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Helicobacter Pylori Infections

Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori) is a type of bacteria that causes infection in the stomach. It is the main cause of peptic ulcers [<https://medlineplus.gov/pepticulcer.html>] , and it can also cause gastritis and stomach cancer [<https://medlineplus.gov/stomachcancer.html>] .

About 30 to 40% of people in the United States get an H. pylori infection. Most people get it as a child. H. pylori usually does not cause symptoms. But it can break down the inner protective coating in some people's stomachs and cause inflammation. This can lead to gastritis or a peptic ulcer.

Researchers aren't sure how H. pylori spreads. They think that it may spread by unclean food and water, or through contact with an infected person's saliva and other body fluids.

A peptic ulcer causes a dull or burning pain in your stomach, especially when you have an empty stomach. It lasts for minutes to hours, and it may come and go for several days or weeks. It may also cause other symptoms, such as bloating, nausea, and weight loss. If you have the symptoms of a peptic ulcer, your health care provider will check to see whether you have H. pylori. There are blood, breath, and stool tests to check for H. pylori. In some cases, you may need an upper endoscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/endoscopy.html>] , often with a biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/biopsy.html>] .

If you do have a peptic ulcer, the treatment is with a combination of antibiotics and acid-reducing medicines. You will need to be tested again after treatment to make sure the infection is gone.

There is no vaccine for H. pylori. Since H. pylori might spread through unclean food and water, you might be able to prevent it if you:

- Wash your hands after using the bathroom and before eating
- Eat properly prepared food
- Drink water from a clean, safe source

NIH: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

Start Here

- **Helicobacter pylori Infections** [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/h-pylori.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/h-pylori.html>]

Diagnosis and Tests

- **Helicobacter Pylori (H. Pylori) Tests** [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/helicobacter-pylori-h-pylori-tests/>]
 (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/pruebas-de-helicobacter-pylori-h-pylori/>]
- **Stool Test: H. Pylori Antigen** [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/test-pylori-antigen.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/test-pylori-antigen.html>]

Related Issues

- Gastritis and Gastropathy [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/digestive-diseases/gastritis-gastropathy>]  (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/informacion-de-la-salud/enfermedades-digestivas/gastritis-gastropatia>]
- Definition & Facts for Peptic Ulcers (Stomach or Duodenal Ulcers) [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/digestive-diseases/peptic-ulcers-stomach-ulcers/definition-facts>]  (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/informacion-de-la-salud/enfermedades-digestivas/ulceras-pepticas/definicion-hechos>]
- Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori) and Cancer [<https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/infectious-agents/h-pylori-fact-sheet>]  (National Cancer Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/cancer/causas-prevencion/riesgo/germenes-infecciosos/hoja-informativa-h-pylori>]

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Helicobacter Infections [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Helicobacter+Infections%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Efficacy and safety of triple therapy with vonoprazan for Helicobacter pylori... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40741473>]
- Article: First regional consensus on the management of Helicobacter pylori infection in... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40741103>]
- Article: LOW-NICKEL DIET AS A STRATEGY IN THE TREATMENT OF HELICOBACTER PYLORI... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40699043>]
- Helicobacter Pylori Infections -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Helicobacter+Infections%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND%22last+1+Year%22%5Bdat%5D+AND+%28patient+education+handout%5Bpt%5D+OR+guideline%5Bpt%5D+OR+clinical+trial%5Bpt%5D%29++NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Find an Expert

- National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov>] 

Children

- Helicobacter Pylori Infections [<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/abdominal/pages/Helicobacter-Pylori-Infections.aspx>] (American Academy of Pediatrics)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.healthychildren.org/spanish/health-issues/conditions/abdominal/paginas/helicobacter-pylori-infections.aspx>]
- Stool Test: H. Pylori Antigen [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/test-pylori-antigen.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/test-pylori-antigen.html>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

[Helicobacter pylori infection](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007715.htm) [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007715.htm]

[Tests for H pylori](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007501.htm) [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007501.htm]

Related Health Topics

[Peptic Ulcer](https://medlineplus.gov/pepticulcer.html) [https://medlineplus.gov/pepticulcer.html]

[Stomach Cancer](https://medlineplus.gov/stomachcancer.html) [https://medlineplus.gov/stomachcancer.html]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Helicobacter Pylori Infections* is the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov>]

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