

Re: Chemoprevention of Gastric Dysplasia: Randomized Trial of Antioxidant Supplements and Anti-*Helicobacter pylori* Therapy

We congratulate Dr. Correa and his colleagues (1) on their factorial trial evaluating the effects on gastric histopathology of treatment of *Helicobacter pylori*, supplementation with β -carotene, and supplementation with vitamin C. The article is very useful, but the authors were probably constrained in the amount of data that they could present. Particularly important would be a tabulation of counts of subjects cross-classified by treatment-combination group (eight groups) and by final histopathologic classification (nonatrophic gastritis, multifocal nonmetaplastic atrophy, intestinal metaplasia, dysplasia, and cancer). Such a table would permit the assessment of the overall impact of treatments on the distribution of histopathology after 72 months of intervention and would complement the data on progression and regression rates given in the article. Such data would allow one to determine whether some treatment or combination of treatments produces a substantially favorable shift in the average severity of histopathology and in the proportion of individuals having dysplasia or cancer after 72 months of treatment. Having such data would also facilitate comparison with the results of other ongoing studies, when they become available.

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Table 1. Number of subjects in each intervention category by histopathology diagnosis at baseline and 72 months of follow-up*

Baseline	72 Months					Total
	NAG	MA	MET	DYS	Cancer	
MA						
PL	2	11	7			20
BC	3	7	4	1		15
BC AA	5	5	3			13
AA	5	9	7			21
AA HC HP	6	9	8			23
HP AA	6	6	5			17
HP	5	5	4			14
HP BC	4	9	7			20
Total	36	61	45	1		143
MET						
PL	1	2	34	11		48
BC	3	9	36	11	1	60
BC AA	3	9	26	7	1	46
AA	3	8	36	11		58
AA BC HP	7	5	31	12		55
HP AA	6	4	29	10		49
HP	3	5	37	9	2	56
HP BC	5	5	25	17		52
Total	31	47	254	88	4	424
DYS						
PL			5	2		7
BC			1	2		3
BC AA			4	2		6
AA		3	4	5		12
AA BC HP			4	5		9
HP AA		1	2	3		6
HP	1		6	3	1	11
HP BC			5	4		9
Total	1	4	31	26	1	63

*NAG = nonatrophic gastritis, MA = multifocal nonmetaplastic atrophy, MET = intestinal metaplasia, DYS = dysplasia, PL = placebo, BC = β -carotene, AA = ascorbic acid, HP = *Helicobacter pylori* treatment.

REFERENCE

(1) Correa P, Fontham ET, Bravo JC, Bravo LE, Ruiz B, Zarama G, et al. Chemoprevention of gastric dysplasia: randomized trial of antioxidant supplements and anti-*Helicobacter pylori* therapy. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 2000;92: 1881-8.

NOTES

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RESPONSE

We thank Drs. Gail, Brown, and You for their comments on our article (1). To facilitate further analysis and com-

parisons with similar studies, we provide the detailed information requested in Table 1.

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REFERENCE

(1) Correa P, Fontham E, Bravo J, Bravo L, Ruiz B, Zarama G, et al. Chemoprevention of gastric dysplasia: randomized trial of antioxidant supplements and anti-*Helicobacter pylori* therapy. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 2000;92: 1881-8.

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