

## *Disease Pattern in India*

# **H. Pyloridis - Modern Amoebiasis!!**

**OP Kapoor**

In India, in the past, there were hundreds of articles being written on amoebiasis, which was supposed to be rampant in the 1950s and 1960s. So common was this disease that later on, other specialists started attributing any illness to amoeba. Many senior teachers in medical colleges in North India related even a condition like bronchial asthma to amoebiasis.

After the invention of metronidazole the incidence of this disease came down drastically. However, the pathologists continued to report cysts of *E histolytica* in the stools (now we know these are cysts of *E Dispar*, which are harmless) and continued to report *E histolytica* and diagnosis of amoebiasis continued for years together. It is only in the last few years that everybody has realized that we do not see amoebic dysentery, and amoebic liver abscess has become much less common than few years back. Private practitioners including myself continue to prescribe metronidazole on a large scale including in case of irritable bowel

syndrome. It is given not only to treat amoebiasis but for the other unknown useful effects of metronidazole, which could be even a change of flora!

Fortunately the treatment of amoebiasis is simpler (five days cover of metronidazole) than the treatment of *H. Pyloridis* which involves combination of drugs like clarithromycin, metronidazole, omeprazole and doxycycline, etc. Not only that the treatment of *H. Pyloridis* is being revised every few months all over the world because of changing resistance of the organisms.

Even then initially *H. Pyloridis* was supposed to be the cause of duodenal ulcer and malignancy, which were the only illnesses supposed to be treated. As time passed this organism was being blamed for more and more illnesses. Even the gastroenterologists have reported it to be associated with, or as a causative factor in conditions like non-ulcer dyspepsia, oesophagitis, or even irritable bowel syndrome.

In short, what was mania of amoebiasis in that age is being repeated in clinical medicine and *H. pyloridis* is being blamed for multiple illnesses including an occasional report as a cause of Coronary artery disease.

---

Ex. Hon. Physician, Jaslok Hospital and Bombay Hospital, Mumbai, Ex. Hon. Prof. of Medicine, Grant Medical College and JJ Hospital, Mumbai 400 008.

### **SAFETY OF THIAZOLIDINEDIONES FOR PATIENTS WITH DIABETES**

The overall clinical benefit of thiazolidinediones as a treatment for hyperglycaemia can be difficult to assess because of the risk of congestive heart failure due to thiazolidinedione-related fluid retention.

**Lancet Neurol, 2007; 6 : 1101, 1103, 1104, 1129.**