Aims and Objectives
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This study was carried out with the following aims:

1. To establish the prevalence rate of *Helicobacter pylori* infection in patients without any gastrointestinal disorders in (i) adults and (ii) children (asymptomatic controls) for purpose of comparing with rates of infection in patients with upper gastrointestinal disorders.

2. (i) To document the prevalence rate of *H pylori* infection in patients with various upper alimentary tract disorders such as non-ulcer dyspepsia, duodenal ulcer, gastric ulcer, carcinoma stomach, chronic gastritis, erosive gastroduodenitis and stomal ulcer and to compare it with the prevalence seen in asymptomatic controls.

(ii) To relate the prevalence rate of *H pylori* in the above diseases to various parameters relevant to the respective disease such as size and number of ulcer, smoking, alcohol abuse, NSAID use and tumour site.

3. To evaluate the role of *H pylori* infection in complications of duodenal ulcer other than perforation.

(i) To study the prevalence rate of *H pylori* infection in bleeding duodenal ulcer and compare it with that seen in uncomplicated duodenal ulcer and asymptomatic controls.
(ii) To study the prevalence rate of *H pylori* in obstructed duodenal ulcer in comparison with that seen in non-obstructed active duodenal ulcer.

4. (i) To ascertain the prevalence rate of *H pylori* infection in perforated duodenal ulcer and to relate the prevalence of *H pylori* in the postoperative period in these patients after simple closure of perforation to medium and long term ulcer recurrence.

(ii) To correlate the prevalence rate of *H pylori* in perforated duodenal ulcer to parameters such as gender, size of perforation, chronicity, smoking and alcohol abuse.

(iii) To assess the effect of adjuvant anti-*H pylori* antimicrobial therapy on the eradication of *H pylori* following simple closure of perforation and the effect of this eradication on ulcer recurrence.

(iv) To document the incidence of side effects of anti-*H pylori* therapy following closure of perforated duodenal ulcer.

5. To determine whether fall in anti-*H pylori* IgG serology titres can predict eradication of *H pylori*.