

# H. pylori may not be risk factor for head and neck cancer

December 30 2014

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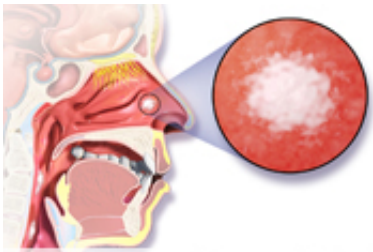


Image courtesy of Blausen Medical

(HealthDay)—*Helicobacter pylori* may not be a risk factor for head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, according to a study published online Dec. 18 in *Head & Neck*.

Noting that previous studies have indicated *H. pylori* may be a risk factor for head and neck [squamous cell carcinoma](#), Grégoire B. Morand, M.D., from the University Hospital Zurich, and colleagues examined its impact in the upper aerodigestive tract. The authors conducted serology, rapid urease test, and quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) assays for *H. pylori* in 56 head and neck cancer patients and 90 cancer-free controls.

The researchers found that in logistic regression the rates of positive serology and rapid urease tests did not differ between the groups ( $P =$

0.677 and 0.633, respectively). Predictors of positive [serology](#) were birth in a developing country (P *H. pylori* on qPCR).

"This study challenges the concept that *H. pylori* may be a risk factor for head and neck squamous cell carcinoma," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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Citation: *H. pylori* may not be risk factor for head and neck cancer (2014, December 30)  
retrieved 15 December 2023 from  
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