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Summary

HELICOBACTER PYLORI SECONDARY ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCES: A GENOTYPIC STUDY ON STOOL SAMPLES

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Stomach & H. Pylori

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A study of 50 Southern Italy patients with at least one failed H. pylori eradication found secondary antibiotic resistance rates of 16% for clarithromycin, 18% for metronidazole, 14% for amoxicillin and levofloxacin, and 2% for tetracycline, with clarithromycin resistance appearing particularly associated with prior clarithromycin exposure.

KEY POINTS

- Among patients who previously failed clarithromycin-containing regimens, 31.6% showed clarithromycin resistance compared to 16% overall secondary resistance to this antibiotic
- Multi-resistance was detected in 18% of patients, with clarithromycin plus metronidazole being the most common pattern
- Resistance was assessed using stool samples analyzed by RT-PCR and high-resolution melting curve for five antibiotics
- The authors conclude that while overall secondary resistance rates are not very high, clarithromycin resistance appears strongly linked to previous clarithromycin exposure
- This work may inform clinicians managing patients in Southern Italy with repeated H. pylori eradication failures

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