

ETHICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE, ICDDR,B.

Principal Investigator Dr. Mahmudul Haque Trainee Investigator (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Application No. Rec/03/90 & Dr. Firdousi Qadri

Supporting Agency (if Non-ICDDR,B) \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Study Studies on virulence factors of Helicobacter pylori strains isolated from peptic ulcer patients. Project status:

- New Study
- Continuation with change
- No change (do not fill out rest of form)

Circle the appropriate answer to each of the following (If Not Applicable write NA).

1. Source of Population:
  - (a) Ill subjects  Yes  No
  - (b) Non-ill subjects  Yes  No
  - (c) Minors or persons under guardianship  Yes  No
2. Does the study involve:
  - (a) Physical risks to the subjects  Yes  No
  - (b) Social Risks  Yes  No
  - (c) Psychological risks to subjects  Yes  No
  - (d) Discomfort to subjects  Yes  No
  - (e) Invasion of privacy  Yes  No
  - (f) Disclosure of information damaging to subject or others  Yes  No
3. Does the study involve:
  - (a) Use of records, (hospital, medical, death, birth or other)  Yes  No
  - (b) Use of fetal tissue or abortus  Yes  No
  - (c) Use of organs or body fluids  Yes  No
4. Are subjects clearly informed about:
  - (a) Nature and purposes of study  Yes  No
  - (b) Procedures to be followed including alternatives used  Yes  No
  - (c) Physical risks  Yes  No
  - (d) Sensitive questions  Yes  No
  - (e) Benefits to be derived  Yes  No
  - (f) Right to refuse to participate or to withdraw from study  Yes  No
  - (g) Confidential handling of data  Yes  No
  - (h) Compensation &/or treatment where there are risks or privacy is involved in any particular procedure  Yes  No

5. Will signed consent form be required:
  - (a) From subjects  Yes  No
  - (b) From parent or guardian (if subjects are minors)  Yes  No
6. Will precautions be taken to protect anonymity of subjects  Yes  No
7. Check documents being submitted herewith Committee:
  - Umbrella proposal - Initially submit overview (all other requirements be submitted with individual study Protocol (Required))
  - Abstract Summary (Required)
  - Statement given or read to subject nature of study, risks, types of questions to be asked, and right to refuse to participate or withdraw (Required)
  - Informed consent form for subject
  - Informed consent form for parent/guardian
  - Procedure for maintaining confidentiality
  - Questionnaire or interview schedule
- \* If the final instrument is not completed prior to review, the following information should be included in the abstract:
  1. A description of the areas to be covered in the questionnaire or interview which could be considered either sensitive or which would constitute an invasion of privacy
  2. Examples of the type of specific questions to be asked in the sensitive areas.
  3. An indication as to when the questionnaire will be presented to the committee for review.

We agree to obtain approval of the Ethical Review Committee for any changes involving the rights and welfare of subjects before making such change.

Dr. Mahmudul Haque  
Principal Investigator

Dr. Firdousi Qadri  
Trainee

(PTO)

*Dr. Mahmud Hasan*

SECTION I - RESEARCH PROTOCOL

1. TITLE : STUDIES ON VIRULENCE FACTORS OF HELICOBACTER PYLORI STRAINS ISOLATED FROM PEPTIC ULCER PATIENTS

2. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS : Dr. Mahmudul Haque  
Medical Officer  
Department of Microbiology  
Institute of Postgraduate Medicine & Research (IPGM&R)

Dr. Firdousi Qadri  
Associate Scientist  
Lab. Science Division  
ICDDR,B.

CO-INVESTIGATORS : Dr. Kazi Masihur Rahman  
Professor of Microbiology  
IPGM&R

Dr. Mahmud Hasan  
Professor of Gastroenterology  
IPGM&R.

Dr. Ruhul Amin Miah  
Associate Professor of Microbiology  
IPGM&R

3. STARTING DATE : Shortly after receipt of the fund

4. COMPLETION DATE : One year from the starting date of the protocol.

5. TOTAL DIRECT COST : US\$ 5,490

6. COLLABORATING AGENCIES : IPGM&R and P.C.C. of ICDDR,B

7. SIGNATURE OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS 1. *[Signature]* 2. *Firdousi Qadri*

8. APPROVAL OF THE HEAD OF THE INSTITUTE/DIVISION  
1. *[Signature]* 27/90  
1. Director IPGM&R  
2. *[Signature]*  
2. Division Head Laboratory Science Division, ICDDR,B

## 8. ABSTRACT:

Helicobacter pylori is one of the recent discoveries that has shown a significant association with gastritis and peptic ulcer diseases. Efforts are to establish its causal relationship with the above disorders and explain the pathogenesis of the infection. The protocol has been designed to study the virulence factors of H. pylori. Strains isolated from peptic ulcer patients will be studied for the presence of presumptive colonization factors or adhesins by examining the pattern of haemagglutination of different species of erythrocytes by the bacterium and the inhibition of haemagglutination by various chemicals. For the non-specific factor influencing colonization, the cell surface hydrophobicity will be estimated. Enzyme urease, proposed to be a prominent virulence factor of H. pylori, will be purified, its profile in different strains will be compared and its immunogenic potentiality will be assessed by western blot technique using serum from H. pylori infected patients. This will have a diagnostic and prophylactic implications.

## SECTION - RESEARCH PLAN

### A. INTRODUCTION

#### B. Objective

To study the virulence factors of H. pylori which will assist to explain the pathogenesis of H. pylori infection and clarify its role in the aetiopathogenesis of gastritis and peptic ulcer diseases. The study will purify urease (proposed to be a prominent virulence factor of H. pylori), compare its profile in various strains and find out its immunogenic potentiality in infected patients.

#### C. Background

Peptic ulcer disease is an age old medical problem having widescale prevalence all over the world. An endoscopic study<sup>1</sup> carried out in Dhaka described a very high prevalence of peptic ulcer (11.9% and 3.5% of duodenal and gastric ulcer respectively) in this region. Despite the long history of the disease its definite aetiology is not to be identified.

Since the first description of the presence of spiral bacterium in human stomach by Krintz in 1906 (cited from Freedberg & Barrow<sup>2</sup>) there have been sporadic reports<sup>3,4,5,6</sup> on the relationship of spiral and other bacterium with pathologic states like peptic ulcer, gastritis etc. but none could establish any definite relationship. The description of a spiral bacterium by Marshall<sup>7</sup> & Warren<sup>8</sup> in 1983 revived the issue of microbial aetiology of peptic ulcer. The bacterium was initially named Campylobacter pyloridis.<sup>9</sup> The name was later readjusted as Campylobacter pylori.<sup>10</sup> With the availability of detailed information on the morphology, ultrastructure, ribosomal RNA sequencing pattern, the bacterium showed major differences from other species of Campylobacters and thus placed in a new genus and named Helicobacter pylori.<sup>11</sup>

H. pylori is a Gram-negative, microaerophilic, spiral (seen in vivo only), ox-bow shaped, curved or occasionally rod shaped bacterium having a smooth cell wall with a layer of glycocalyx external to it and multiple sheathed flagella arising from one or occasionally two poles; produces enzyme urease and shows resistance to nalidixic

acid. Whereas Campylobacters possess rough surfaced wall with a single unsheathed flagellum arising from one or both poles and do not produce urease.

Since its first description a series of reports have described a strong association between this organism and pathological states like gastritis, gastric ulcer, duodenitis and duodenal ulcer 12-18. Despite such an association, the exact mechanism of possible bacterial pathogenicity are so far poorly understood.

Microbial pathogenesis is usually complex and multifactorial. Pathogens have several biochemical mechanisms which may act individually or in concert to produce infection and disease. It is useful to understand the pathogenesis of infection so that new therapeutic and preventive schemes can be developed. Microorganisms enter the host by a limited number of routes. Interactions with the host surfaces are usually involved at or soon after entry. The first major interaction between a pathogenic microorganism and its host entails attachment to eucaryotic cell surface. Some organisms multiply at and remain on the surface of the host while others use attachment as the first essential step before proceeding to deeper tissues or other locations.

The attachment stage is the best characteristic of host-parasite interactions as it is one of the easiest aspects to address experimentally.<sup>19,20,21</sup> In its simplest form, microbial adherence requires the participation of two factors: a receptor and an adhesin. The receptors defined so far are usually specific carbohydrate residues on the eucaryotic cell surface. The bacterial adhesin is typically a protein structure on the bacterial cell surface possessing specific carbohydrate binding properties. Adhesins which attach to erythrocytes are termed haemagglutinins and have been morphologically identified as thin hair-like structures commonly known as either fimbriae or pili.<sup>22</sup>

Haemagglutination (HA) tests have been found to be useful for detecting the presence of fimbriae. But surface adhesins showing properties may also be non-fimbrial in nature. They are referred to as the non-fimbrial adhesins (NFA) to differentiate them from fimbrial

adhesins. 23, 24, 25

Besides binding of bacteria via specific adhesins to epithelial cell receptors non-specific contribution of cell surface hydrophobicity is also considered important. Hydrophobicity involves interaction between non-polar groups present on bacteria and host cell. Besides the non-polar hydrophobic component polar hydrophilic components are also present on the bacterial cell surface and it is the interaction between the hydrophobic and hydrophilic components that determine the overall contribution of hydrophobic interaction to adhesion.<sup>28</sup> A number of intestinal pathogens express a hydrophobic cell surface which permits colonization of mucus layer in the small bowel.<sup>29</sup> Hydrophobicity of the H. pylori strains isolated from peptic ulcer patients needs to be estimated which will assist to have an idea on the colonization factors of H. pylori.

Evans et al tested 10 strains of H. pylori for haemagglutinating activity.<sup>26</sup> Those strains showed HA with the erythrocytes of all the tested species. However, variable species specific HA were observed by other authors.<sup>27, 28</sup> Studies may be carried out with erythrocytes of larger number of species and describe the pattern of haemagglutination. In order to have an idea on the nature of haemagglutinin inhibition tests (HAI) have been carried out with limited number of chemicals. HAI with strains from widely divergent geographical location may be carried out with larger number of chemicals and the pattern of HA and the nature of haemagglutinin noted.

Adherence properties of H. pylori can more specifically be shown by its adherence to different epithelial cell lines, more particularly to cell line of intestinal origin. Only one report<sup>29</sup> showing adherence of H. pylori to epithelial cell line Hep-2 and intestinal cell line Int-407 has been published. Strains isolated from a divergent area may be used to study the adherence properties.

The enzyme urease has been proposed to play a major role as a virulence factor of H. pylori. It has been proposed to create an insulating alkaline blanket around the organism and thus allow its passage through the acid environment of stomach. The ammonia produced from the break down of urea by urease have been proposed

to cause back-diffusion of  $H^+$  ions with resultant hyperchlorohydria and tissue damage. The study of urease profile of the strains will help to find out inter-strain variations in the proposed virulence factors of H. pylori. The enzyme may be purified and the purified or the crude form of urease may be used as an antigen in transblotting procedure to find out their immunogenicity in infected patients.

### 3. Rationale:

Peptic ulcer is a common medical problem of Bangladesh. On a global perspective this area happens to be one of the highest prevalent zone of peptic ulcer. In the absence of knowledge about the definite aetiology of peptic ulcer disease existing therapies are inadequate to give life long cure; treatment needs to be continued for prolonged period with frequent relapses. Establishment of H. pylori as one of the causal agent may help in planning more effective intervention measures. Identification of virulence factors of H. pylori will be able to explain the pathogenesis of lesions associated with its infection and assist in devising diagnostic and therapeutic measures.

### B. SPECIFIC AIMS:

1. To measure the cell surface hydrophobicity of H. pylori isolates by using Salting-out aggregation test!
2. To determine the adhesive property of H. pylori by studying its haemagglutinating potentiality of erythrocytes from different species of animals.
3. To characterize the agglutinins of H. pylori (if present) by inhibition of haemagglutination with different chemicals.
4. To study the adhesiveness of H. pylori in an in-vitro cell culture model.
5. To purify urease and find out its profile in the local isolates.

6. To study the immunogenicity of urease in *H. pylori* infected patients.
7. To establish a collaborative linkage between Department of Microbiology and Gastroenterology of IPGM&R and Lab. Science Division of ICDDR, B.

### C. METHODS AND PROCEDURES

#### A. Bacterial strains to be used in the study:

*H. pylori* strains will be isolated from patients referred for endoscopy at the Gastroenterology Department of IPGM&R. The strains will be identified using the following criteria : i. Colonial character, ii. Gram-stain, iii. oxidase, catalase and urease tests. Fresh isolates will be used for determination of SAT value and haemagglutination pattern. The strains will be preserved in liquid nitrogen for further study. Before each experiment they will be sub-cultured and tested again for reconfirmation of their properties. Enterotoxigenic *E. coli* strain no. 045565 will be used as a positive control for haemagglutination assays while non-pathogenic *E. coli* strain no 36000 will be used as a negative control.

#### b. Sample collection, processing and culture:

The samples will be collected from patients undergoing routine endoscopy for peptic ulcer-like symptoms. Informed consent will be obtained from the patients and biopsy samples will be collected from endoscopically positive peptic ulcer patients. The samples will be collected from the following sites : i. gastric ulcer : three pieces from intact mucosa around the ulcer, ii. duodenal ulcer: three pieces from antrum within three centimeters of pylorus. Samples will be collected in 20% glucose broth, transported to the laboratory and preserved at 4°C till tested.



The samples will be minced into pieces on a glass slide with the help of a sterile blade and inoculated on chocolate agar plates composed of Brain Heart Infusion Agar with 10% sheep blood and antibiotics (vancomycin- 6mg/L, amphotericin B 10 mg/L, nalidixic acid- 2 mg/L and trimethoprim- 5 mg/L. Plates will be incubated at 37°C in a microaerophilic atmosphere obtained either by using Campy Pak (BBL Microbiology Systems, Cockeysville, MD.) or by evacuating the gas jar upto 5300 mm Hg and refilling with a gas mixture (H<sub>2</sub> 10%, CO<sub>2</sub>- 10% and N<sub>2</sub>- 80%).

The strains will be stored in liquid nitrogen in 15% glycerol Brain Heart Infusion Broth.

c. Measurement of cell surface hydrophobicity:

Cell surface hydrophobicity will be measured by the salt aggregation test using the method of Faris et al.<sup>24</sup> Washed bacterial cells will be serially diluted with ammonium sulfate of varying molarity (0.02 M to 3.6 M) on glass slides and will be observed for 30 seconds. The highest dilution of ammonium sulfate in which visible aggregation occurs will be the SAT value for surface hydrophobicity.

d. Adhesion assays:

To determine adhesion of bacteria two different techniques will be used and are described as follows:

Haemagglutination Assays

Freshly prepared erythrocytes obtained from guinea pig, sheep, bovine, rabbit and human (Blood gr. O & A) will be used and the procedure followed by Salit et al.<sup>32</sup> will be applied. Haemagglutination assays will be carried out on slides using erythrocytes at a concentration of 2% and in microtitre plates (U-well) at 0.5% conc. The slide agglutination assays will only be used for quick detection of HA.

For slide agglutination, bacteria will be suspended in phosphate buffered saline (PBS) and mixed directly with erythrocyte suspension according to Evans et al.<sup>23</sup>

For determination of HA titre serial two-fold dilution of bacterial suspension (starting with  $10^{10}$  cells/ml) will be mixed with erythrocytes (30 ul of 0.5% suspension). The results will be recorded after 60-90 minutes of incubation at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Inhibition by specific antisera will be tested after preincubation of bacteria with approximately diluted antiserum for 1 hr at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$ . To determine inhibition by carbohydrates, different sugars e.g. D-galactose, D-fucose, D-mannose, N-acetyl neuraminic acid, N-acetyl glucosamine, N-acetyl galactosamine, Feutin etc. using the procedure of Old DC.<sup>35</sup>

#### Adhesion assay in tissue culture cells

This assay will be carried out on following cell lines:

a. Hep-2, b. Henle-407 and c. HeLa cell lines using the standard laboratory techniques. Inhibition by sugars and antiserum to H. pylori and Serum from H. pylori infected patients will be carried out according to the method of Dolores et al.<sup>36</sup>

#### e) Demonstration of urease profile

##### 1) Preparation of sample for SDS-PAGE:

The bacteria will be grown in chocolate agar plates enriched with 1% isovitalax, harvested and washed twice in PBS by centrifuging at 5000 Rpm ( $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). The pellet will be resuspended in a small volume of solubilization buffer (0.625 M Tris-HCl (pH 6.5), sodium dodecyl sulphate (SDS) 3% w/v, 2-mercaptoethanol 5% w/v. Cell debris will be removed from the sonicate by centrifugation at 13000g and cell free extract will be preserved in small volumes at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

##### 2) Urease Assay:

Urease activity of the sonic extract will be determined by modified Barthelot reaction<sup>37</sup> the amount of ammonia formed from a standard excess amount of urea will be determined by mixing: 10 ul of extract with 240 ul of UPFM substrate (30 mM urea, 20 mM sodium phosphate buffer, pH 7.5, 1mM disodium EDTA, 10 mM 2-mercaptoethanol and incubating at room temperature for 5 minutes. The reaction will be

stopped by addition of phenol nitroprusside solution 0.5ml, alkaline hypochlorite 0.5 ml and distilled water 0.5ml. After 5 minute incubation at room temperature the intensity of the developed blue colour will be measured at 570 nm and compared with that given by standard solutions of ammonium chloride. One unit of urease will be defined as the amount of extract required to liberate one umol of ammonia in 5 min at room temperature in the above condition.

### 3) Sodium dodecylsulphate -polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis(SDS-PAGE):

Extracts containing urease were analysed by SDS-PAGE according to Laemmli with some modification<sup>37</sup>.

#### f) Purification of urease:

Purification of urease will be carried out by the following method:

##### i) Isolation of crude urease from gel:

A 1.5 mm gel as described above will be loaded with whole cell extracts and run as per the method of Senior et al.<sup>37</sup> The bands in the gel corresponding to urease activity will be cut off from the gel and macerated in a stabilizing buffer ( 0.1M sodium phosphate buffer(pH 7.0) containing 0.01M 2-mercaptoethanol), mixed up overnight in a magnetic stirrer(4°C) and centrifuged at 8000 rpm to pellet the gel. The supernatant will be tested for urease activity and preserved in small quantities at -20°C.

##### ii) Purification of urease by affinity chromatography:

DEAE-Sephadex column will be used to purify urease using the method of Stemke et al.<sup>38</sup>

##### iii) Production of antisera against purified urease:

Rabbit anti-urease serum will be prepared by injecting 0.1 ml urease extracts in complete Freund's adjuvant(0.3ml) to hind toe pads, followed in 3 weeks by subcapsular injection of 0.2 ml serum in incomplete Freund's adjuvant.

##### iv) Western blotting;

The purified urease will be run in SDS-polyacrylamide and then transferred electrophoretically to nitrocellulose paper by the method of Towbin et al.<sup>39</sup> The membrane will be treated with rabbit anti-urease antisera and the sera from H. pylori infected patients and the immunogenic potentiality will be noted.

## REFERENCES

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SECTION III - ESTIMATED BUDGET

1. Personnel Services:

Name	Position	Time Effort	Monthly Amount (US\$)	Months	Total (US\$)
<u>PGM&amp;R:</u>					
r. Mahmudul Haque	P.I.	30%	60	12 X 1	720
r. Ruhul Amin Miah	Coinvestigator	10%	30	12 X 1	360
r. Mahmud Hasan	Coinvestigator	5%	-	-	-
r. Kazi Masihur Rahman	Do	5%	-	-	-
o be named	Research physician	100%	135	12 X 1	1,620
o be named	Research Assistant	100%	60	12 X 1	720
<u>DDDR, B</u>					
r. Firdausi Qadri	P.I.	10%	-	-	-

2. SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

a. Glasswares	200.00
b. Chemicals and media, diagnostics reagents	1,500.00
c. Animal resources	50.00
d. Equipments (Transblot Chamber)	500.00
e. Travel and transport	50.00
f. Transport of materials	-
g. Medical illustration	50.00
h. Xerox	50.00
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Total US\$	5,940.00



## সম্মতি-পত্র

কোডর চিকিৎসা ও গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠানের মাইক্রোগায়োলজী ও  
স্ট্রাকচারাল জীবিবিদ্যা বিভাগ কর্তৃক পেপারটিক আলমসারের মাইক্রো  
গায়োলজী নির্ণয়সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে গবেষণা করছে। এই গবেষণার ফলে  
পেপারটিক আলমসারের কারণ সম্বন্ধে বর্তমান জগনের আয়ো  
জনাতি হবে। অতএব এই রোগের জন্য আয়ো উপযোগী চিকিৎসা  
প্রদান করা সম্ভব হতে পারে।

আপনি এই গবেষণায় স্বেচ্ছায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে চাইলে আপনার  
পাকসূত্রী থেকে পরীক্ষার জন্য দু'টুকো বায়ুদ্রবী নমুনা, এবং  
৫ মিলি. রক্ত প্রদান করতে হবে।

আপনি উক্ত গবেষণায় অংশগ্রহণে রাজী থাকলে নিচে আপনার  
স্বাক্ষর প্রদান করে সম্মতি দিন।

রোগীর নাম : .....

স্বাক্ষর :