynamic methods of *H pylori* infection, ELISA is the most convenient, which has the lowest cost and damage, therefore, serological positivity can merely explain the situation of whether patients have been infected or being infected. 1C-urea breath test has no harm, and can provide the whole infection information of stomach, which is relatively ideal, but it is difficult to popularize for the need of equipments and high expense. Although 14C-urea breath test can be done by well-equipped hospital and has lower cost than 13C-urea breath test, it has some radioactivity risk. RUT belongs to indirect test, whose intensity is determined by bacterial density of biopsy specimen. PCR is more sensitive than other methods. PCR can also detect *H pylori*, which cannot be detected by other methods, and at present it has been widely used in detection of various kinds of clinical specimens. So which diadynamic methods would be adopted in clinical detection must be determined according to the specific situation and different requirements.

*H pylori* infection is common and study of *H pylori* infection involves a wide extent. A large number of researches and works on this aspect have been done in China, and have achieved a great progress, although some problems where found in these studies such as flaw in experimental design, scattered data, deficiency of objective and reliable conclusion. Therefore, many aspects of *H pylori* infection are still to be studied to obtain accurate and consummate results.

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