

SUD, A 2002

*Helicobacter pylori* is a causative organism for chronic gastritis and associated with peptic ulcer disease. Infection may be asymptomatic as well. Human immuno-deficiency virus infection predisposes to a multitude of opportunistic infections, many of them resulting in gastrointestinal symptoms. We studied the prevalence of *H pylori* co-infection with HIV and its correlation with gastrointestinal symptoms in HIV infected patients. Seventy-three consecutive HIV infected patients presenting to the medical out patient department of Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, India, were included in the study. Antibodies (IgG) to *H pylori* were tested by ELISA. There were 43 males, 30 females; mean age 26.1 +/- 4.7 years. Risk factors for acquiring HIV infection was predominantly heterosexual exposure. Eleven patients presented with gastrointestinal symptoms. Thirty-five of the 73 (47.9%) patients had serological evidence of *H pylori* infection. Six of them had gastrointestinal symptoms. These were odynophagia in 5, dyspepsia in 4 and recent diarrhoea in 2. Twenty-four patients with *H pylori* infection had AIDS. There was no difference in the prevalence of *H pylori* infection between patients with and without AIDS