

Helicobacter pylori infection and gastrointestinal malignancy

Mohammad Hussein, M.D.
Al-Assad University Hospital



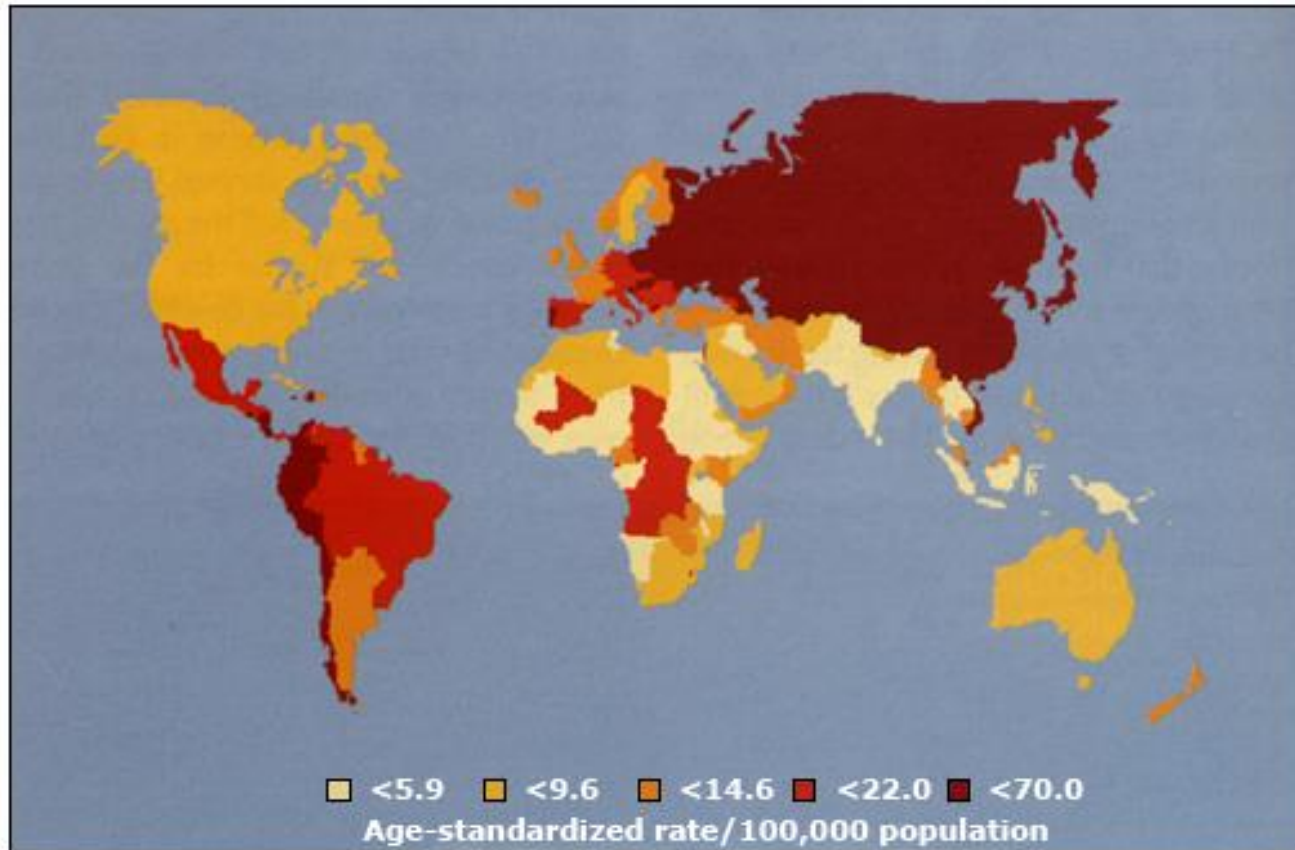
**The World Health Organization (WHO)
has classified HP as a class I carcinogen
since 1994**

- Gastric adenocarcinoma
- Gastric lymphoma
- Colon cancer
- Pancreatic cancer
- Hepatobiliary cancer
- Esophageal cancer

Gastric adenocarcinoma

- One of the most common causes of cancer-related death in the world
- 90% of gastric tumors
- The incidence of gastric cancer varies with different geographic regions.

Global incidence of gastric cancer in men



The highest rates occur in Eastern Asia, South America, and Eastern Europe.

Stewart B, Keihues P. World Cancer Report, International Agency for Research on Cancer Press, Lyon France 2003. p.194.

2 Main sites of gastric adenocarcinoma

DISTAL (NON-CARDIA)

- Decreasing
- Risk factors
 - HP
 - low socioeconomic status
 - smoking
 - salty and smoked food intake
 - low consumption of fruits and vegetables
 - family history of GC

PROXIMAL (CARDIA)

- Increasing
- Risk factors
 - obesity
 - gastro-esophageal reflux disease
 - Barrett's esophagus

2 Main types (Lauren classification):

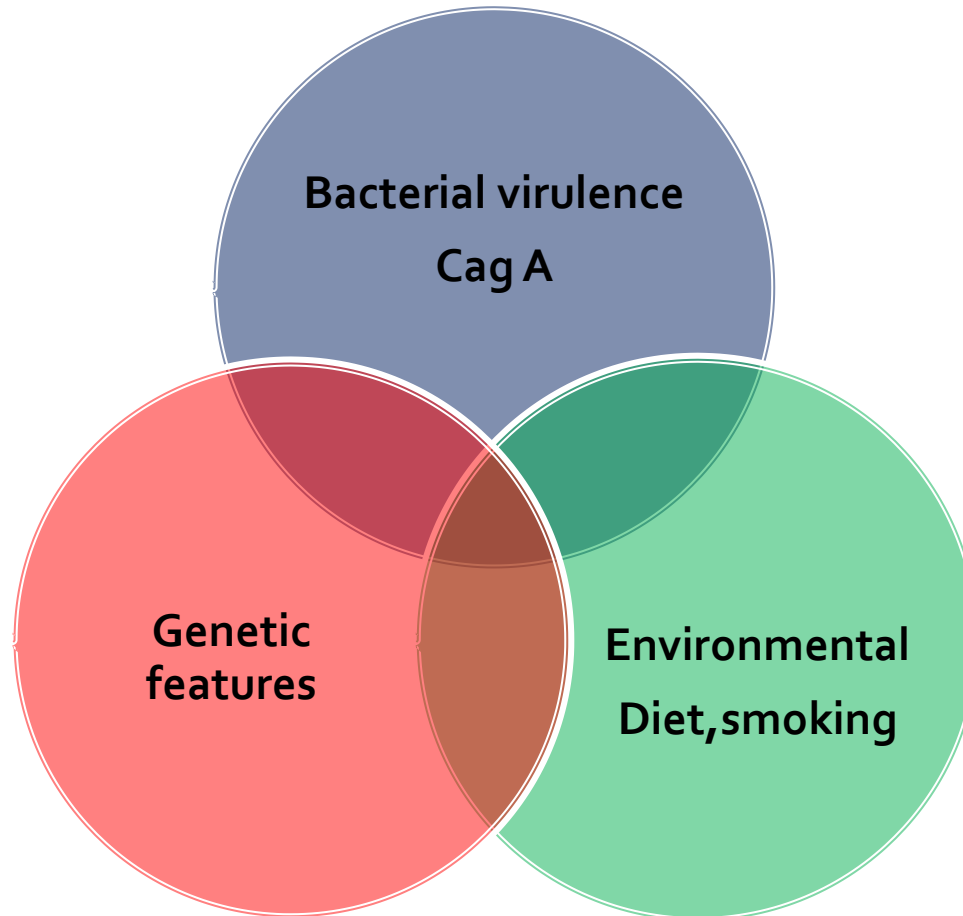
INTESTINAL TYPE

- corpus-dominant gastritis with intestinal metaplasia
- Older age groups

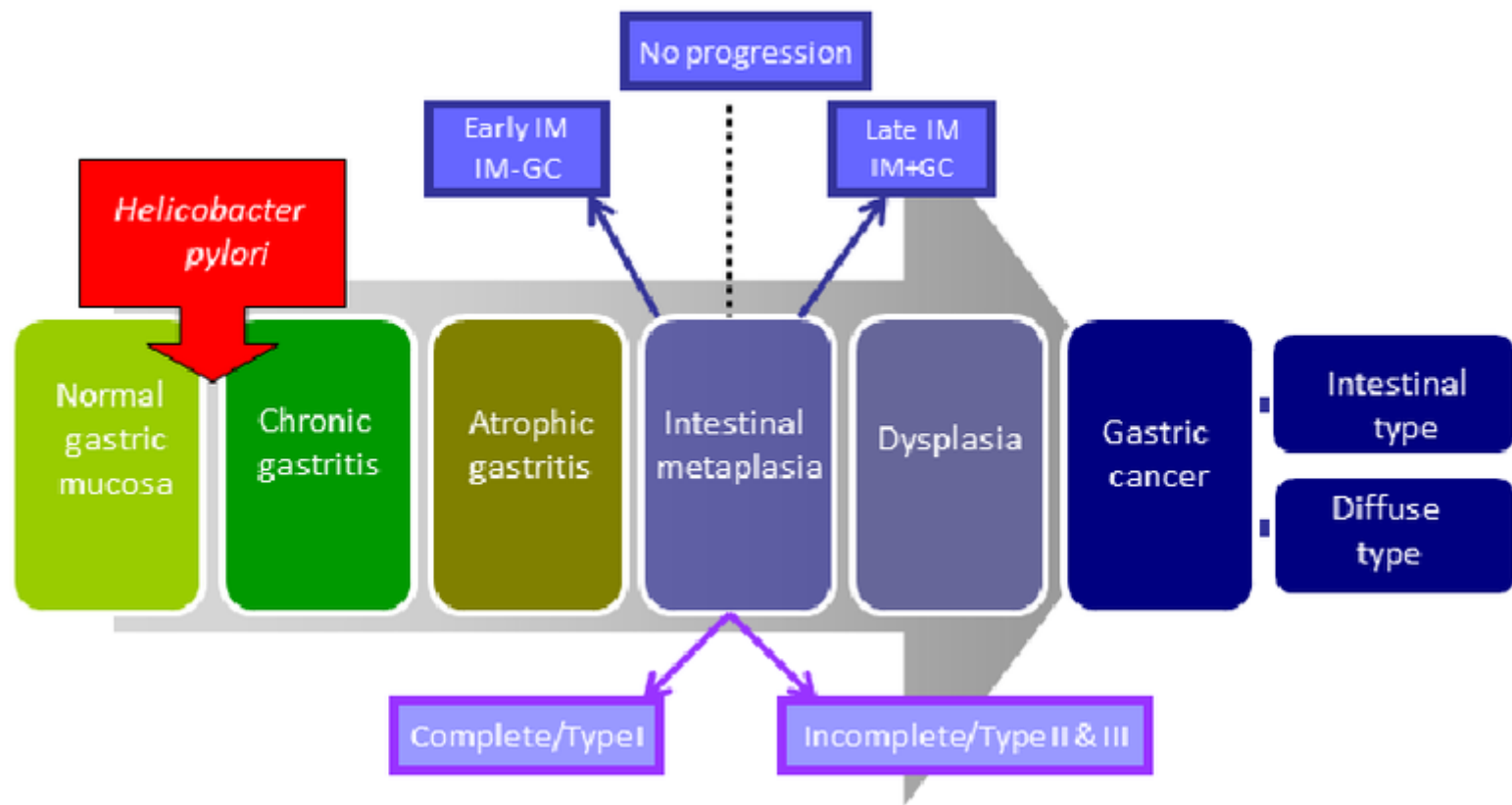
DIFFUSE TYPE

- superficial pangastritis without atrophy
- younger individuals

Etiology



Gastric adenocarcinoma natural history



Gastric intestinal metaplasia

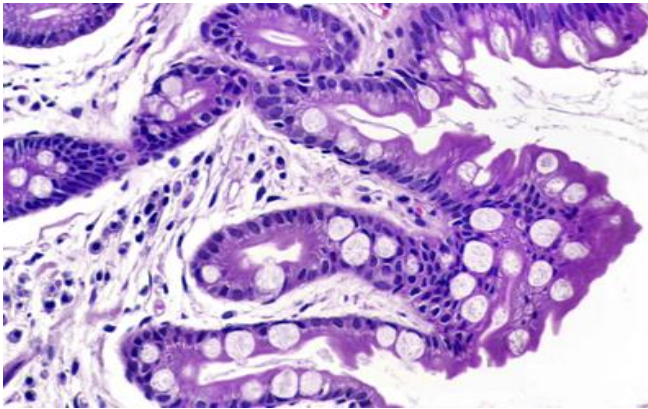
- **DEFINITIONS**
- Gastric intestinal metaplasia is defined as the replacement of the surface, foveolar, and glandular epithelium in the oxyntic or antral mucosa by intestinal epithelium
- Precancerous gastric lesion

Gastric intestinal metaplasia

- **Subtypes**
- **Limited intestinal metaplasia:** confined to one region of the stomach
- **Extensive intestinal metaplasia:** involves at least two areas of the stomach (the corpus and also either the antrum and/or incisura)

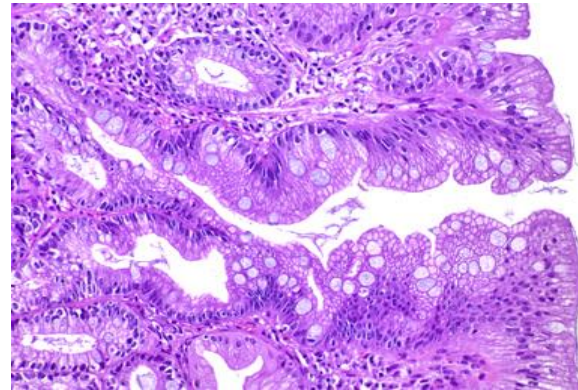
Gastric intestinal metaplasia

Complete gastric intestinal metaplasia



Small intestinal-type mucosa with goblet cells, a brush border, and eosinophilic enterocytes

Incomplete gastric intestinal metaplasia

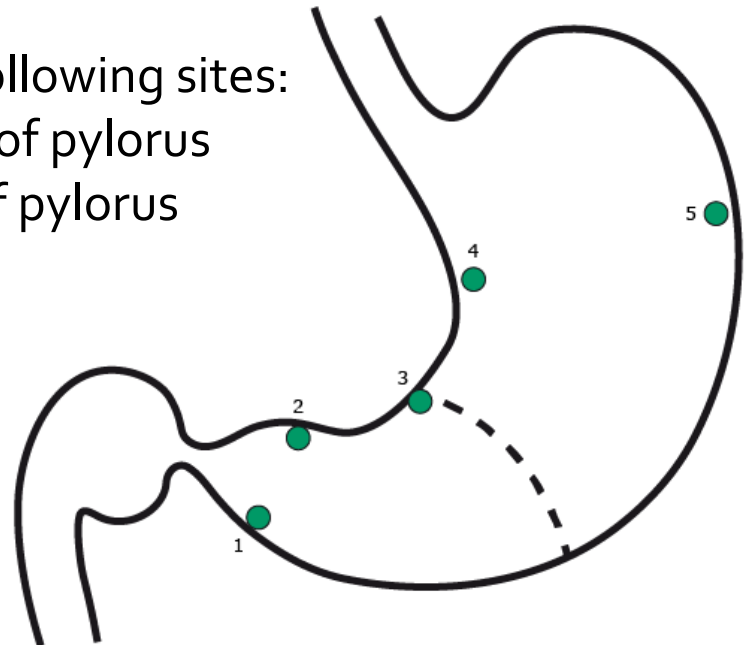


Colonic-type epithelium with multiple, irregular mucin droplets of variable size in the cytoplasm and absence of a brush border

Gastric biopsy mapping protocol

Gastric biopsies should be obtained from the following sites:

- (1) Antrum, greater curvature, within 3 to 5 cm of pylorus
- (2) Antrum, lesser curvature, within 3 to 5 cm of pylorus
- (3) Incisura angularis
- (4) Corpus, lesser curvature
- (5) Corpus, greater curvature



Management

- The goal of management is to decrease the risk of gastric cancer
 - Screening and eradication of *H. Pylori* and
 - Endoscopic surveillance for gastric cancer

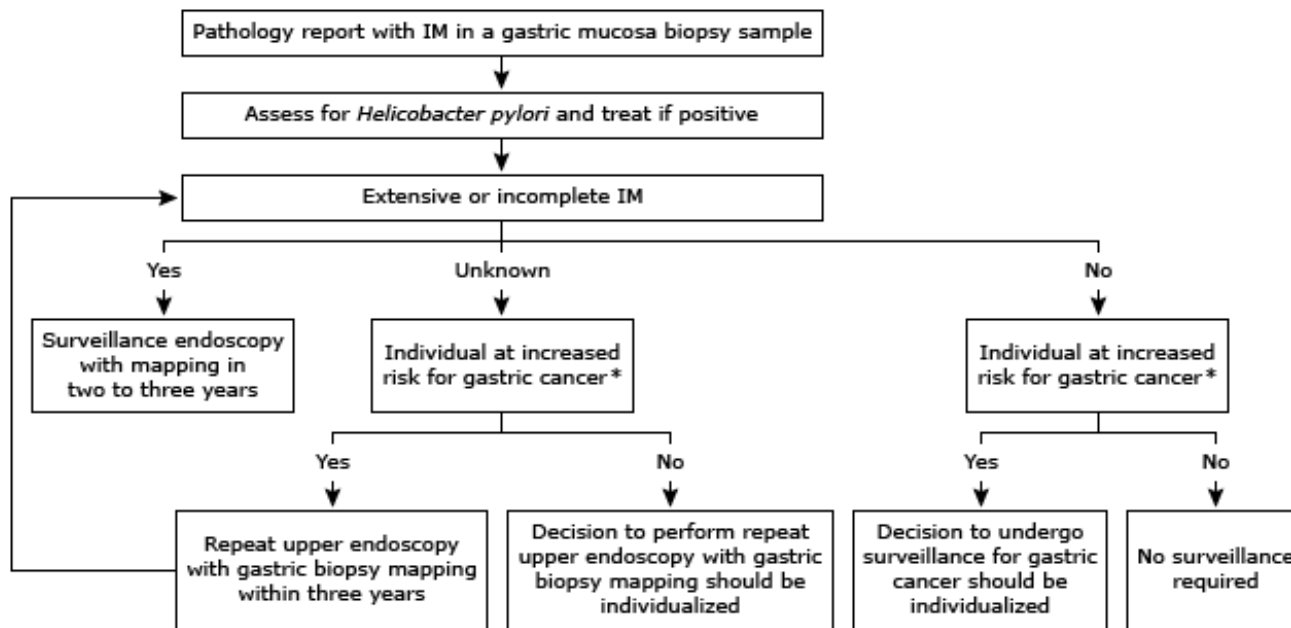
Management

- Eradication of *H. pylori*
- **Reverse** the histologic changes in the majority of patients with chronic non atrophic gastritis and in many patients with multifocal atrophic gastritis
- **Does not reverse** intestinal metaplasia
- Slow the progression of intestinal metaplasia to gastric cancer

Management

- Progression of metaplasia and gastric dysplasia are associated with a decrease in the burden of *H. Pylori*.
- If the histology does not demonstrate evidence of *H. Pylori*, noninvasive testing (eg, stool antigen, urea breath test, serology) should be performed

Surveillance



IM: intestinal metaplasia.

* Individuals at increased risk of gastric cancer include those with a family history of gastric cancer; non-Caucasian race/ethnicity, including African-Americans, Hispanics, and Asians; and first generation immigrants from high incidence regions (eg, Eastern Asia, mountainous Latin America).

Am J Gastroenterol 2010; 105:493.

Surveillance, ESGE guidelines 2019

High definition-chromoendoscopy (HD-CE) and guided biopsies OR
at least 2 biopsies from the antrum and 2 from corpus, lesser and greater curvature

Helicobacter pylori eradication if positive

Patients with atrophic gastritis or intestinal metaplasia (IM)

Mild to moderate
atrophy only in
the antrum, no IM

IM only in the
antrum OR IM
only in the corpus

Atrophy OR IM in
both antrum and
corpus¹

Family history of gastric
cancer², incomplete IM³,
autoimmune gastritis, or
persistent *H. pylori* infection

No

Yes

No

Yes

No surveillance

Surveillance preferentially with HD-CE with guided biopsies of irregular areas

Every 3 years

Every 1–2 years

Patients with dysplasia

Endoscopic reassessment at a reference center with HD-CE

Visible lesion?

No⁴

Yes

HD-CE in 6 months (high grade dysplasia)
to 12 months (low grade dysplasia)

If no visible lesion (re)stage gastritis and
follow up accordingly

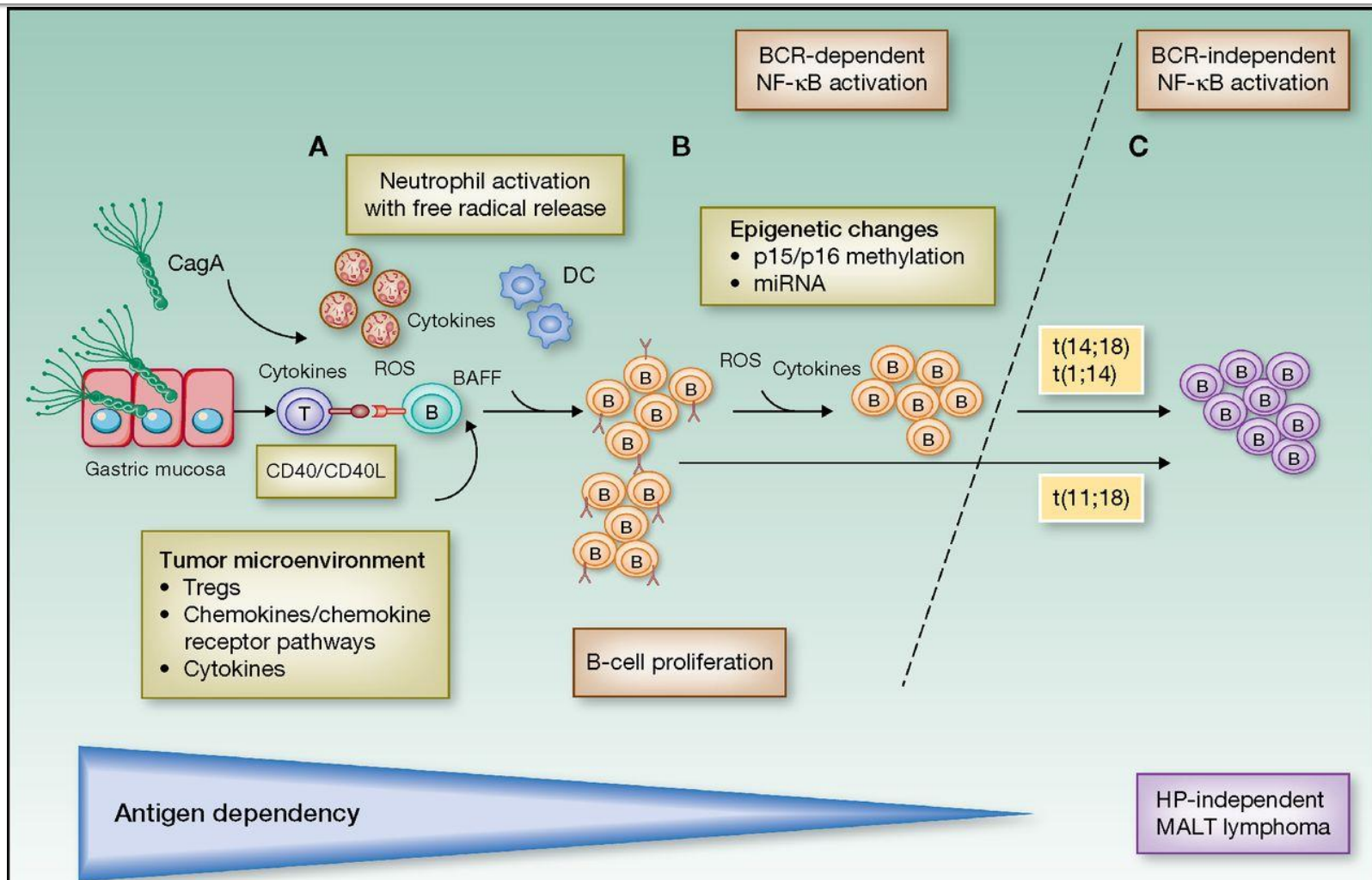
Staging and
resection

Every year

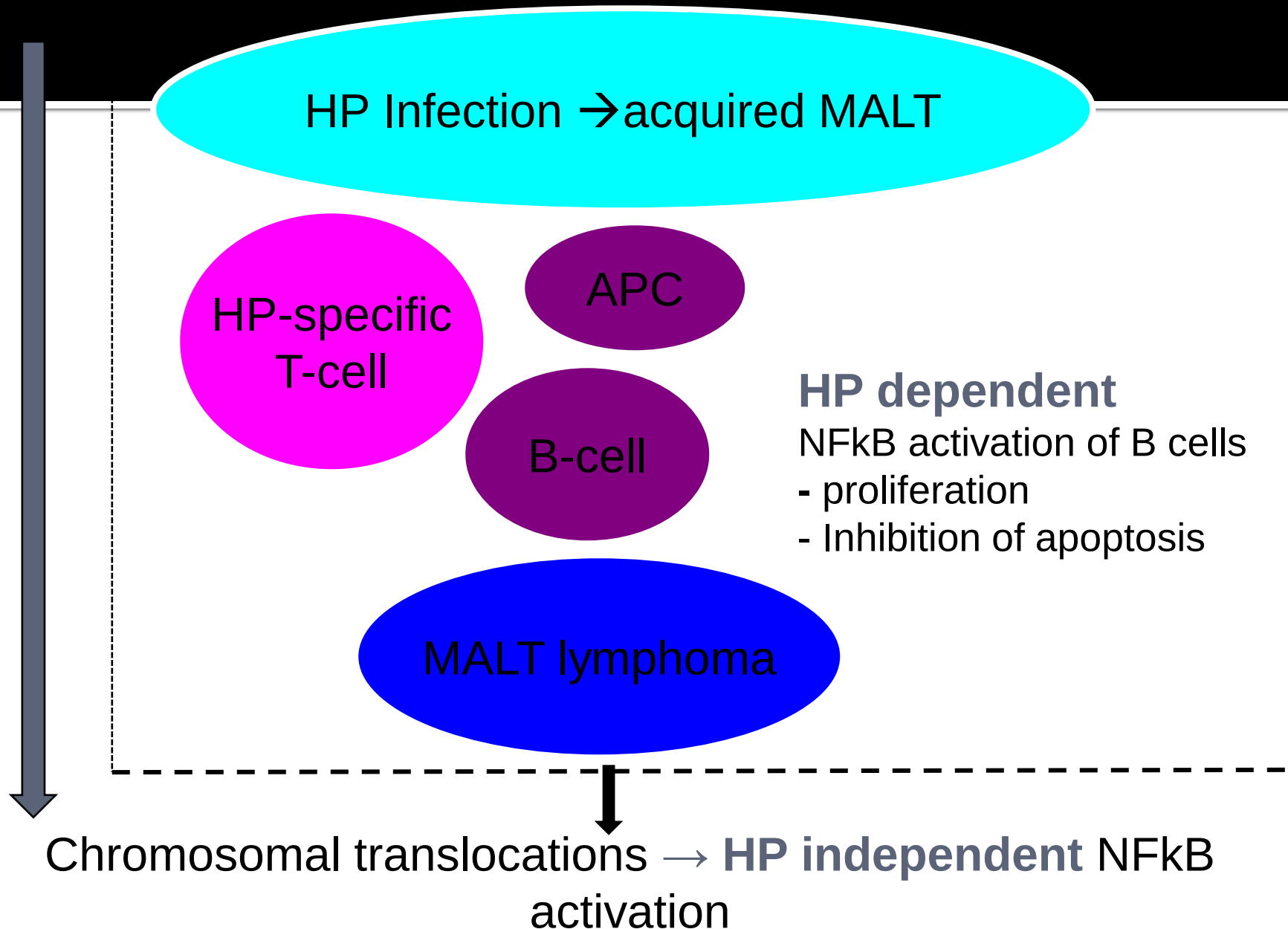
MALT lymphoma

- Extranodal marginal zone B-cell lymphoma
- Indolent non-hodgkin lymphoma
- Stomach is the most common site
- 3 percent of gastric neoplasms
- 10 percent of lymphomas

Etiology



Pathogenesis Gastric MALT Lymphoma:



Lugano staging system

Stage	Extent of lymphoma
I	Confined to GI tract (single primary, or multiple non-contiguous lesions)
II	Extending into abdomen from primary GI site II ₁ = local nodal involvement II ₂ = distant nodal involvement
IIE	Penetration of serosa to involve adjacent organ or tissues Specify site of involvement, e.g. IIE (pancreas) If both nodal involvement and involvement of adjacent organs, denote stage using both a subscript (1 or 2) and E, e.g. II ₁ E (pancreas)
IV	Disseminated extra-nodal involvement or concomitant supra-diaphragmatic nodal involvement

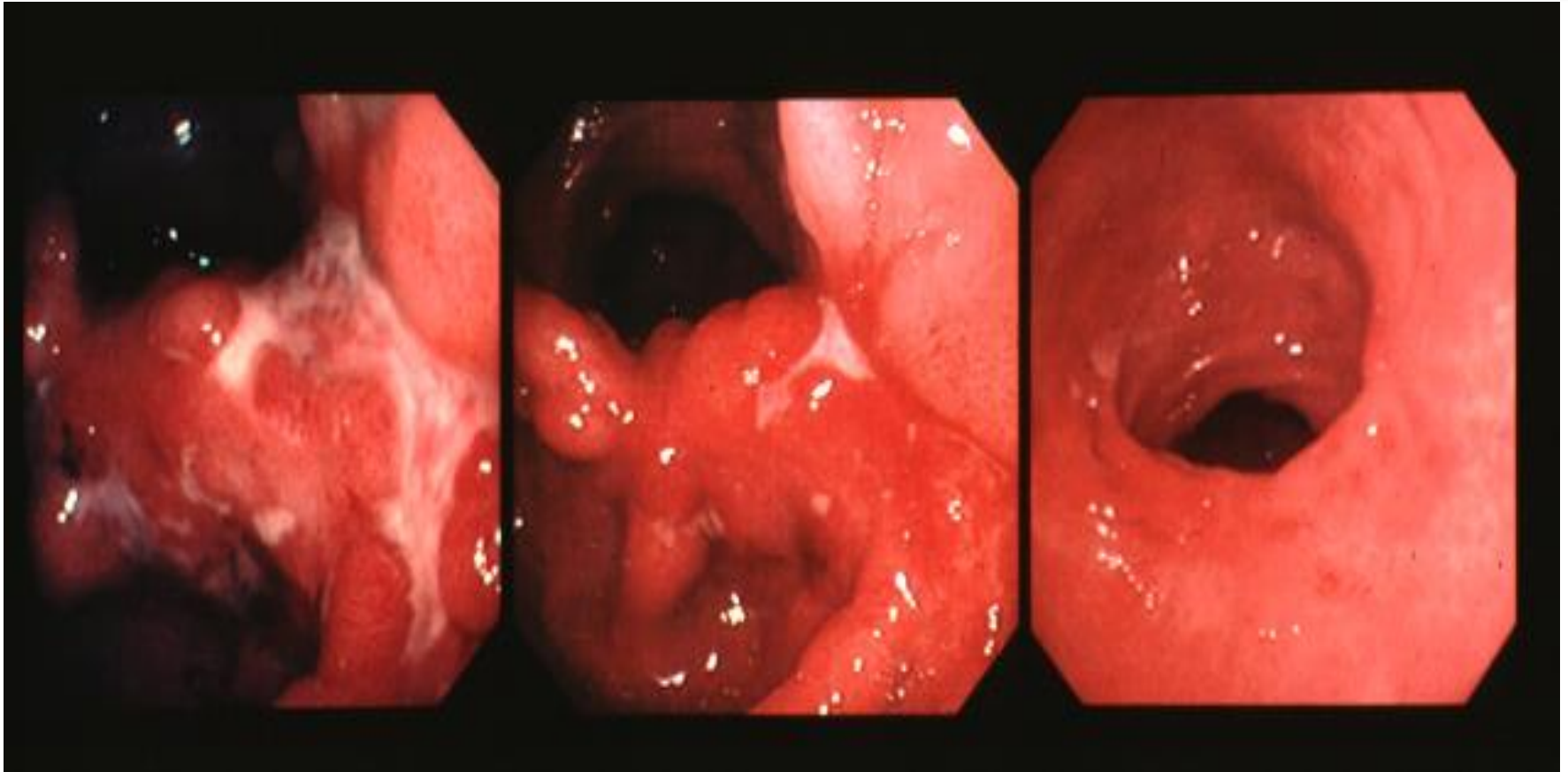
Treatment

- **Early stage *H. pylori* positive**
- initial *H. pylori* eradication therapy followed by surveillance
- Histologic CR was achieved in 50 to 83 percent of patients.
- The median time from *H. pylori* eradication to CR was 15 months

Treatment

- **Confirm eradication**
 - Four weeks after the completion of *H. pylori* eradication therapy
- **Assess tumor response**
 - periodic upper endoscopy with multiple biopsies to evaluate for tumor response and monitor for relapse
 - every three months until a histologic CR is attained

Effect of eradication of H.Pylori



Before Hp
eradication

2 weeks
post-eradication

10 months
post-eradication

Treatment failures

- 20 to 30 %
- t(11;18) translocation
 - Radiation therapy
 - Single agent [rituximab](#)
 - Chemoimmunotherapy(Lugano stage IV disease)
 - Gastric resection is reserved for patients with complications such as perforation, bleeding, or obstruction

Early stage *H. pylori* negative

- Radiation therapy
 - Single agent [rituximab](#)
 - chemoimmunotherapy
-
- There have been case reports of tumor responses to *H. pylori* eradication in *H. pylori*-negative patients, presumably due to false negative results of *H. pylori* testing

Colon Cancer

- An association between *H. pylori* infection and colorectal polyps and colorectal cancer has been described but remains controversial
- The biologic basis for such an association is uncertain
- One possibility is elevated serum gastrin levels in patients with *H. pylori* infection
- Gastrin receptors have been identified on a variety of colon cancer cell lines

Pancreatic Cancer

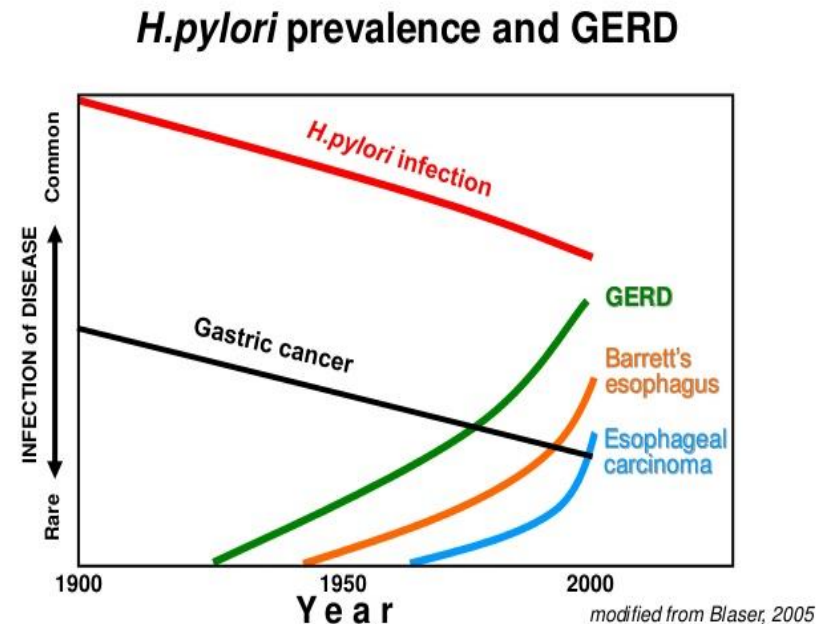
- An association between *H. pylori* infection and pancreatic cancer has been reported
- A possible mechanism proposed for the association of pancreatic cancer and *H. pylori* is the link between pancreatic cancer and chronic hyperacidity

Hepatobiliary Cancer

- identification of *Helicobacter* species in bile, gallstones, biliary, and hepatic tissues
- Several studies report an association between biliary tract carcinoma and infection with *H. pylori*

Esophageal cancer

- In a meta-analysis of 28 selected studies confirmed a significant **inverse association between *H.pylori* infection and esophageal adenocarcinoma**
- The mechanisms underlying the protective role still need to be elucidated



Thank you