

**Is there a Role for Helicobacter Species in the  
Pathogenesis of  
Hepatocellular Carcinoma in the Egyptian Patients**

**THESIS**

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## List of contents

	<b>Page</b>
List of Abbreviations.....	<b>I</b>
List of tables.....	<b>III</b>
List of figures.....	<b>IV</b>
Introduction and aim of work.....	<b>V</b>
 <b>Chapter I: Hepatocellular carcinoma</b>	
Introduction.....	1
Pathophysiology.....	3
Epidemiology .....	5
Patient presentation .....	7
Diagnostic approaches.....	8
Staging and prognosis .....	10
Treatment.....	12
Other Primary Liver Cancers.....	15
 <b>Chapter 2: Helicobacter Species</b>	
Introduction.....	17
Helicobacter. pylori.....	18
Growth requirement of H.pylori.....	20

Pathogenic properties.....	21
Epidemiology and Transmission.....	22
Routes of transmission.....	24
Carcinogenesis.....	29
H.pylori disease.....	31
Diagnosis of H.pylori.....	34
Treatment of H.pylori.....	35

### **Chapter 3:Enterohepatic Helicobacters**

Early morphological observation.....	38
H.hepaticus.....	40
Helicobacter cinaedi and Helicobacter fennelliae.....	44
H.canis.....	45
H.pametensis,H.pullorum and H.canadenesis.....	45
H.cholecystus.....	46
H.rodentium.....	47
H.mesocricetorum.....	47
H.typhlonicus.....	47
H.muridarum.....	48
H.flexispira.....	48
H.belis.....	50
H.trogontum.....	50

### **Chapter 4:Gastric Helicobacter Species**

Early morphological observation.....	42
H.mustelae.....	42
H.felis.....	55
H.bizzpzeronii and H.salomonis.....	56

H.heilmannii.....	56
H.acinonychis.....	59
H.nemestrinae.....	60
H.suncus.....	60
Candidatus H.bovis.....	60
<b>Patients and methods.....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Results.....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Discussion.....</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Recommendations.....</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Summary.....</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>References.....</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Arabic Summary</b>	

## List of Abbreviations

AFP .....Alpha fetoprotein

AIDS.....Acquired immune deficiency syndrome

C13 .....Carbon 13

C14 .....Carbon 14

CEA.....Carcino embryonic antigen

CT .....Computerized tomography

DNA .....Deoxyribonucleic acid

EHS.....Enterohepatic species

FDA.....Food and drug administration

FU .....Fluorouracil

HAV.....Hepatitis A virus

HBV .....Hepatitis B virus

HCC.....Hepatocellular carcinoma

HCV .....Hepatitis C virus

HEV.....Hepatitis E virus

H.pylori.....Helicobacter pylori

IL.....Interleukin

MALT.....Mucosa associated lymphoid tissue

MRI.....Magnetic resonance image

PAF.....Platelet activating factor

PCR.....Polymerase chain reaction

RNA.....Ribonucleic acid

TLR.....Toll like receptor

TNF.....Tumour necrosing factor

## List of Tables

<b>Tab. No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
Table 1	Presenting symptoms in Hepatocellular carcinoma.....	7
Table 2	Enterohepatic <i>Helicobacter</i> taxa.....	51
Table 3	Gastric <i>Helicobacter</i> taxa.....	61
Table 4.	Comparison between both studied groups as regard age and sex.....	66
Table 5	Description of the presenting symptoms among the studied HCC group.....	67
Table 6	Comparison between both studied groups as regard liver Profile.....	68
Table 7.	Comparison between both HCCand control groups as regard CBC.....	69
Table 8	Comparison between both studied groups as regard Alfa-feto-protein.....	69
Table 9.	Comparison between patients in control group as regard sonographic results .....	70
Table 10	Comparison between both groups as regard viral hepatitis....	70
Table 11	Comparison between HCV and HBV in HCC group and control group as regard presence of H. pylori.....	71
Table 12	Comparison between patients of HCC group and control group as Regard Modified giemsa stain.....	73
Table 13	Comparison between patients of HCC group and control group as regard results of Rapid urease test.....	74
Table 14	Comparison between cases and controls as regard results of Elisa Ab against H.pylori.....	75



## List of Figures

<b>Fig. No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>1</b>	Histology of Hepatocellular carcinoma.....	4
<b>2</b>	C T scan of Hepatocellular.....	10
<b>3</b>	Helicobacter pylori (by electron microscope).....	20
<b>4</b>	H.hepaticus transmission electron micrograph a, b,c.....	43
<b>5</b>	Comparison between both groups as regard viral hepatitis markers.....	71
<b>6</b>	CT scan tumour size.....	72
<b>7</b>	Comparison between patients of HCC group and control group as Regard Modified giemsa stain.....	73
<b>8</b>	Comparison between patients of HCC group and control group as regard results of Rapid urease test.....	74
<b>9</b>	prevalence of Elisa Ab against H.pylori in HCC group compared to that in control group.....	75

## INTRODUCTION

Infection by viruses and parasites can induce chronic inflammation that is a recognized risk factor for cancer (Avenaud et al., 2000). Hepatitis B and C viral infections, which induce chronic active hepatitis, are major risk factors for hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Infection of the liver by liver flukes also increases the risk of cancer (IARC, 1994).

Bacteria have been linked to cancer. The human gastric pathogen *Helicobacter pylori* induces a persistent infection that is considered to be a type I carcinogen because of its role in the development of gastric carcinoma (Forman et al., 1994; and Dunn et al., 1997) and gastric mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma (Parsonnet et al., 1994). Other *Helicobacter* species have been identified in the intestinal tract, liver, and bile ducts of animals, and have been found to play a pathological role in enterohepatic diseases in animals and humans (Solnick and Schauer, 2001). *Helicobacter hepaticus* has been reported to be an agent that cause hepatic cancer in rodents. Recently, several separate research groups detected such *Helicobacter* organisms as *H. pylori*, *H. pylorum*, *H. bilis*, and *Helicobacter species flexispira* in the bile, gall bladder, or liver tissue of patients with primary sclerosing cholangitis, primary biliary cirrhosis, or primary liver carcinoma (Fox et al., 1998; and Wadstrom, 2000). These reports suggested that *helicobacter* organisms, including *H. pylori*, may play a role in the development of hepatobiliary diseases in humans, similar to the role that they play in animals.

HCC is one of the most common human cancers in the world. HCC ranks fifth among all cancers, and rate of incidence vary considerably by area or by country (Fan et al., 2002). Those regions where the risk for HCC is high are sub-Saharan Africa, China, and Southeast Asia (Kew , 2002). Although dietary exposure to aflatoxin B1 is one of the major risk factors for HCC, chronic infection with hepatitis B and C viruses are the most important risk factors for HCC worldwide (Fan et al.,2002) and in Egypt (Mohamed et al., 2000). Hereditary haemochromatosis and cirrhosis of almost any cause are also important risk factors (Fan et al.,2002) . Recently, several reports suggested that *Helicobacter* species may play a role in the development of HCC (waldstrom,2000)

## **AIM OF THE WORK :**

This study initiated to find out whether Helicobacter species could be identified in the hepatic tissue of Egyptian patients with primary liver carcinoma and may have role in the pathogenesis of this disease.

## **PATIENTS AND METHODS**

Twenty patients presented to Ain Shams University Hospital with hepatic focal lesion and planned to have partial hepatic resection as a treatment for the tumor and another twenty patients (control) who will have liver biopsy for other pathology than HCC, will undergo the following:

\*Full history and clinical examination.

\*Complete blood picture.

\*Complete liver profile.

\*Kidney function tests.

\*Alphafetoprotein level.

\*HBsAg.

\*HCV Abs.

\*Abdominal ultrasonography.

\*Triphasic abdominal CT.

\*Liver biopsy examination

Liver biopsies will be taken from the tumor tissue during partial hepatic resection and non-neoplastic tissue (control group). All specimens will be processed for:

\*Routine histopathological examination.

\*Modified Giemsa stain to search for *Helicobacter* bacteria.

Part of the liver biopsies will undergo rapid urease test to detect *H. pylori* bacteria.



## Hepatocellular carcinoma

### Introduction

Hepatocellular cancer is one of the most common cancers in the world. It is also one of the most deadly, with a 5-year survival rate of less than 5% without treatment. Any chronic inflammatory liver disease has the potential to induce hepatocellular carcinoma, but the pathophysiologic process most commonly associated with the disease is cirrhosis, found in up to 80% of cases (*Flickinger et al., 1997*). Whether cirrhosis itself or the mechanism underlying cirrhosis is responsible for malignant transformation of hepatocytes is not known (*Flickinger et al., 1997*).

Certain viral, environmental, and hereditary causes of cirrhosis have a strong correlation with hepatocellular carcinoma. Chronic viral hepatitis as a cause of cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma is well known. Hepatitis B virus infection is the leading cause of chronic liver disease and hepatocellular carcinoma around the world. (*VanDamme et al., 1997*). In the United States, hepatitis B virus infects about 1.2 million people and hepatitis C virus about 4 million people (*Gross et al., 1998*). Hepatitis C virus RNA is found in about 65% of patients who test negative for hepatitis B surface antigen at diagnosis of their hepatocellular carcinoma (*Dana et al., 1994*).

Alcohol use is also a common cause of cirrhosis, which can indirectly lead to hepatocellular carcinoma. However, a direct carcinogenic effect of alcohol on the liver has not been proved (*Akriviadis et al., 1998*)

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