

Response to Letter to Editor

In Response to “Conclusive Strategies for Therapy and Virotyping of *Helicobacter Pylori*”

Sir,

We thank Mobarez *et al.*^[1] for the keen reading and the comments they made to our paper published in the *Saudi Journal of Gastroenterology*.^[2] With regard to the actual benefits of studying the association between virulence factors in *Helicobacter pylori* and antibiotic resistance patterns, first and foremost, given the relatively established geographical prevalence of certain strains harboring specific virulence markers, if an association can be established between these virulence factors and antibiotic resistance patterns this can be used to decide the antibiotic regimen thus minimizing the chance of further antibiotic resistance.

Moreover, this will also help understand the mechanism by which these virulence markers induce antibiotic resistance; this will add beneficial knowledge in the domain of antibiotic resistance, which ultimately can be correlated with other mechanisms in different bacteria.

As to the issue whether metronidazole and clarithromycin can really be prescribed in current therapeutic regimens in Saudi Arabia, we completely agree with the author that there must be a large-scale study to further validate this. Lastly, it should be noted that the dynamic and astonishing nature of *H. pylori* virulence calls for a more comprehensive and novel approach before drawing final conclusions.

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2. Rizwan M, Fatima N, Alvi A. Epidemiology and pattern of antibiotic resistance in *Helicobacter pylori*: Scenario from Saudi Arabia. *Saudi J Gastroenterol* 2014; 20: 212-8.

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