summary

Helicobacter pylori is a major contributor to the gastrointestinal disease burden worldwide and is the causative agent in peptic ulcer disease, gastric adenocarcinoma, and mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma ***(Uemura et al.; 2001)***.

Routes of transmission and protective factors against infection have not been firmly established. One source of controversy has been breastfeeding and its relationship with H. pylori infection status. Breastfeeding has been firmly established as a method of preventing infectious diseases in infants ***(Wright et al.; 1998).***

Thomas et al. (1993) demonstarted that anti-H. pylori IgA in human breast milk was associated with delayed age of onset of H. pylori infection. However, previous epidemiologic studies of the relationship between breastfeeding and H. pylori infection have reported conflicting results**.** However not all authors agree that breastfeeding is protective against H.pylori infection (Rothenbacher, et al.; 2002).

However, previous epidemiologic studies of the relationship Between breast-feeding and H. pylori infection have reported conflicting Results.

Hence, the aim of the work was to evaluate the prevalence of H.pylori infection in breastfed and artificially fed infants,

The present study was conducted on 100 infants**,** their ages ranged Between 2-21months.They were 32 males and 68 females .

They were sub-grouped as follows:

Group 1: 20 sex and aged matched control infants irrespective of mode of Feeding who were presenting to the hospital by conditions other than Gastroenteritis.

Group 2: 40 cases who were artificially fed infants.

Group 3: 40 cases who were exclusively breastfed infants.

In our study there was a significant difference between breast Feeding infants and artificially feeding in incidence of H.pylori infection i.e Positive cases were significantly higher (17 times more) among artificially-fed infants compared to breastfed infants .

It was found also that exclusive breastfeeding for at least 6 Months is a protective against H.pylori infection and hence from the hazard of H.pylori infection as ***Gastritis, gastroesophageal reflux,gastric ulcer*** and many other diseases

There was no significant difference between males positive cases And females positive cases.