

PREVALENCE OF PRIMARY CLARITHROMYCIN, METRONIDAZOLE AND LEVOFLOXACIN RESISTANCE IN PATIENTS INFECTED WITH HELICOBACTER PYLORI IN EUROPE: A REVIEW OF THE LAST FOUR DECADES

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Poster

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A systematic review of 218 European studies from 1990 to 2024 reveals high and rising primary antibiotic resistance in *Helicobacter pylori*, with clarithromycin resistance averaging 17%, metronidazole resistance consistently at 34%, and levofloxacin resistance increasing from low levels in the 1990s to 20-25% in recent years.

KEY POINTS

- Clarithromycin resistance increased from 7.3% in the 1990s to 26% in 2010-2019, with a slight decrease to 22% in 2020-2024, and has remained above 15% throughout the study period.
- Metronidazole resistance remained consistently high at a European average of 34%, with particularly high rates in Poland (66%), Turkey (67%), and Switzerland (60%).
- Levofloxacin resistance showed progressive increase from low levels in the 1990s to approximately 15% in 2010-2019 and 20-25% in recent years.
- Southern European countries presented higher clarithromycin resistance rates (over 15-20%) compared to northern countries (under 10-15%).
- The authors conclude these findings highlight the urgent need for region-specific antibiotic stewardship and updated treatment guidelines for *H. pylori* eradication.

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