

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE GASTRIC MICROBIOTA AND HISTOPATHOLOGICAL CHANGES IN THE GASTRIC MUCOSA.

G.G.Y.H. Weerasinghe^{1*}, T.D.C.P. Gunasekara², M.M. Weerasekera² and S.S.N. Fernando²

¹*Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, The Open University of Sri Lanka.*

²*Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medical Science, University of Sri Jayewardenepura Sri Lanka.*

**ggwee@ou.ac.lk*

Despite the hostile environment of the stomach, recent studies suggest that gastric mucosa has a core microbiome. This raises the possibility of a pathogenic role of non-*H. pylori* organisms in the gastric mucosa which may contribute to dyspeptic symptoms. Thus, this study investigates bacterial diversity of the stomach using PCR-DGGE techniques to provide information on the possible role of other non-*H. pylori* microorganisms in causing gastric pathology. For the first time in Sri Lanka it was reported the presence of yeast species majority being *Candida albicans* in the gastric mucosa and its presence was significantly associated with gastric pathology. A diverse interpersonal variation of bacteria in the gastric mucosa was observed. Histopathological grading increased in the presence of low bacterial diversity which suggest disruption of the normal gastric microbiota with the establishment of pathogenic microorganisms.

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