

Biostatistics statement

For the statistical analysis, SPSS version 19.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA) were used. A *p*-value less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant. Continuous variables were summarized as mean \pm standard deviation (SD) using the Student's *t*-test, while categorical variables were summarized as frequency (%) using the chi-square test. The differences between the groups were compared using the ANOVA test for continuous variables.

The strength of correlation between the serum anti-*H. pylori* IgG titer and variables were estimated by correlation analysis. For continuous variables that were found to be related to severe *H. pylori* infiltration on gastric biopsy, a receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve was constructed by plotting sensitivity (true-positive rate) against 1-specificity (false-positive rate). Accuracies of the significant variables were measured based on the area under the ROC curve (AUC) analysis with a 95% confidence interval (CI) and standard error (SE) values.

Follow-up data were analyzed to compare the changes between the subjects with successful eradication and those with persistent *H. pylori* infection. For the eradicated subjects, differences between pre- and post- eradication were analyzed using the Wilcoxon signed rank test. In similar, differences between initial and follow-up data were analyzed using the Wilcoxon signed-rank test in the subjects with persistent *H. pylori* infection.