

Question 22 – January 2

The CagA strain of *H.pylori* is associated with which of the following?

- A. Increased risk of gastric MALT lymphoma.
- B. Decreased risk of gastric adenocarcinoma.
- C. Increased risk of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma.
- D. Decreased risk of duodenal ulcers.
- E. Increased risk of Barrett's esophagus.

Answer: A

The CagA strain of *H.pylori* has been associated with an increased risk of gastric adenocarcinoma, MALT lymphoma. It can also cause more severe inflammation and associated with higher incidence of both gastric and duodenal ulcers. The protective effect of CagA *H.pylori* against GERD has been suggested, therefore theoretically should decrease the risk of Barrett's esophagus. There has been no studies to date to suggest an increased risk of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma associated with *H.pylori*.

Reference:

Umehara S, Higashi H, Ohnishi N, Asaka M, Hatakeyama M. Effects of Helicobacter pylori CagA protein on the growth and survival of B lymphocytes, the origin of MALT lymphoma. *Oncogene*. 2003;22(51):8337-42.