

METRONIDAZOLE RESISTANCE OF HELICOBACTER PYLORI IN BAHRAIN

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Resistance of *Helicobacter pylori* (HP) to metronidazole (MTZ) is a growing medical problem in various parts of the world. There has been no reports on this problem from our geographic region and the aim of this study is to evaluate the percentage of MTZ resistance among isolates in Bahrain. Out of 72 isolated strains 34 (47.2%) were resistant to MTZ. The resistance among males and females was 51.2% and 41.9%, respectively (no significant difference $X^2 = 1.14$). The high prevalence of HP resistance of MTZ in Bahrain should be considered before choosing the therapy for HP. Bahrain Med Bull 1995;17:

Helicobacter pylori (HP) are a Gram-negative micro-aerophilic bacterium with a world-wide distribution in the gastric mucosa of man¹. The organism is associated with active chronic gastritis and is considered a risk factor in peptic ulcer disease and gastric cancer². Finding the best treatment combination to eradicate HP has been the goal of many researches³.

Metronidazole (MTZ) was used in the treatment of HP infection. The most known therapy of HP infection is the triple therapy combining amoxicillin, MTZ and bismuth compounds. Therapeutic failures have been attributed to drug resistance especially to MTZ^{3,4}. The rate of eradication of HP was higher (93%) among patients with MTZ sensitive HP, while in patients in whom eradication failed; pretreatment MTZ resistant strains were subsequently isolated⁵.