

Curlo M, Iori A, Guida L, Cavallaro L, Dal Bò N, Rugge M, Franzè A, Di Mario F. Clinical usefulness of serum pepsinogen II in the management of *Helicobacter pylori* infection. *Helicobacter* 2008; 13(5):449.

BACKGROUND: Serum pepsinogen II (sPGII) levels are known to increase during *Helicobacter pylori* infection. **AIM:** To assess the clinical usefulness of serological markers in *H. pylori* eradication therapy. **METHODS:** determination of Gastropanel® (based on four ELISA test, Biohit Helsinki, Finland: Pepsinogen I (PGI), Pepsinogen II (PGII), Gastrin 17 (G17) *H.p* antibody (IgG)). One hundred sixty eight (81 F, 87 M; mean age:56, range 18-89). *H. pylori*-positive consecutive patients with dyspeptic symptoms were enrolled in the study. In all patients a one week triple therapy was administered (109 pts with Rabeprazole (R) 20 mg b.i.d., Clarithromycin (C) 500 mg b.i.d. Tinidazole (T) 500 mg b.i.d.; 59 pts with R 20 mg b.i.d. C 500 mg b.i.d. and Amoxicillin (A) 1g b.i.d). After two months the success of therapy was assessed by means of gastric histology, UBT, HpsA (at least two). **RESULTS:** 128 pts resulted cured from *H.P* infection (group 1) , 40 failed the therapy (Group 2). PGI values were 169±47 at baseline and 142±56 after therapy in group 1 (p=0.06), while in group 2 ones 163±39 and 159±43 respectively For PGII : 24 ±9 vs 8±3 in group 1 (p<0.001) and 21±11 vs 19±8 in group 2. For G17 : 17±14 vs 13±7 in group 1(p=0.09) and 18±7 vs 16±9 in group2. For *H.p* IgG: 78±21 versus 66±36 in group 1 (p=1.2) and 81±34 vs 84±27 in group 2. **CONCLUSIONS:** sPGII levels may be used as a reliable serological marker to evaluate *H. pylori* eradication after two month from the cure.