

## **Use Triple Therapy For Helicobacter Pylori Eradication, New Consensus Guidelines Say**

*(Excerpt)* QUEBEC CITY, February 1997 – Triple therapy is the treatment of choice for the eradication of the Helicobacter pylori bacteria, according to new gastroenterology consensus guidelines on the management of H. pylori and peptic ulcer disease.

The guidelines are being discussed during Canadian Digestive Disease Week to be held in Quebec City in late February.

“Triple therapy has significantly higher eradication rates,” said Dr. Richard N. Fedorak, of the Division of Gastroenterology, of the Department of Medicine at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

And once the H. pylori infection is eradicated in patients, so is the ulcer in most cases, Dr. Fedorak noted, since it’s the cause of more than 95% non-NSAID, non-malignant duodenal and gastric ulcers. “The discovery of this infection has radically changed our understanding of ulcer disease,” he said.

Optimal triple therapy treatment combinations may achieve H. pylori eradication in 90 to 95% of patients. By comparison, single antibiotic or anti-acid therapy is ineffective in eradicating the infection, while dual therapy provides eradication rates of only 50% to 75%, the guidelines say.

The consensus guidelines provide the details of three acceptable triple therapies.....