

ROLE OF HELICOBACTER PYLORI AS A PATHOGEN OR MUTUALIST IN COLOMBIA

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Poster

Stomach & H. Pylori

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A study from Colombia found that *Helicobacter pylori* exhibits different roles in coastal versus mountain regions, with coevolution and mutualist patterns in low-risk coastal areas contrasting with disrupted coevolution and pathogenic patterns in high-risk Andean mountains.

KEY POINTS

- Virulent *H. pylori* genotypes were significantly more prevalent in the mountain region (85.9%) compared to the coastal region (75.9%), $p=0.04$
- Mountain region participants predominantly showed type 1 inflammatory immune response (83%) while coastal region participants predominantly showed type 2 inflammatory response (81%)
- The IL-1B-511TT risk genotype frequency was significantly higher in mountain populations (54.4%) versus coastal populations (36.6%), $p=0.006$
- Mountain population carriers of the IL-10-1082AG genotype had 5.45 times higher risk of developing gastric cancer precursor lesions compared to IL-10-1082AA carriers (OR 5.45, 95% CI 1-7.59)
- The authors conclude that *H. pylori* acts as a mutualist in low-risk coastal areas but as a pathogen in high-risk mountain areas where eradication may be warranted

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