Helicobacter pylori from Gastric Cancer and Duodenal Ulcer Show Same Phylogeographic Origin in the Andean Region in Colombia

Seiji Shiota¹, Rumiko Suzuki¹, Yuichi Matsuo¹, Muhammad Miftahussurur¹, Trang Thu Huyen Tran¹, Tran Thanh Binh¹, Yoshio Yamaoka¹,²*

¹Department of Environmental and Preventive Medicine, Oita University Faculty of Medicine, Yufu, Japan, ²Department of Medicine-Gastroenterology, Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, United States of America

Abstract

Background: A recent report has shown that the phylogenetic origin of Helicobacter pylori based on multi-locus sequence typing (MLST) was significantly associated with the severity of gastritis in Colombia. However, the potential relationship between phylogenetic origin and clinical outcomes was not examined in that study. If the phylogenetic origin rather than virulence factors were truly associated with clinical outcomes, identifying a population at high risk for gastric cancer in Colombia would be relatively straightforward. In this study, we examined the phylogenetic origins of strains from gastric cancer and duodenal ulcer patients living in Bogota, Colombia.

Methods: We included 35 gastric cancer patients and 31 duodenal ulcer patients, which are considered the variant outcomes. The genotypes of cagA and vacA were determined by polymerase chain reaction. The genealogy of these Colombian strains was analyzed by MLST. Bacterial population structure was analyzed using STRUCTURE software.

Results: H. pylori strains from gastric cancer and duodenal ulcer patients were scattered in the phylogenetic tree; thus, we did not detect any difference in phylogenetic distribution between gastric cancer and duodenal ulcer strains in the hpEurope group in Colombia. Sixty-six strains, with one exception, were classified as hpEurope irrespective of the cagA and vacA genotypes, and type of disease. STRUCTURE analysis revealed that Colombian hpEurope strains have a phylogenetic connection to Spanish strains.

Conclusions: Our study showed that a phylogeographic origin determined by MLST was insufficient for distinguishing between gastric cancer and duodenal ulcer risk among hpEurope strains in the Andean region in Colombia. Our analysis also suggests that hpEurope strains in Colombia were primarily introduced by Spanish immigrants.

Introduction

Helicobacter pylori is a spiral Gram-negative bacterium that infects more than half of the world’s population [1]. The transmission mechanism of H. pylori has not been fully clarified, but human-to-human spread via the oral-oral or fecal-oral routes is thought to be the most plausible [2]. H. pylori infection is now accepted to be linked to severe gastritis-associated diseases, including peptic ulcer and gastric cancer (GC) [1]. The infection remains latent in the majority of infected patients, and only a minority of individuals with H. pylori infection ever develop the disease [3]. Uemura et al. reported that GC developed in approximately 3% of H. pylori-infected patients during the observational period of 10 years, compared to none of the uninfected patients [4]. In addition to host, environmental, and dietary factors, the differences in the virulence of H. pylori strains are related to the varying outcomes of H. pylori infection. Virulence factors of H. pylori, such as cagA, vacA, dupA, iceA, oipA, and babA, have been shown to be predictors of severe clinical outcomes [5,6]. Importantly, most of these virulence factors are associated with each other; cagA-positive strains also possess a vacA s1/m1 type and they are further closely linked to the presence of the babA and oipA “on” status [5].

The genetic diversity within H. pylori is greater than that of most other bacteria [7], and about 50-fold greater than that of the human population [8]. Furthermore, frequent recombination
between different \textit{H. pylori} strains [9] leads to only partial linkage disequilibrium between polymorphic loci, which provides additional information for population genetic analysis [10]. Recently, genomic diversity within \textit{H. pylori} populations was examined by the multi-locus sequence typing (MLST) method using seven housekeeping genes (\textit{atpA}, \textit{efp}, \textit{mutY}, \textit{ppa}, \textit{trpC}, \textit{ureI}, and \textit{yphC}) [10–12]. At present, seven population types have been identified based on geographical associations and designated as follows: \textit{hpEurope}, \textit{hpEastAsia}, \textit{hpAfrica1}, \textit{hpAfrica2}, \textit{hpAsia2}, \textit{hpNEAfrica}, and \textit{hpSahul} [10–12]. \textit{hpEastAsia} is common in \textit{H. pylori} isolates from East Asia, and can be divided into the three subgroups \textit{hspEAsia}, \textit{hspAmerind}, and \textit{hspMaori}. \textit{hpEurope} includes almost all \textit{H. pylori} strains isolated from ethnic Europeans, including people from countries colonized by Europeans. \textit{H. pylori} is predicted to have spread from East Africa over the same time period as anatomically modern humans (~58,000 years ago), and has remained intimately associated with their human hosts ever since [5,11,12].

The age standardized incidence rate (ASR) of GC in Colombia is reported to be relatively high (13.4/100,000 population) compared with other South American countries (average ASR = 10.5/100,000 population) (International Agency for Research on Cancer; GLOBOCAN2012, http://globocan.iarc.fr/). Notably, GC is more prevalent in the Colombian mountain region than on the coast [13,14]. de Sablet et al. performed MLST to determine phylogeographic variation between mountain and coastal regions [15]. Interestingly, they found that all \textit{cagA}-positive strains from GC high-risk regions belonged to \textit{hpEurope}, whereas \textit{hpEurope} and \textit{hpAfrica} coexist in the GC low-risk regions [15]. In addition, subjects infected with \textit{hpEurope} strains of \textit{H. pylori} showed higher histopathological scores than those infected with \textit{hpAfrica} strains. These observations suggest that the phylogeographic origin determined by MLST can be used as a predictor of GC risk.

However, these studies did not examine the phylogenetic origin according to clinical outcomes, and thus it remains unclear whether the phylogenetic origin is truly associated with clinical outcomes in Colombia. In this study, we examined the phylogenetic origin of the \textit{H. pylori} strains from GC and duodenal ulcer (DU) patients living in Bogota, the capital and the largest city located in the Andean region in Colombia.

Materials and Methods

Patients

\textit{H. pylori} strains were obtained from the gastric mucosa of \textit{H. pylori}-infected Colombian patients with GC and DU who underwent endoscopy at Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogota, Colombia. GC and DU were identified by endoscopy, and GC was further confirmed by histopathology [16]. Patients with a history of partial gastric resection were excluded. Written informed consent was obtained from all the participants, and the protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of Universidad Nacional de Colombia.

Isolation and genotyping of \textit{H. pylori}

Antral biopsy specimens were obtained for the isolation of \textit{H. pylori} using standard culture methods as previously described [17]. \textit{H. pylori} DNA was extracted from confluent plate cultures expanded from a single colony using a commercially available kit (Qiagen, Valencia, CA). The status of \textit{cagA} was determined by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) for the conserved region of \textit{cagA} and for direct sequencing using the primer pair cagTF; 5’-ACC CTA GTC GGT AAT GGG-3’ and cagTR; 5’-GCT TTA GCT TCT GAY ACY GC-3’ (\textit{Y} = C or T) designed in the 3’ repeat region of \textit{cagA}, as described previously [18]. The PCR conditions were initial denaturation for 5 min at 95°C, 35 amplification steps (95°C for 30 s, 56°C for 30 s, and 72°C for 30 s), and a final extension cycle of 7 min at 72°C, using Blend Taq DNA polymerase (TOYOBO, Osaka, Japan). The absence of \textit{cagA} was confirmed by the presence of \textit{cagA} empty site, as previously described [19]. PCR products were purified with a QIAQuick Purification Kit (QIAGEN) according to the manufacturer’s instructions. The amplified fragment was detected by electrophoresis in a 1.5% agarose gel that was subsequently stained with ethidium bromide and visualized using an ultraviolet trans-illuminator.

The \textit{vacA} genotyping (s1, s2, m1, and m2) was performed as described previously [20,21]. Primers for the signal region yielded a 259 bp and 286 bp fragment for s1 and s2 variants, respectively. Primers for the middle region yielded a 570 bp and 645 bp fragment for m1 and m2 variants, respectively.

Phylogenetic analysis of \textit{H. pylori} strains

MLST of the seven housekeeping genes (\textit{atpA}, \textit{efp}, \textit{mutY}, \textit{ppa}, \textit{trpC}, \textit{ureI}, \textit{yphC}) was determined by PCR-based sequencing as described previously [7,22]. Direct DNA sequencing was performed using an AB 3130 Genetic Analyzer (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA) according to the manufacturer’s instructions. For construction of the phylogenetic tree based on MLST genotypes, sequence datasets of the 7 housekeeping genes of \textit{hpAfrica2}, \textit{hpAfrica1}, \textit{hpNEAfrica}, \textit{hpEurope}, \textit{hpSahul}, \textit{hpAsia2}, \textit{hsMaori}, \textit{hsAmerind}, and \textit{hsEAsia} strains (60, 181, 61, 566, 49, 17, 80, 18, and 177 strains, respectively, 1,209 strains in total) were obtained from the PubMLST database (http://pubmlst.org/). These sequence datasets were combined with our data from 66 Colombian strains. Neighbor joining trees were constructed by MEGA 5.0 using Kimura-2 parameters [23].

Population structure analysis of \textit{H. pylori} strains

We analyzed bacterial population structure using STRUCTURE (v.2.3.2) software [24]. Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) simulations of STRUCTURE were run in the admixture model with burn-in of 20,000, followed by 30,000 iterations for each run. The number of tentative populations (K) was set from 7 to 10 and 5 runs were executed for each K.

Nucleotide sequence

Nucleotide sequence data reported here are available under the DDBJ accession numbers AB923031 to AB923492.

Results

We included 35 GC patients and 31 DU patients. The strains isolated from GC patients included 24 \textit{cagA}-positive and 11 \textit{cagA}-negative. Twenty-nine were \textit{vacA} s1m1 genotype and 6 were \textit{vacA} s2m2 genotype. All 24 \textit{cagA}-positive GC strains showed the \textit{vacA} s1m1 genotype. For 31 strains from DU patients, 22 strains were \textit{cagA}-positive and the remaining 9 were \textit{cagA}-negative. The \textit{vacA} s1m1 genotype was found in 16 strains, \textit{vacA} s1m2 in 5 strains, and \textit{vacA} s2m2 in 10 strains. Among 22 \textit{cagA}-positive strains from DU patients, 14 strains possessed the \textit{vacA} s1m1 genotype. Five strains were s1m2 and the remaining 3 strains were s2m2.

The population types of 35 strains isolated from patients with GC and 31 from DU were analyzed by MLST. The phylogenetic tree of 66 Colombian strains based on the MLST sequences and the types of disease are shown in Figure 1. GC and DU strains were scattered in the MLST tree; thus, we did not find any
difference in phylogenetic distribution between GC and DU strains. Figure 2A shows the cagA status of the strains on the MLST tree. Strains from cagA-positive and cagA-negative could not be divided clearly, although cagA-negative strains were relatively clustered in the same branch. Figure 2B shows vacA types of the strains on the same MLST tree. Sixteen vacA s2m2 strains were clustered in a sub-branch together with two s1m2 and six s1m1 strains. The remaining three vacA s1m2 strains were located among the 39 vacA s1m1 strains.

Next, we constructed a phylogenetic tree based on MLST sequences of 66 Colombian strains and 1,209 reference strains of hpAfrica2, hpAfrica1, hpNEAfrica, hpEurope, hpSahul, hpAsia2, hspMaori, hspAmerind, and hspEAsia, deposited in pubMLST database (60, 181, 61, 566, 49, 17, 80, 18, and 177 strains, respectively) (Figure 3). Among the 66 Colombian strains, only one cagA-positive strain was located among the sub-branches of hpAfrica1. The remaining 65 strains were scattered among hpEurope sub-branches irrespective of the types of disease. Thus, no association was observed between the branching of the phylogenetic tree and clinical outcomes.

To investigate the population structure of the Colombian strains, we performed population analysis using STRUCTURE software [24]. For this analysis, we used the same 1,257 strains (1,209 reference strains and 66 Colombian strains) that were used for the MLST phylogenetic analysis. STRUCTURE software performs MCMC simulation to classify individuals for a given number of populations (K). For a given K, STRUCTURE determines K population components and represents them by K colors using one color to represent one population component. We performed STRUCTURE analysis by setting K from 7 to 10 and executed simulations five times for each K. Figure 4 shows the results of K = 9 and 10 whose posterior probability is the best of the five runs (the most probable results). Each vertical line of the bar charts represents one strain and the colors of a line indicate populations to which the strain may belong. The lengths of the colors in a line are proportional to the probability that the strain belongs to each population. Because the hpEurope group is an admixture of multiple origins, this group shows complex colors.

In the result of K = 7, the Colombian strains showed common colors with hpEurope strains (Figure 4A). When K was set to 10, the Colombian and several hpEurope strains presented a different color from others that represents a population component specific to these strains (light green bars marked with stars in Figure 4B). This implies that these strains have basic similarity with European strains but are distinguishable from others if examined in detail. Figure 4C is a magnification of the Colombian strains. The bars were aligned from left to right in descending order of the light green component. cagA types and diseases are shown by marks below the bar chart. As this figure shows, cagA-negative strains were frequent on the right end. While most of the Colombian strains had a specific component and/or a common population component with hpEurope, one strain showed higher similarity with hpAfrica1 (Figure 4C, the bar marked with a triangle). This strain corresponds to the one that belongs to the hpAfrica1 sub-branch in the MLST phylogenetic tree (Figure 3).
In the data taken from PubMLST, we picked 63 hpEurope strains that contained the light green population component at 10% or higher and researched their sampling location. Twenty-five strains were isolated from Colombia, although they were classified as hpEurope, 19 were from Spain, 4 were from Venezuela, and others are from various countries (Table S1).

Discussion

Host, environmental, and dietary factors, and the differences in \textit{H. pylori} strains are related to the varying outcomes of \textit{H. pylori} infection. In general, the distribution of the incidence of GC is closely related to these \textit{H. pylori} groups defined by population analysis based on MLST [25]. A high incidence of GC was found in the regions in which hpEastAsia strains prevail (especially hspEAsia). However, the incidence of GC is very low in Africa, where most strains are hpNEAfrica, hpAfrica1, or hpAfrica2, and in South Asia, where most strains are hpAsia2. Overall, the low incidence of gastric cancer in African and South Asian countries might be explained, at least in part, by the different genotypes of \textit{H. pylori} circulating in different geographic areas. Intriguingly, a recent report on \textit{cagA}-positive strains in Colombia showed that all strains from high-risk regions of GC belong to hpEurope, whereas hpEurope and hpAfrica1 strains coexist in the low-risk regions [15]. In addition, subjects infected with hpEurope strains of \textit{H. pylori} showed higher histopathological scores than those infected with hpAfrica1 strains. The authors concluded that the difference in bacterial populations can be used as a predictor of GC risk.

In this study, we included \textit{H. pylori} strains isolated from Colombian patients with GC and DU but not gastritis. Patients with only gastritis at the time of endoscopy may develop DU and GC later in life; conversely, DU patients rarely develop GC in their lifetime [4,26]. Therefore, although \textit{H. pylori} infection promotes the development of both GC and DU, GC and DU are considered the variant outcomes. In this study, we did not find any difference in phylogenetic groups between GC and DU strains. Our Colombian strains were found to belong to hpEurope, except for one hpAfrica1 strain. Although Colombian strains were divided into several sub-branches in the phylogenetic trees, there was no correlation between the branches and the diseases (Figures 1 and 3). Therefore, the topology of the MLST tree does not act as a marker to evaluate GC and DU risk for hpEurope strains in Colombia. In fact, even in the study conducted by de Sablet et al., all \textit{cagA}-negative strains were also considered to belong to hpEurope [15]. The authors stated that subjects infected with \textit{cagA}-negative strains had very low histopathological scores; therefore, hpEurope strains without the presence of \textit{cagA} can be less virulent. In addition, we previously reported that strains with more than three repeat regions of the 3\textsuperscript{rd} region in \textit{cagA} were associated with significantly higher scores for gastric mucosal atrophy and intestinal metaplasia than those with fewer repeat regions in Colombia [20]. The prevalence of strains with more than three repeat regions was higher in GC than DU [20]. Thus, the \textit{cagA} type rather than phylogeographic origin can be a better predictor of GC for hpEurope strains [27].

We previously found that although OipA and \textit{cag} PAI are linked, only OipA was an independent risk factor for DU [28]. OipA in \textit{cagA}-positive strains may contribute to phylogeographic variation determined by MLST analysis. In addition, we reported that \textit{jhp0043} and \textit{jhp0046} were significantly associated with GC.

**Figure 2. The status of \textit{cagA} (a) and \textit{vacA} (b) mapped on the MLST tree.**
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0105392.g002
in cagA-positive strains in Colombia [29]. Furthermore, we reported that infections with dupA-positive strains increased the risk for DU but were protective against GC in Colombia [30].

Therefore, the status of other virulence factors might be correlated with the phylogenetic tree obtained by performing MLST [5]. The relationships between the phylogeny of housekeeping genes and cag PAI phylogeny have been reported [31]. The phylogeny of most cag PAI genes was similar to that of MLST, indicating that cag PAI was probably acquired only once by H. pylori, and its genetic diversity reflects the isolation by distance which has shaped this bacterial species since modern humans migrated out of Africa [31]. In the present study, the phylogenetic tree based on MLST was not correlated with the type of cagA or vacA, although strains with cagA-negative or vacA s2m2 genotypes were relatively clustered. Only one strain belonged to hpAfrica1, and this strain possessed cagA, suggesting that cagA and vacA genotypes were not determining factors for phylogenetic origin based on MLST in the Andean region in Colombia. However, we previously reported that the cagA type was associated with a phylogenetic cluster in Okinawa, Japan [22,27]. Strains from Okinawa were divided into 3 subpopulations and one admixture group influenced by Western strains. The phylogeographic topology and subpopulations were significantly associated with clinical outcomes; however, the difference in phylogeographic topology was due to the status of cagA (East-Asian type, Western-type cagA, and cagA-negative) and vacA (m1 or m2) of the subpopulations. GC was more prevalent in the cluster containing mostly East-Asian-type cagA strains. The results of MLST showed that the prevalence of GC in each group did not differ when only Western-type cagA strains or cagA-negative strains were used [27]. Thus, phylogeographic origin can act as confounding factor in predicting virulence factors but not disease outcome (e.g., in hspEAsia, most are cagA-positive, vacA s1/m1 type, babA-positive and cagA “on” status). In a recent study, not only H. pylori ancestry but also coevolution between human and H. pylori was found to be the best predictor for precancerous lesions [32]. Further studies are required to confirm the relationship between the ancestral origin of H. pylori irrespective of virulence factors and clinical outcomes.

In this study, we included the Mestizos patients mainly living in Bogota city, which is located in the mountain area (2,600 m above sea level). This area is generally populated by Mestizos, a mixed population who have descended from aboriginal Americans (Amerindians) and European people dating from the Spanish colonization period [33]. Amerindians are hypothesized to have been infected originally with hspAmerind strains that belong to the subpopulation of hpEastAsia [10]. Therefore, we expected that H. pylori isolated from Mestizos would display a mixed type of hpEurope and hspAmerind. Interestingly, all cases but one in our study were infected with hpEurope strains, consistent with a previous study [15]. STRUCTURE analysis revealed that several
strains with hpEurope showed a mosaic pattern; however, they were not a mixture of hpEurope and hspAmerind. This observation supports the hypothesis that hpEurope strains possess a competitive advantage over indigenous hspAmerind strains as described previously [34,35]. Surprisingly, our previous study showed that even in 16 strains isolated from Huitoto, a primitive, isolated group living in the Amazonian jungles in Colombia, 4 strains were infected with hspAmerind, while the remaining 12 were hpEurope strains [12]. In addition, we found that several Amerindian strains from Colombia possessed Western-type cagA but not East-Asian-type cagA [36]. It remains unclear why most Amerindian H. pylori strains have genotypes typical of strains from Western countries even in sites where Western influence appears to have been minimal. hpEurope, rather than hspAmerind strains, might be easily adapted to the environmental conditions and selective pressure exerted by the host. Two hypotheses, one based on strain competition and the other on strain subversion by transformation, were suggested as reasons for the displacement of hspAmerind by hpEurope [34]. Further study will be necessary to define the mechanism(s) responsible for the in vivo loss of the Amerindians strains when in competition with Old World strains. Interestingly, we found that several Colombian strains showed a specific population component, and this component was shared not only with other South American strains, but also with Spanish strains deposited in PubMLST. The city of Bogota, founded in 1538, became one of the principal administrative centers of the Spanish possessions in the New World (along with Lima and Mexico City) [33]. Our analysis suggests that hpEurope strains in Colombia were introduced mainly by Spanish immigrants. Population typing of H. pylori is a useful tool for mapping human migration patterns [37]; indeed, our findings might be useful to elucidate those of modern humans in South America. Although our MLST analysis based on seven housekeeping genes suggests that most of the Colombian strains were replaced by hpEurope strains, relics of ancestral aboriginal strains could remain in other parts of the genome. More extensive worldwide and genome-wide surveys will help us further understand the evolution and population structure of H. pylori.

Figure 4. Population structure of Colombian strains. Results of population analysis by STRUCTURE (A) with K, or a tentative number of population, set to 7, (B) with K=10, (C) magnified chart of Colombian strains. Each vertical bar represents one sample. Colors indicate population components and the lengths of the colors in a vertical bar are proportional to the probability that the sample belongs to the population of the color. The order of the samples is the same in all the bar charts. The stars in panel B represent Colombian strains and hpEurope strains that share the same population component. cagA types and diseases of Colombian strains are shown by marks below the bar chart (C).

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0105392.g004

One potential limitation of our study worth noting is that we could not obtain sufficient information about the ethnicity of the patients from whom the H. pylori strains were isolated. Indeed, it has been suggested that host ancestry might affect clinical outcomes as described above [32]. For example, inflammatory cytokine gene polymorphisms (IL-1 gene cluster, TNF-α, IL-10, and IL-8) have been reported to be correlated with GC [38–43]. Furthermore, a family history of GC has been shown to contribute to the clinical outcomes [44]. In addition to other H. pylori virulence factors, this information may be useful for distinguishing between GC and DU risk. Further investigation is required to elucidate the association between H. pylori genotypes and disease outcomes.

Conclusion

Our study revealed that a phylogeographic origin by MLST was not sufficient to distinguish between GC and DU risk in the...
Andean region in Colombia. A phylogenetic analysis including virulence factors of Helicobacter pylori might be necessary to more accurately determine clinical outcomes. Furthermore, our analysis also suggests that hpEurope strains in Colombia were introduced primarily by Spanish immigrants and their genotype was not influenced by Amerindians.

**Supporting Information**

**Table S1**

| References |
|-------------|
| 1. Suerbaum S, Michetti P (2002) Helicobacter pylori infection. N Engl J Med 347: 1175–1186. |
| 2. Goh KL, Chan WK, Shiota S, Yamaoka Y (2011) Epidemiology of Helicobacter pylori infection and public health implications. Helicobacter 16 Suppl 1: 1–9. |
| 3. Kusters JG, van Vilthe AH, Kuipers EJ (2006) Pathogenesis of Helicobacter pylori infection. Clin Microbiol Rev 19: 449–490. |
| 4. Uemura N, Okamoto S, Yamamoto S, Matsumura N, Yamaguchi S, et al. (2001) Helicobacter pylori infection and the development of gastric cancer. N Engl J Med 345: 784–789. |
| 5. Yamaoka Y (2010) Mechanisms of disease: Helicobacter pylori virulence factors. Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol 7: 629–641. |
| 6. Shiota S, Suzuki R, Yamaoka Y (2013) The significance of virulence factors in Helicobacter pylori. J Dig Dis 14: 341–349. |
| 7. Achtman M, Azuma T, Berg DE, Ito Y, Morelli G, et al. (1999) Recombination and clonal groupings within Helicobacter pylori from different geographical regions. Mol Microbiol 32: 459–470. |
| 8. Li WH, Sadler LA (1991) Low nucleotide diversity in man. Genetics 129: 513–523. |
| 9. Suerbaum S, Josenhans C (2007) Helicobacter pylori evolution and phenotypic diversification in a changing host. Nat Rev Microbiol 3: 411–422. |
| 10. Falsih D, Warit T, Lina B, Pritchard J, Stephens M, et al. (2003) Traces of human migrations in Helicobacter pylori populations. Science 299: 1582–1585. |
| 11. Moodley Y, Lina B, Yamaoka Y, Windsor HM, Beurrec S, et al. (2009) The peopling of the Pacific from a bacterial perspective. Science 323: 527–530. |
| 12. Lina B, Balloss F, Moodley Y, Manica A, Liu H, et al. (2007) An African origin for the intimate association between humans and Helicobacter pylori. Nature 445: 915–918. |
| 13. Cuello C, Correa P, Haemzel W, Gordillo G, Brown C, et al. (1976) Gastric cancer in Colombia. I. Cancer risk and suspect environmental agents. J Natl Cancer Inst 57: 1015–1020. |
| 14. Correa P, Cuello C, Duque E, Burbano LC, Garcia FT, et al. (1976) Gastric cancer in Colombia. III. Natural history of precursor lesions. J Natl Cancer Inst 57: 1027–1035. |
| 15. de Saible T, Piazuelo MB, Shaffer CL, Schneider BG, Asim M, et al. (2011) Molecular epidemiology of Helicobacter pylori: separation of H. pylori from East Asian and non-Asian countries. Epidemiol Infect 139: 91–96. |
| 16. Falsih D, Correa P, Dixon MF, Hattori T, Leandro G, et al. (2000) Gastric dysplasia: the Padova international classification. Am J Surg Pathol 24: 167–176. |
| 17. Yamaoka Y, Kodama N, Tita M, Imanishi J, Kashima K, et al. (1998) Relationship of vacA genotypes of Helicobacter pylori to cagA status, cytotoxicity production, and clinical outcome. Helicobacter 3: 241–253. |
| 18. Yamaoka Y, Osato M, Senguveda A, Gutierrez O, Figura N, et al. (2000) Assessment of H. pylori strains from Peruvian Amerindians: Traces of Human Migrations in Strains from Remote Amazon, and Genome Sequence of an Amerind Strain. PLOS One 3: e3307. |
| 19. Kusters JG, van Vliet AH, Kuipers EJ (2006) Pathogenesis of Helicobacter pylori infection. J Gastroenterol Hepatol 21: 1567–1587. |
| 20. El-Omar EM, Rabkin CS, Gammon MD, Vaughan TL, Risch HA, et al. (2003) Interleukin-1 polymorphisms associated with increased risk of gastric cancer. Nature 404: 398–402. |
| 21. El-Omar EM, Rabkin CS, Gammon MD, Vaughan TL, Risch HA, et al. (2003) Increased risk of noncardia gastric cancer associated with proinflammatory cytokine gene polymorphisms. Gastroenterology 124: 1193–1201. |
| 22. Kusters JG, Figueredo C, Canedo P, Pharaoh P, Carvalho R, et al. (2003) A proinflammatory genetic profile increases the risk for chronic atrophic gastritis and gastric carcinoma. Gastroenterology 125: 364–371. |

**Acknowledgments**

We thank Ms. Miyuki Matsuda for excellent technical assistance.

**Author Contributions**

Conceived and designed the experiments: SS YY. Performed the experiments: YM MM THT TT. Analyzed the data: SS RS YY. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: YY. Wrote the paper: SS YY.