

# **THE PREVENTION and REDUCTION of and SCREENING for GASTRIC CANCER**

**Sander Veldhuyzen van Zanten  
MD, PhD, MSc, MPH**

**GI Division University of Alberta  
Senior Medical Director  
Digestive Health Strategic Clinical Network**

# CanMEDS Roles Covered

X	<b>Medical Expert</b> (as <i>Medical Experts</i> , physicians integrate all of the CanMEDS Roles, applying medical knowledge, clinical skills, and professional values in their provision of high-quality and safe patient-centered care. <i>Medical Expert</i> is the central physician Role in the CanMEDS Framework and defines the physician's clinical scope of practice.)
X	<b>Communicator</b> (as <i>Communicators</i> , physicians form relationships with patients and their families that facilitate the gathering and sharing of essential information for effective health care.)
	<b>Collaborator</b> (as <i>Collaborators</i> , physicians work effectively with other health care professionals to provide safe, high-quality, patient-centred care.)
	<b>Leader</b> (as <i>Leaders</i> , physicians engage with others to contribute to a vision of a high-quality health care system and take responsibility for the delivery of excellent patient care through their activities as clinicians, administrators, scholars, or teachers.)
	<b>Health Advocate</b> (as <i>Health Advocates</i> , physicians contribute their expertise and influence as they work with communities or patient populations to improve health. They work with those they serve to determine and understand needs, speak on behalf of others when required, and support the mobilization of resources to effect change.)
	<b>Scholar</b> (as <i>Scholars</i> , physicians demonstrate a lifelong commitment to excellence in practice through continuous learning and by teaching others, evaluating evidence, and contributing to scholarship.)
X	<b>Professional</b> (as <i>Professionals</i> , physicians are committed to the health and well-being of individual patients and society through ethical practice, high personal standards of behaviour, accountability to the profession and society, physician-led regulation, and maintenance of personal health.)

# Conflict of Interest Disclosure

(Over the past 24 months)

<b>Commercial or Non-Profit Interest</b>	<b>Relationship</b>
<b>Organization</b>	
<b>Paladin</b>	<b>Consultant</b>
<b>Pfizer</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
<b>Allergan</b>	<b>Advisory Board</b>
<b>AbbVie</b>	<b>Advisory Board</b>


# Objectives

- Learn about epidemiology of gastric cancer
- Learn about the importance of intestinal metaplasia and its relationship to *Helicobacter pylori*
- Learn about management of subgroups of patients at increased risk for gastric cancer

# Case 45 Year old male

- **Healthy**
- **Father died Gastric cancer age 53**
  
- **What would you advise ?**

# Gastric Cancer risk factors

- Age
- Diet
- Smoking
- Helicobacter
- Pernicious anemia
- Genetic factors  E-cadherin
- Family History Gastric Cancer

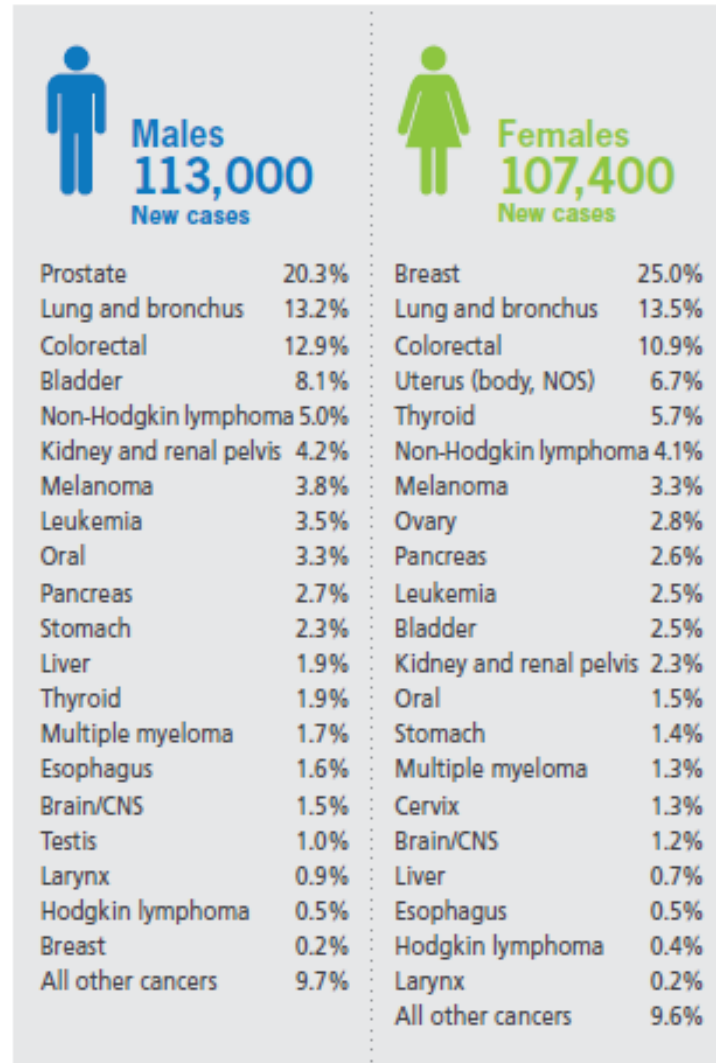
# Gastric Cancer in Canada

**In 2019:**

- **4100 Canadians will be diagnosed with stomach cancer.**
- **1950 Canadians will die from stomach cancer.**
  - **2600 men, 1200 will die**
  - **1450 women, 760 will die**

**Canadian Cancer Statistics**

**FIGURE 1.2** Percent distribution of projected new cancer cases, by sex, Canada, 2019



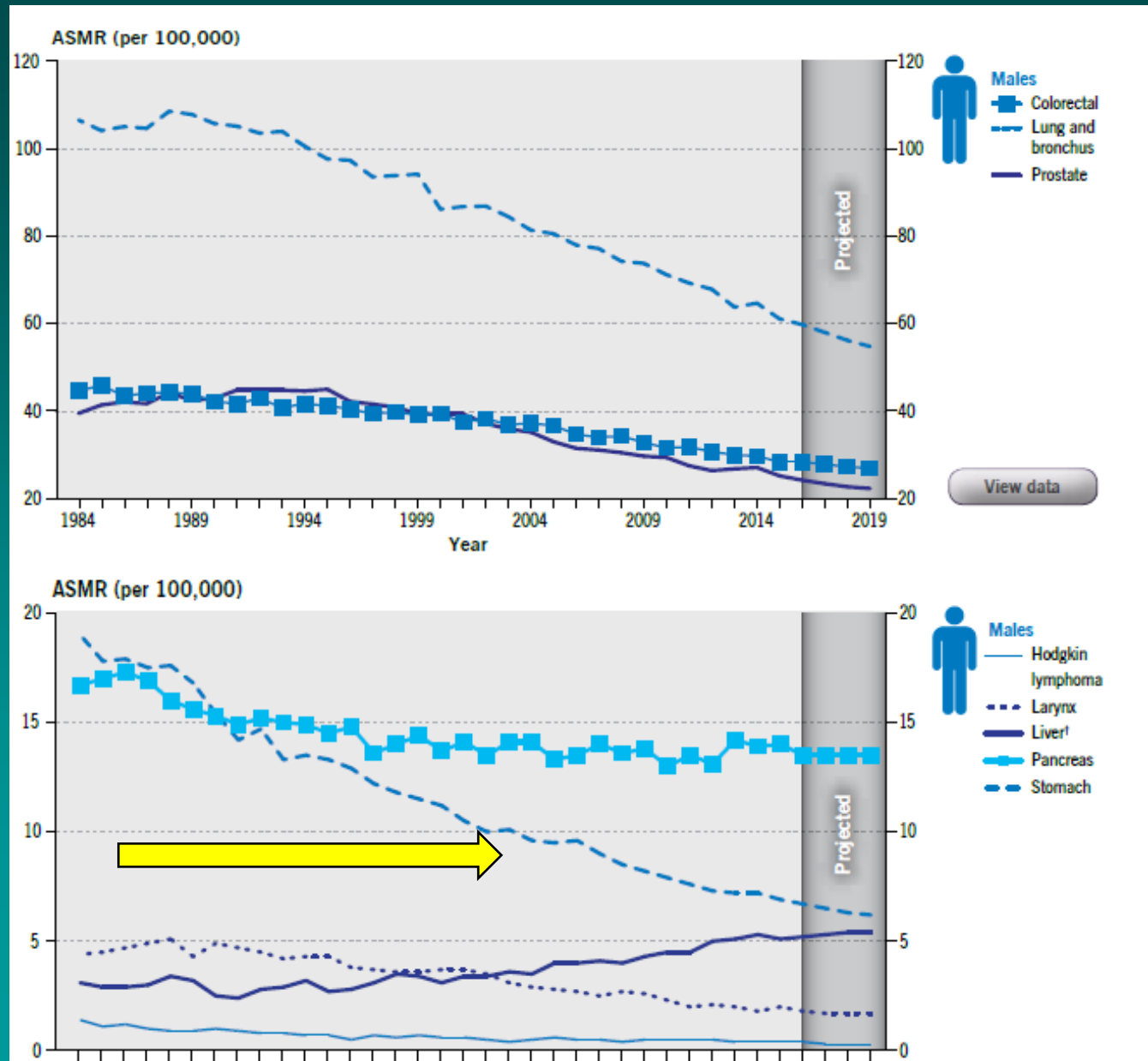
**Stomach 2.3%**

# New Cancer Cases

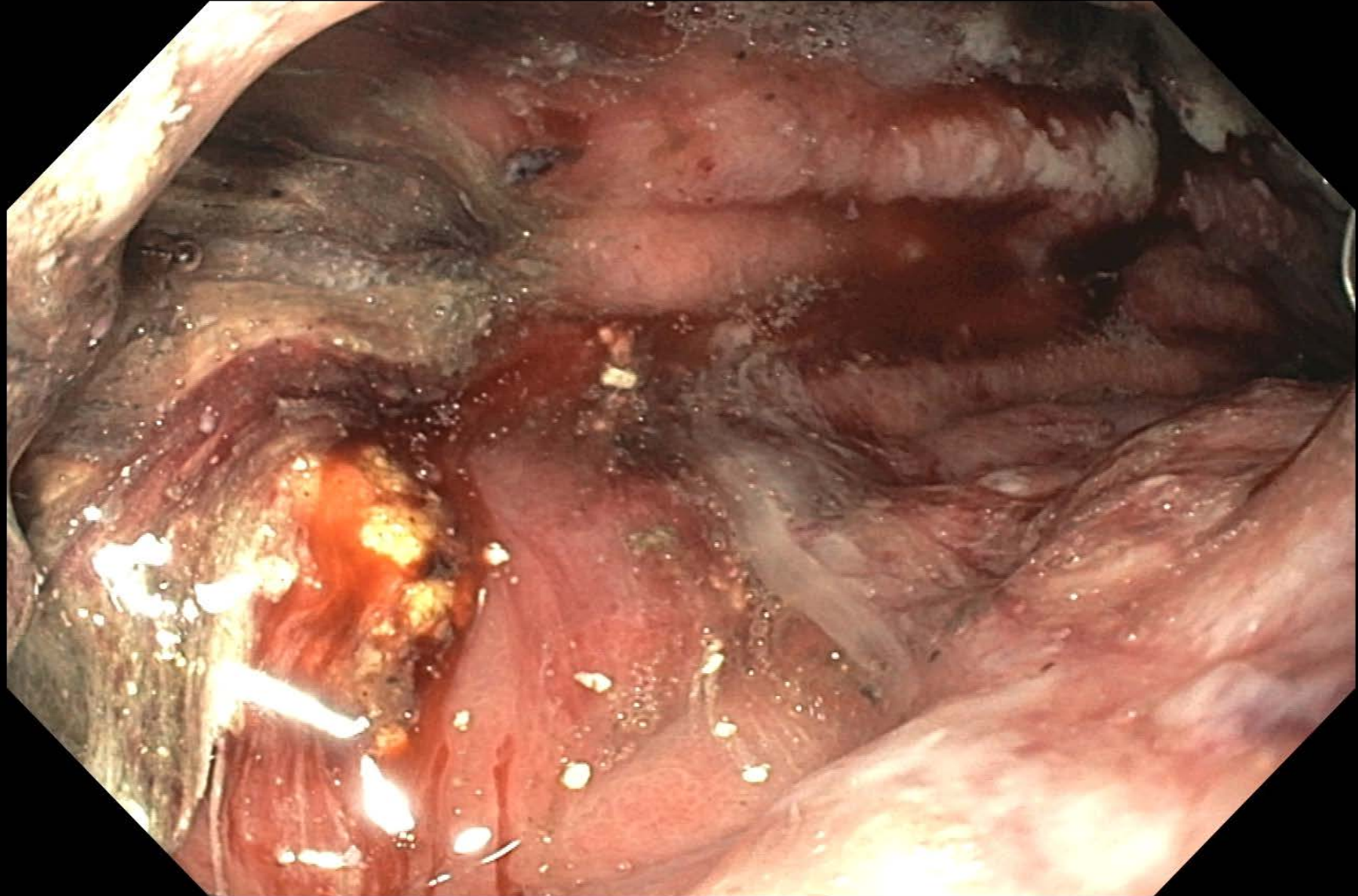
**Stomach 1.4%**



# Cancer Age Standardized Mortality



# 31 year old Male Signet cell Ring Gastric Cancer



ID: ■

Name:

Sex: Age:

D.O.B.:

01/27/2020

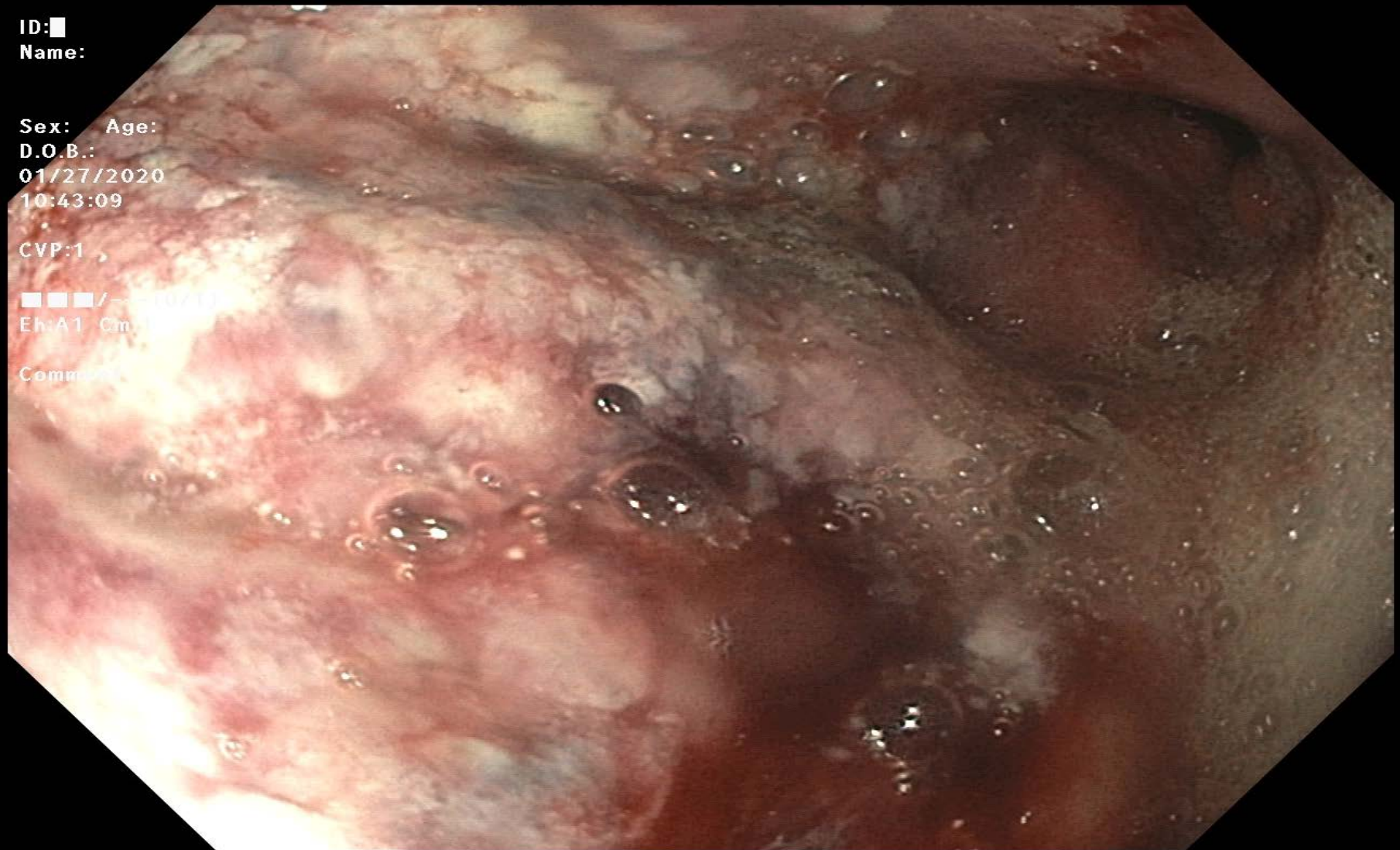
10:43:09

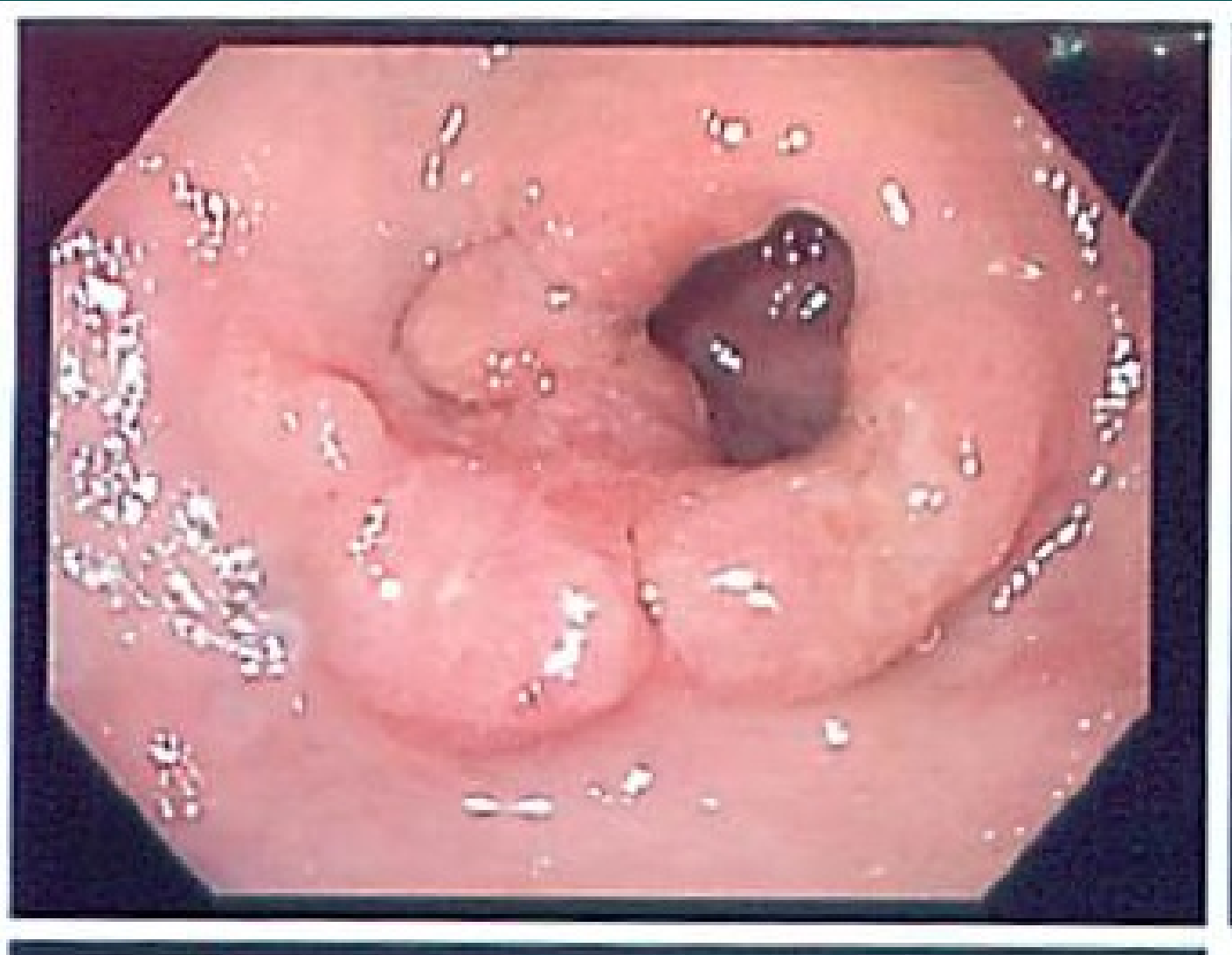
CVP:1

■■■/—/—

Et:A1 Cm

Comment:





# Gastric Cancer Subtypes

- **Non Cardia type Gastric Cancer**
- **Cardia type Gastric Cancer**
  
- **Diffuse Type Gastric Cancer**
- **Gastric Malt Lymphoma**

# Non-Cardia Gastric Cancer

- “intestinal-type” gastric cancer
- *H. pylori* primary risk factor
- Attributable risk up to 60-80%

GE 2020;158:693-78

# *Hp* and Cancer

- Intestinal type gastric cancer
- Diffuse type gastric cancer
  
- Gastric MALT Lymphoma

# **Gastritis is the Disease**

**Ulcers and Cancer are secondary phenomena**

**Whitehead , British pathologist**



**Chronic Active Gastritis**



**Atrophic Gastritis**



**Intestinal Metaplasia**

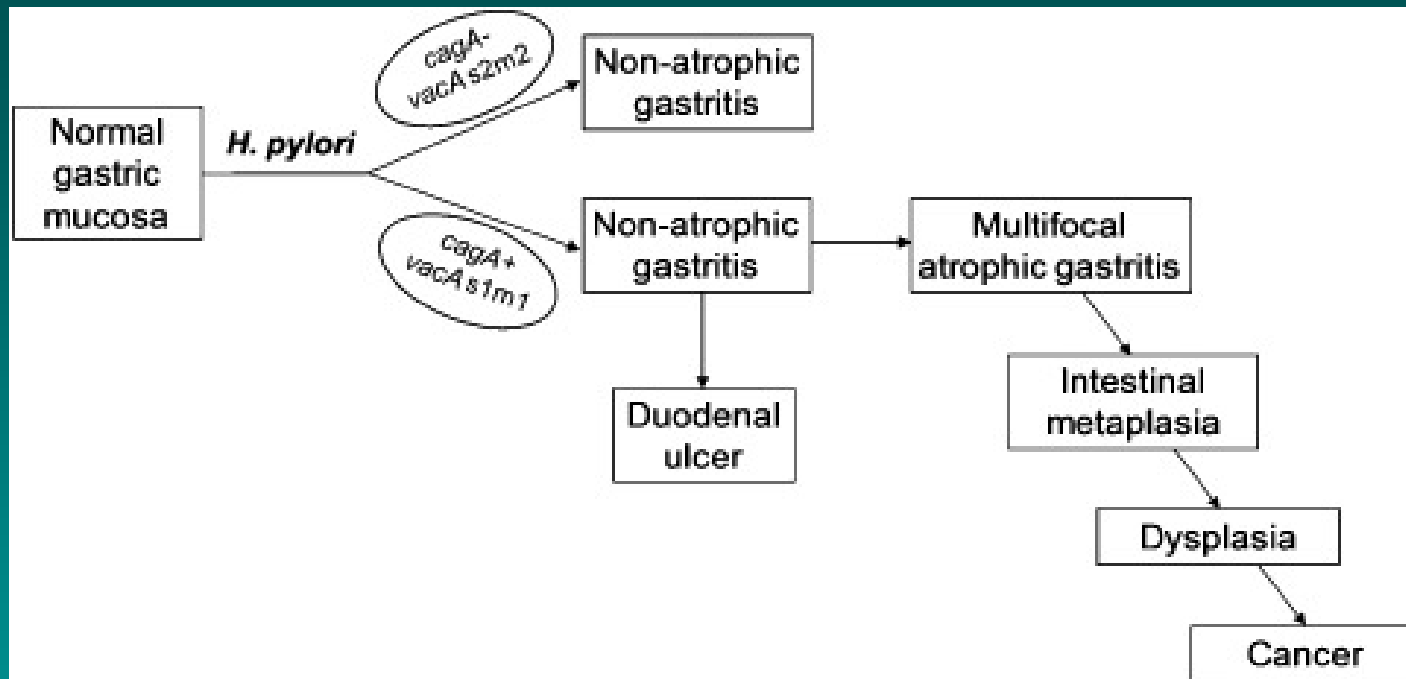


**Dysplasia**

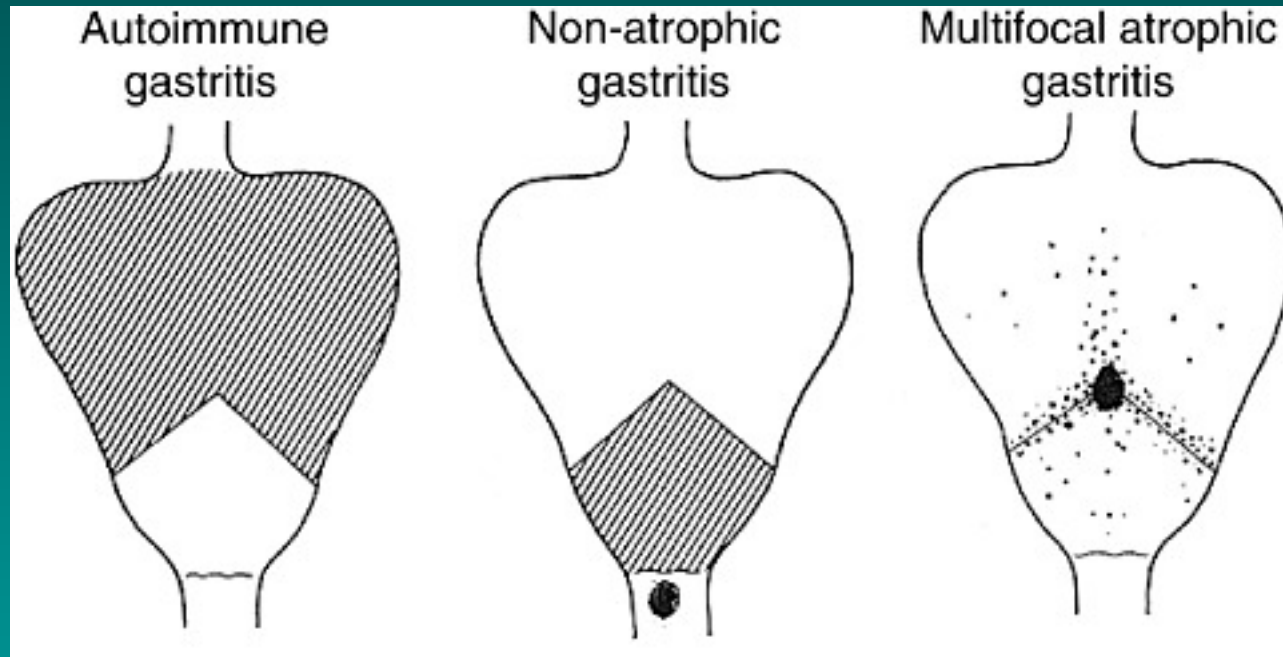


**Gastric adenocarcinoma**

**Correa  
Hypothesis**

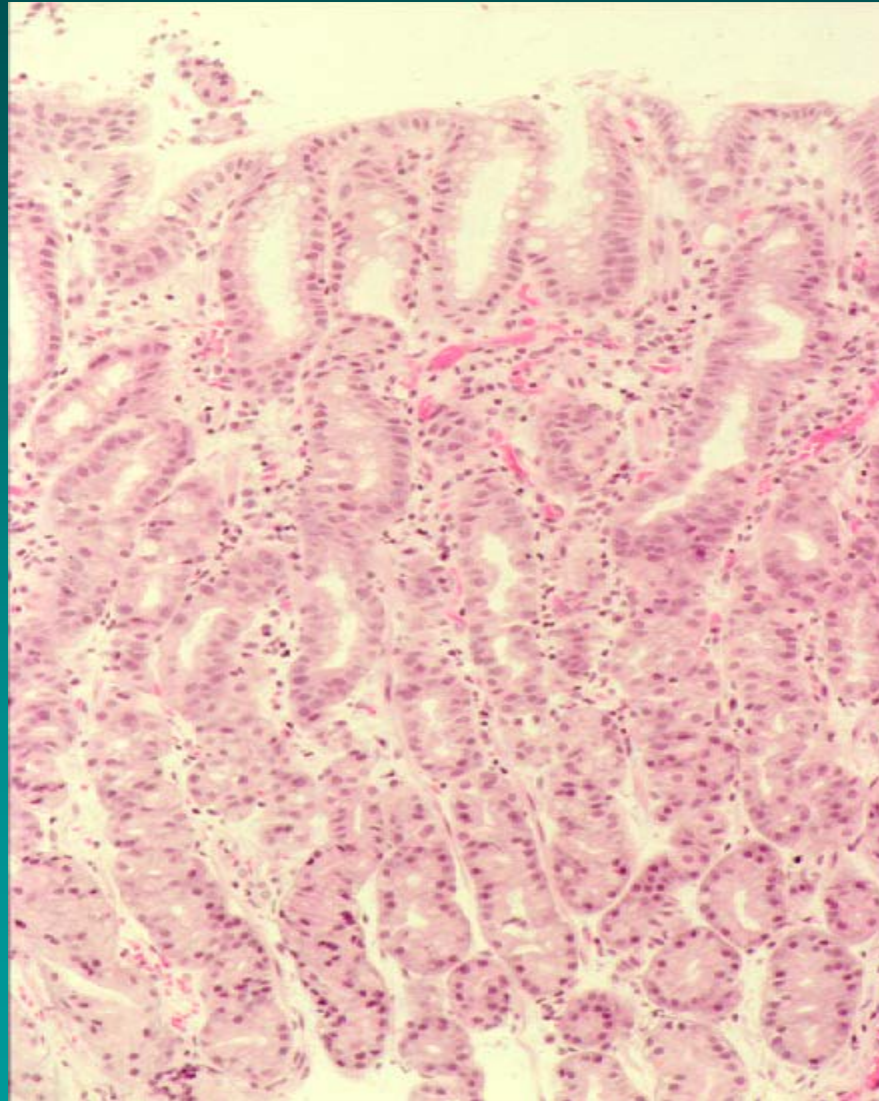


Correa et al

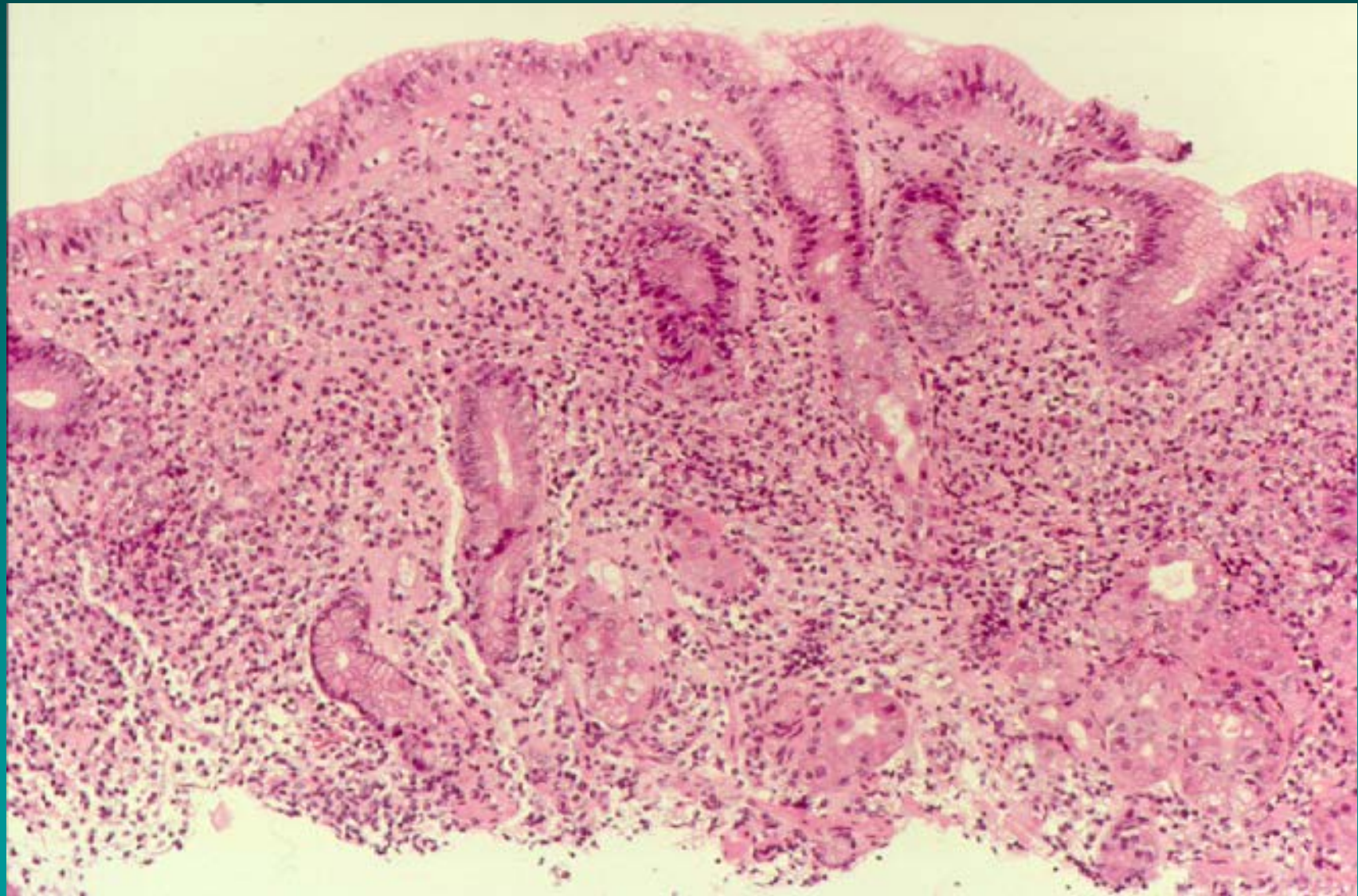


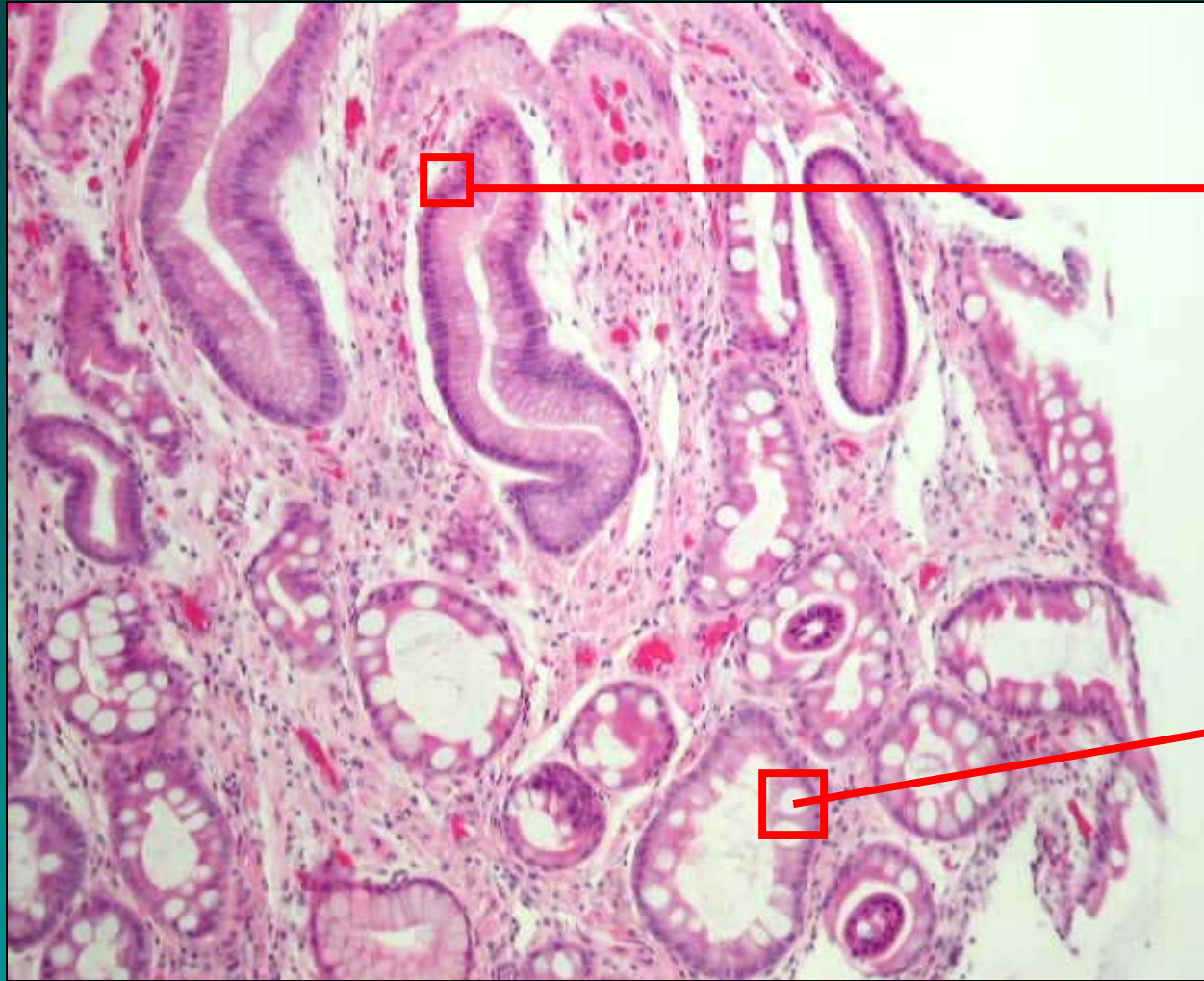
**Correa, Piazuolo Journal of Digestive Diseases 2012; 13; 2–9**

# Normal Body Mucosa



# Body Gastritis with Atrophic Gastritis



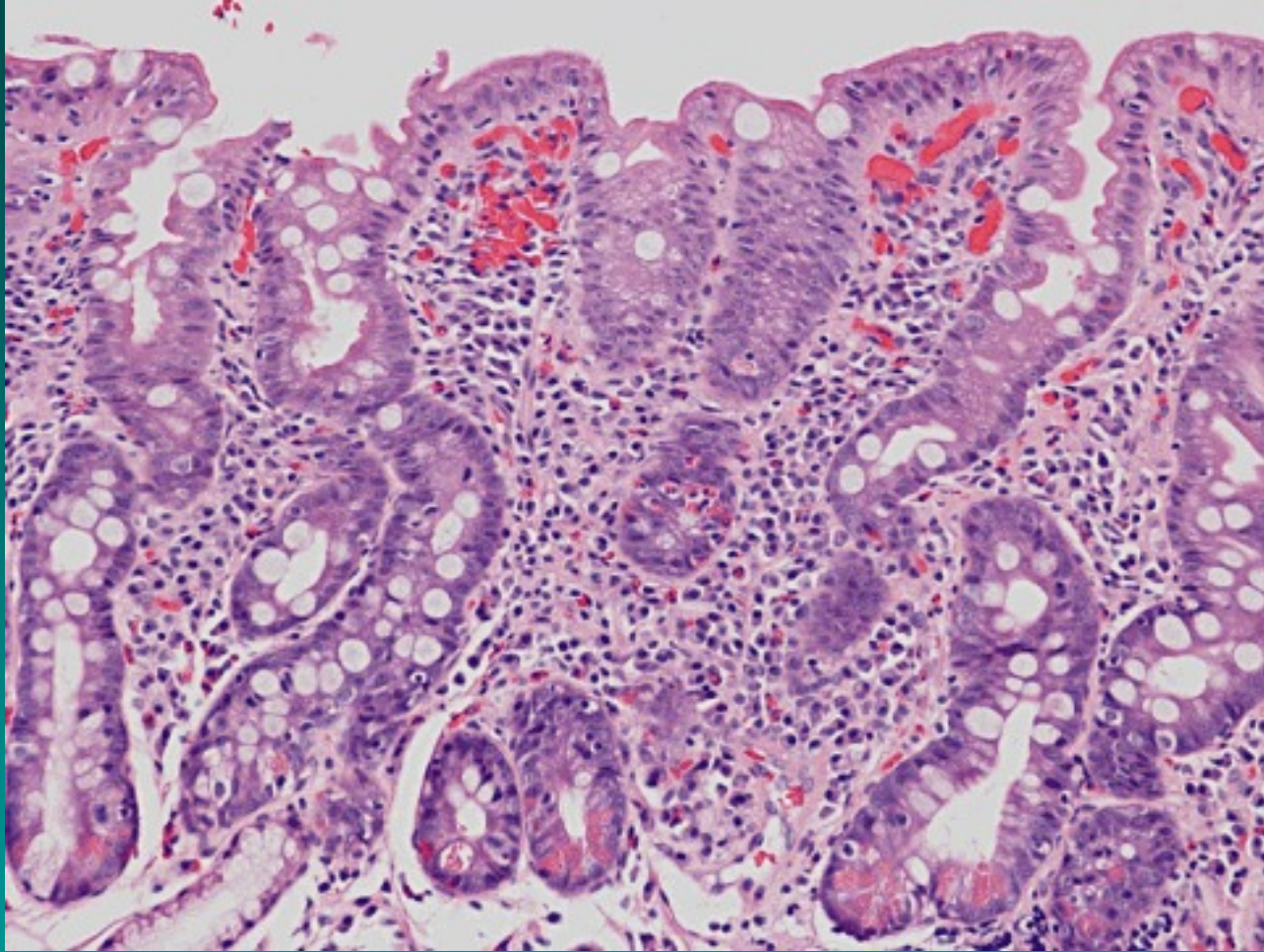


**Normal  
gastric  
epithelial  
cells.**

**Intestinal  
(goblet cell)  
metaplasia**

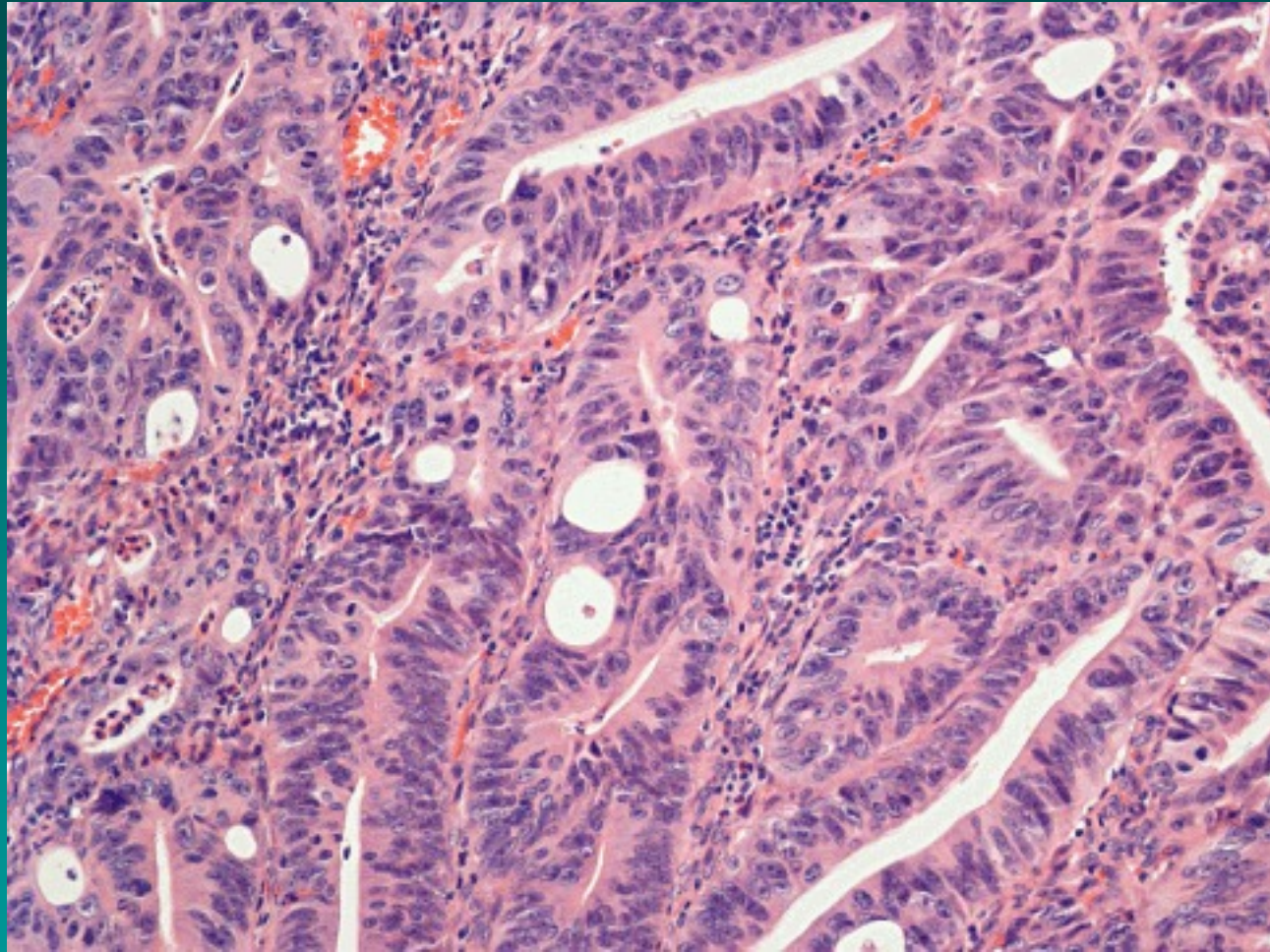


**High Grade Dysplasia  
(Early Gastric Cancer)**



**From Correa et al**





**From Correa et al**



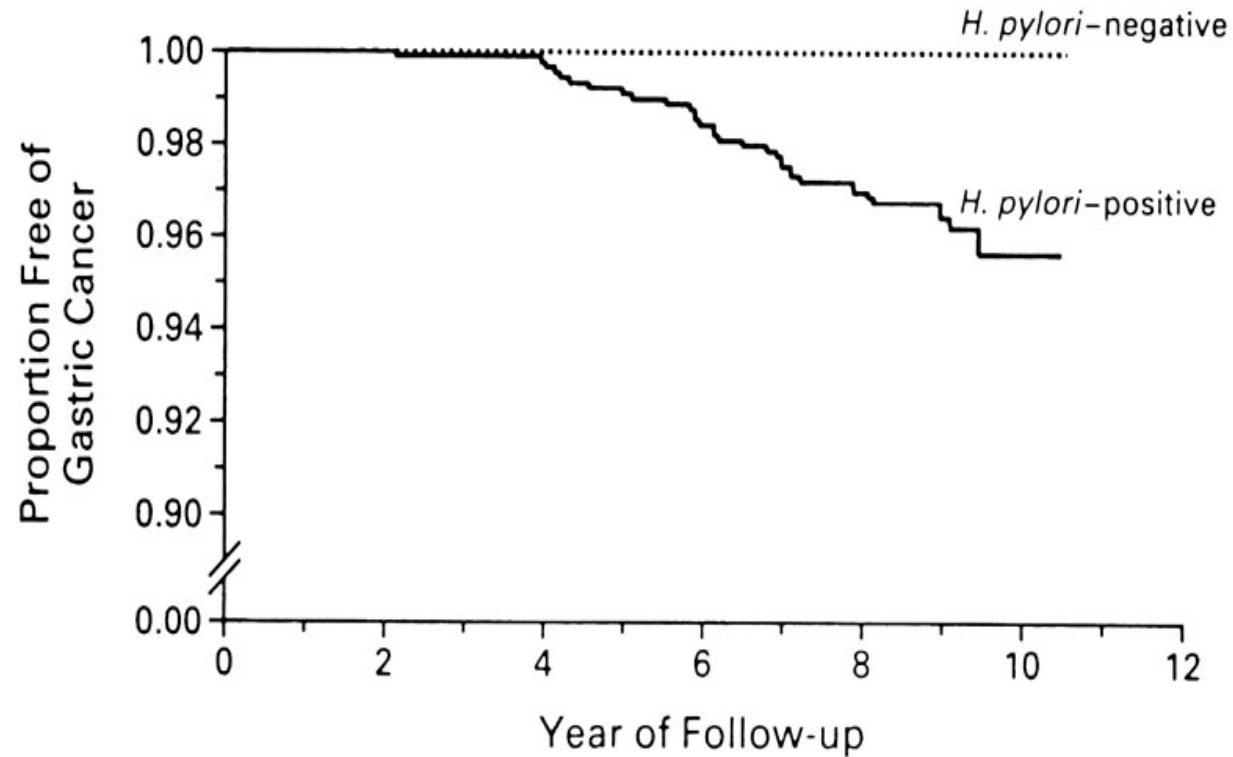
**Area of dysplasia**





# *Hp* infection Life Time Risk

- Antral predominant gastritis **> 85%**
- DU and GU **5-15%**
- Gastric cancer **< 1%**
- Dyspepsia, **epigastric pain dominant**



No. AT RISK

<i>H. pylori</i> -negative	280	272	251	245	213	57
<i>H. pylori</i> -positive	1246	1219	1086	907	782	258

Uemura, NEJM 2001

# Hp-Gastric Cancer Relative Risk

## ATROPHY

none/mild	1.0
moderate	1.7
severe	4.9

## Gastritis Distribution

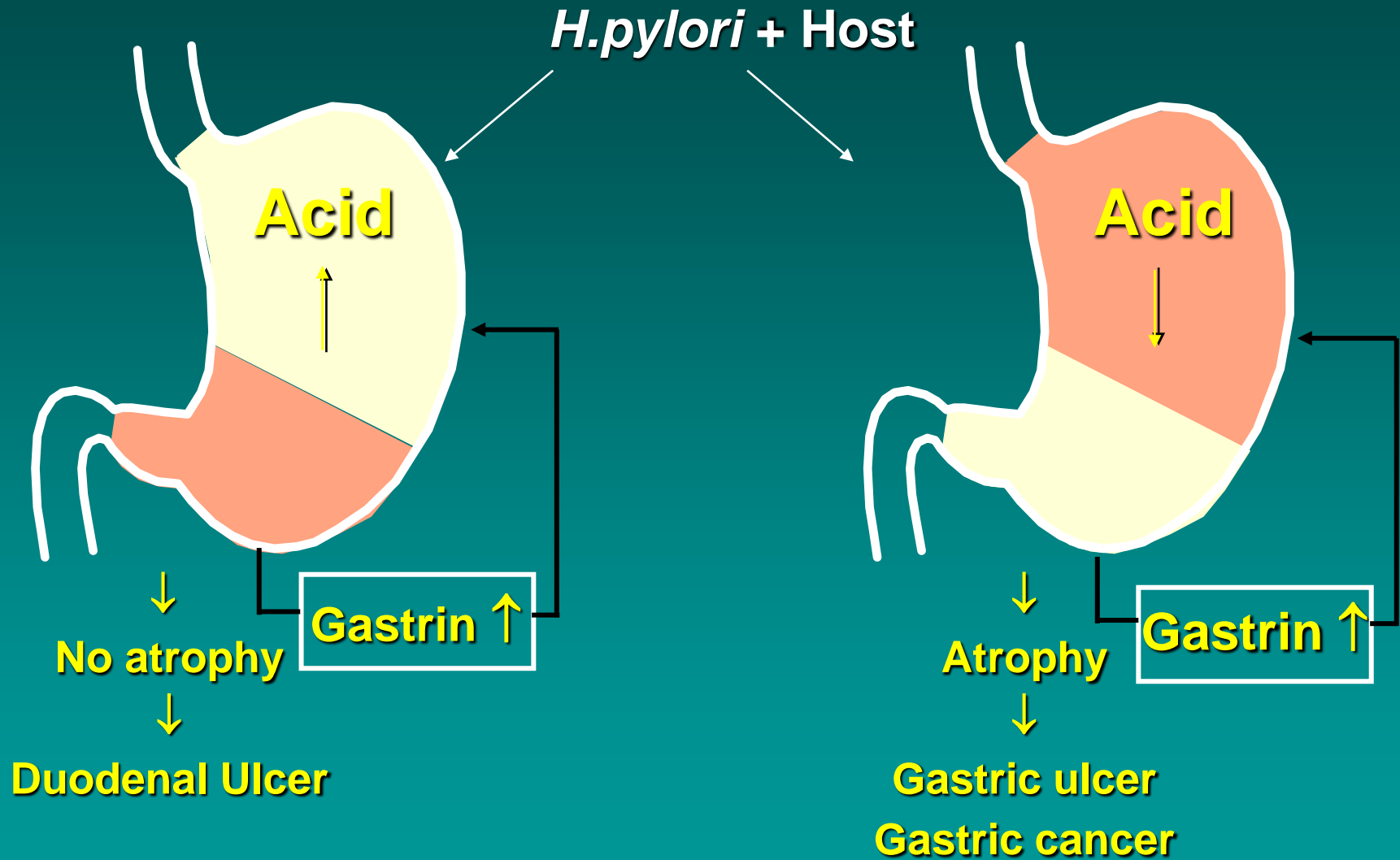
antral predominant	1.0
pangastritis	15.6
corpus predominant	34.5

## Intestinal metaplasia

absent	1.0
present	6.5

Uemura et al, NEJM 2001:345:784-9.

# Outcomes of *H.pylori* colonization

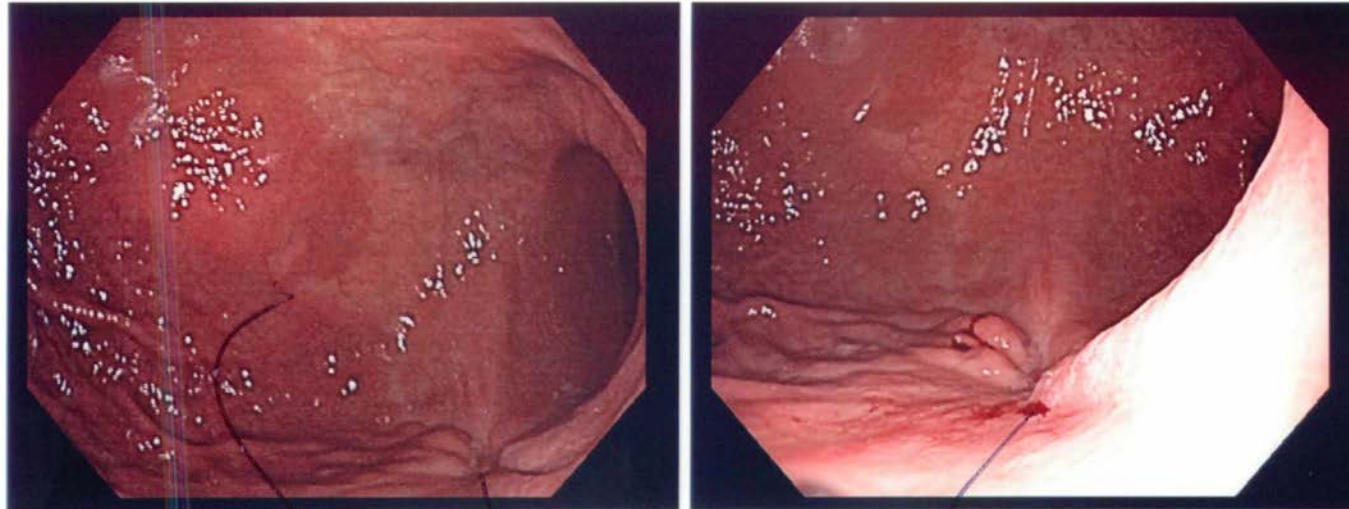


# Transition Zone



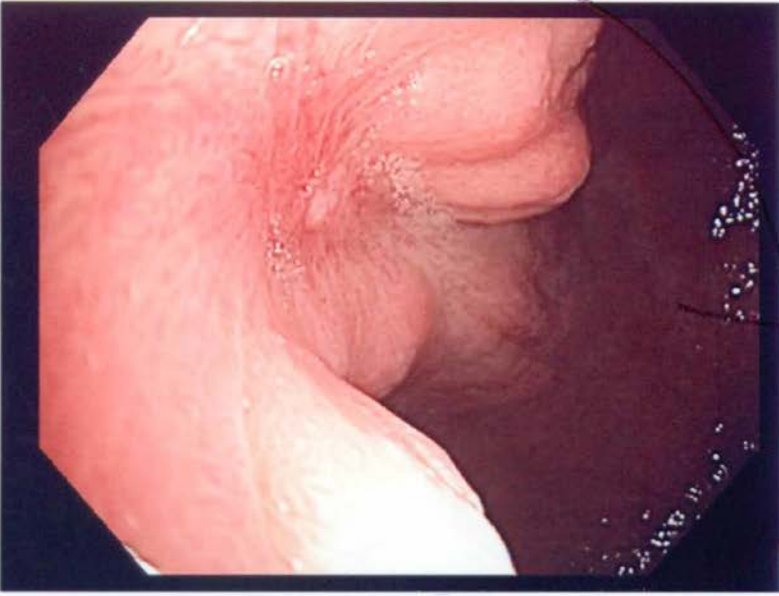


# Most Gastric Ulcers and Cancer are located at site of worst gastritis



Transition zone


G<sub>1</sub> healed



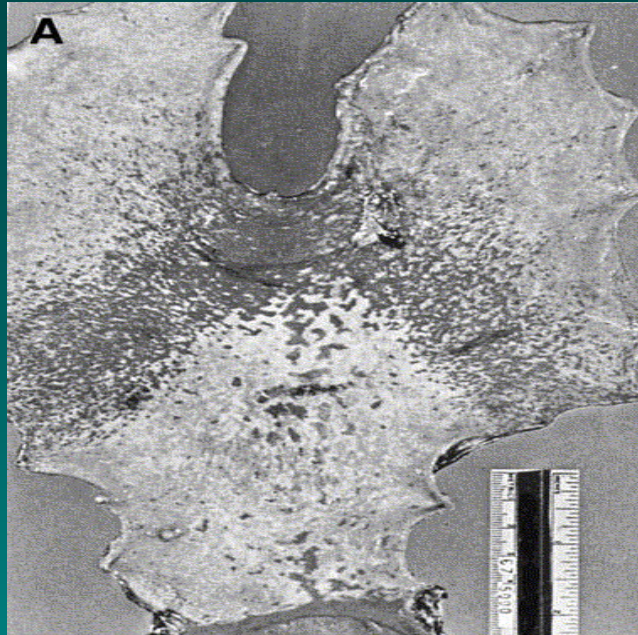
# Concern about Gastric Cancer

- 2% of GUs are malignant
- Usually can tell by aspect of ulcer
- sometimes requires repeat biopsies
- slow healing of benign ulcers does occur

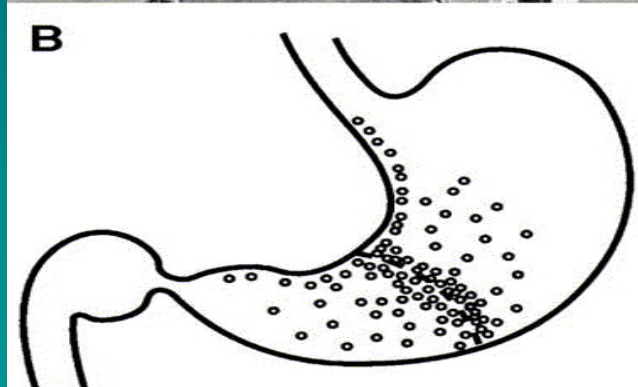
# F/U gastric ulcers

- if you are concerned  keep taking biopsies
- take biopsies even in healed areas, esp. when you see scar
- Look at gastritis pattern

Reprinted from JNCI 1968



**Note:** correlation with transitional zone and incisura



**Resected stomach: location Intestinal metaplasia**

Van Zanten et al, GE 1999;116:1217-29

# Endoscopic Intestinal Metaplasia



# Endoscopic Intestinal Metaplasia



# Hazard ratios for gastric cancer among patients with different lesions in the stomach compared with normal group

Mucosal status at baseline*	Hazard ratio (95% CI)†		
	Cardia gastric cancer	Non-cardia gastric cancer	All gastric cancer
Normal	Reference	Reference	Reference
Minor mucosal change	1.1 (0.4 to 2.9)	1.9 (1.3 to 2.8)	1.8 (1.2 to 2.5)
Gastritis	1.8 (1.2 to 2.9)	2.8 (2.3 to 3.5)	2.6 (2.2 to 3.2)
Atrophic gastritis	2.4 (1.1 to 4.8)	5.0 (3.8 to 6.7)	4.5 (3.5 to 5.8)
Intestinal metaplasia	4.7 (2.3 to 9.5)	6.5 (4.8 to 8.9)	6.2 (4.7 to 8.2)
Dysplasia	6.0 (2.3 to 15.9)	12.1 (8.3 to 17.6)	10.9 (7.7 to 15.4)



## How commonly is upper gastrointestinal cancer missed at endoscopy? A meta-analysis

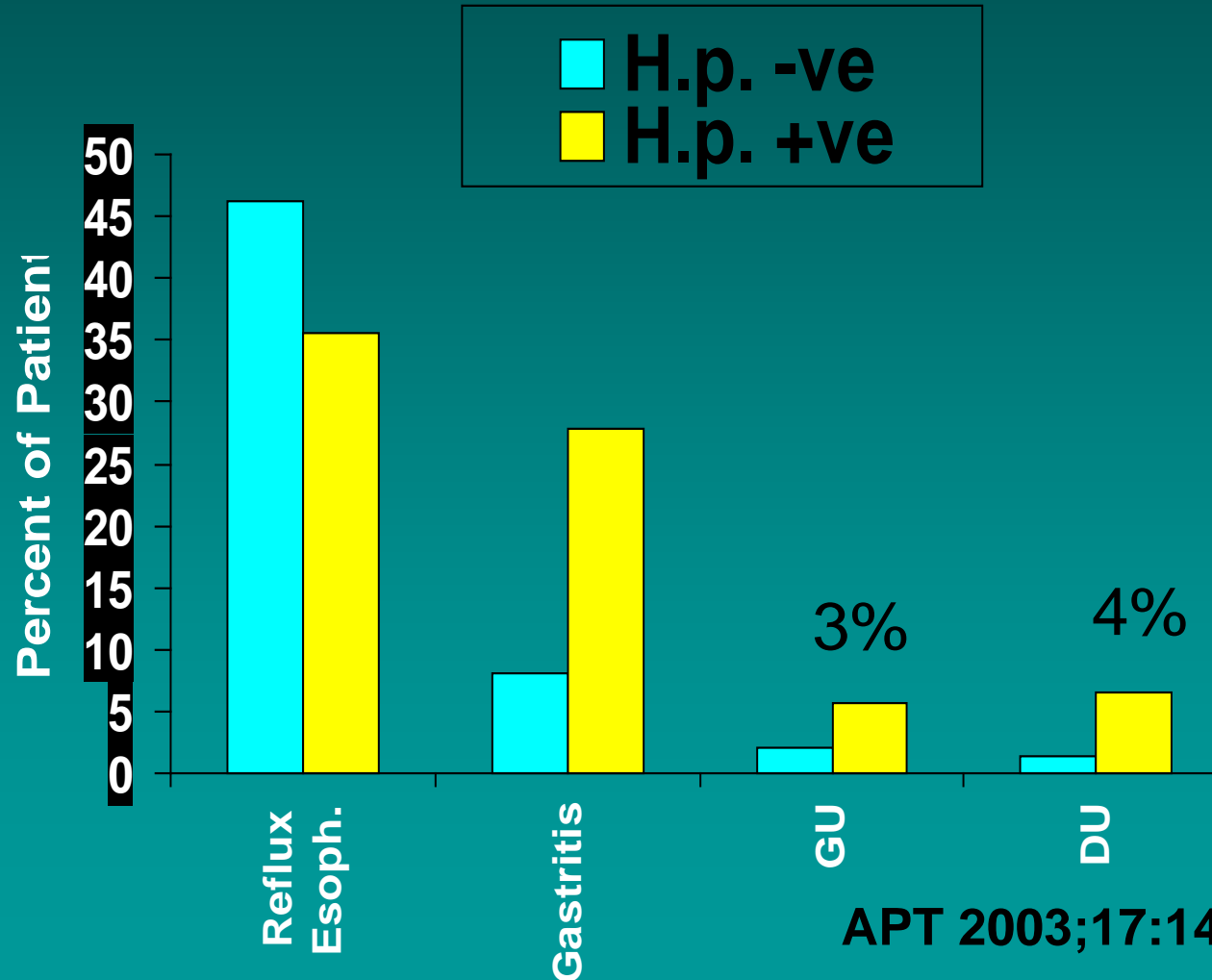
- 10 studies, 181.662 upper GI endoscopies, 3 year follow-up
- 3.787 upper GI cancers diagnosed, 467 (12.3%) were originally missed
- 88% of missed cancers of gastric origin
- **Conclusion: missed gastric cancer 1 in 398**

# Normal Endoscopy

- What is your definition ?
- What proportion of patients is on PPI at time of Gastroscopy ?
- In Dyspepsia (or GERD) do you take biopsies for *Hp* if it looks normal ?

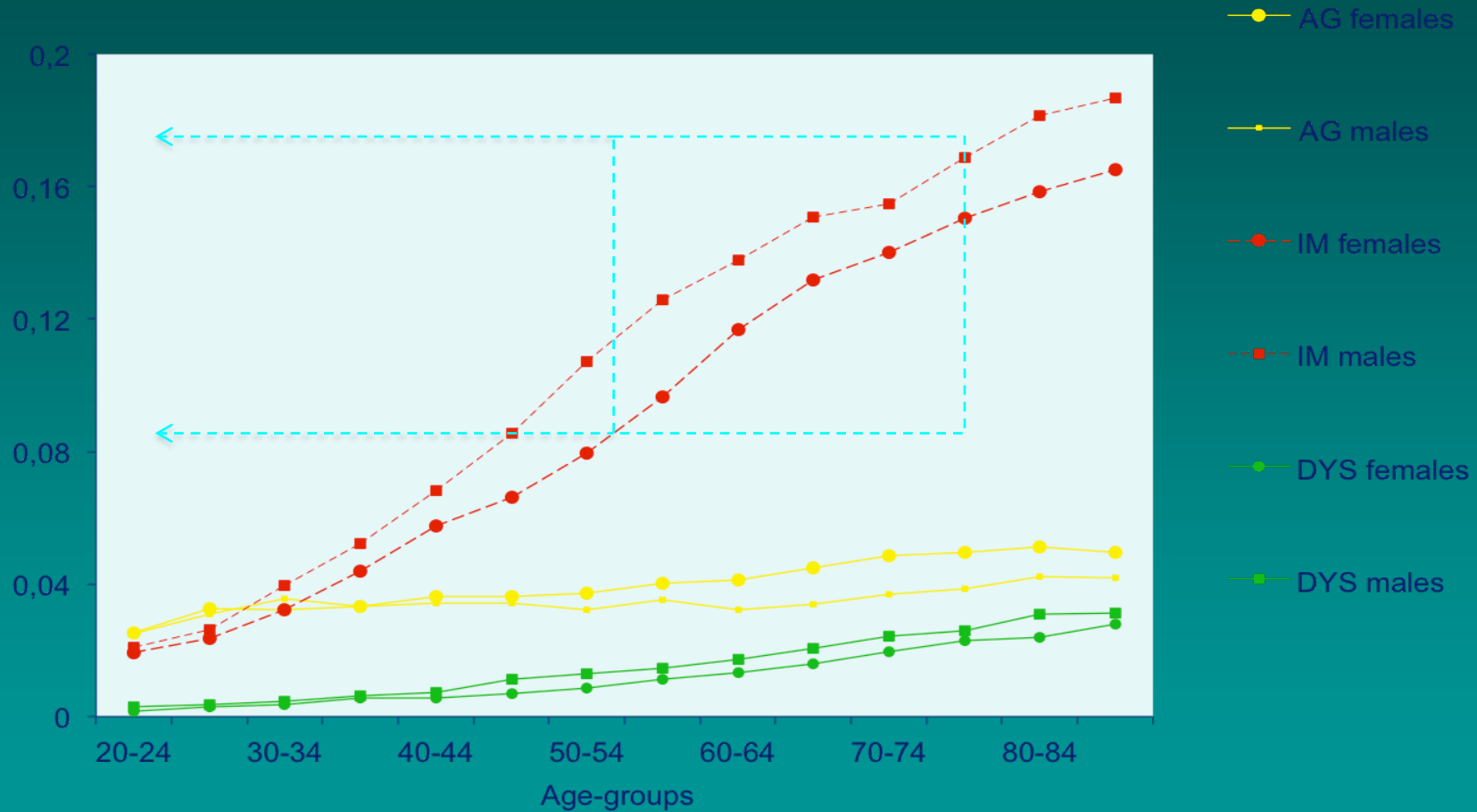
# CADET-PE (prompt endoscopy): Endoscopic Findings by *Hp* Status

N = 1040  
*Hp* prevalence  
30%

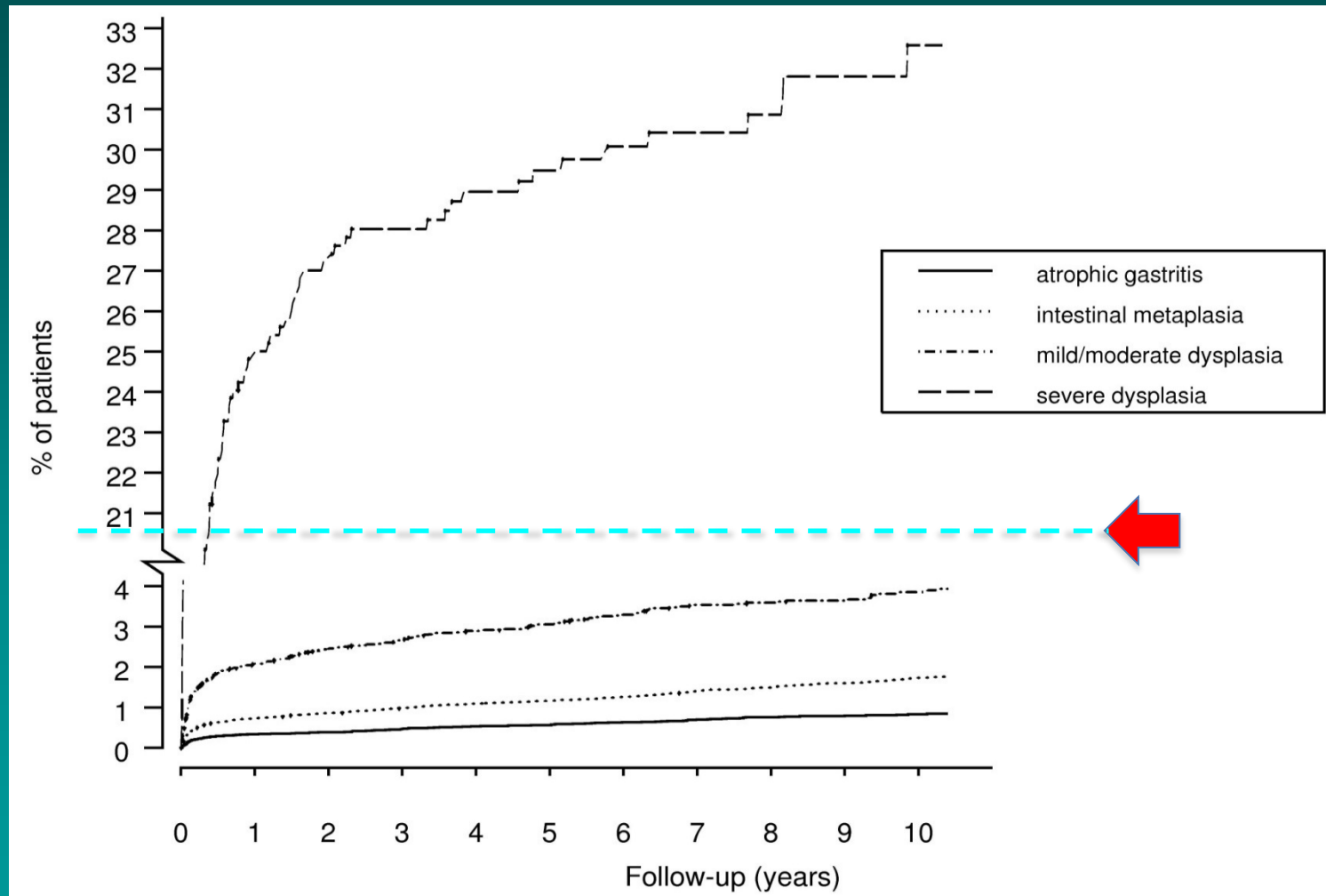


**Does presence of Intestinal Metaplasia  
warrant follow-up ?**

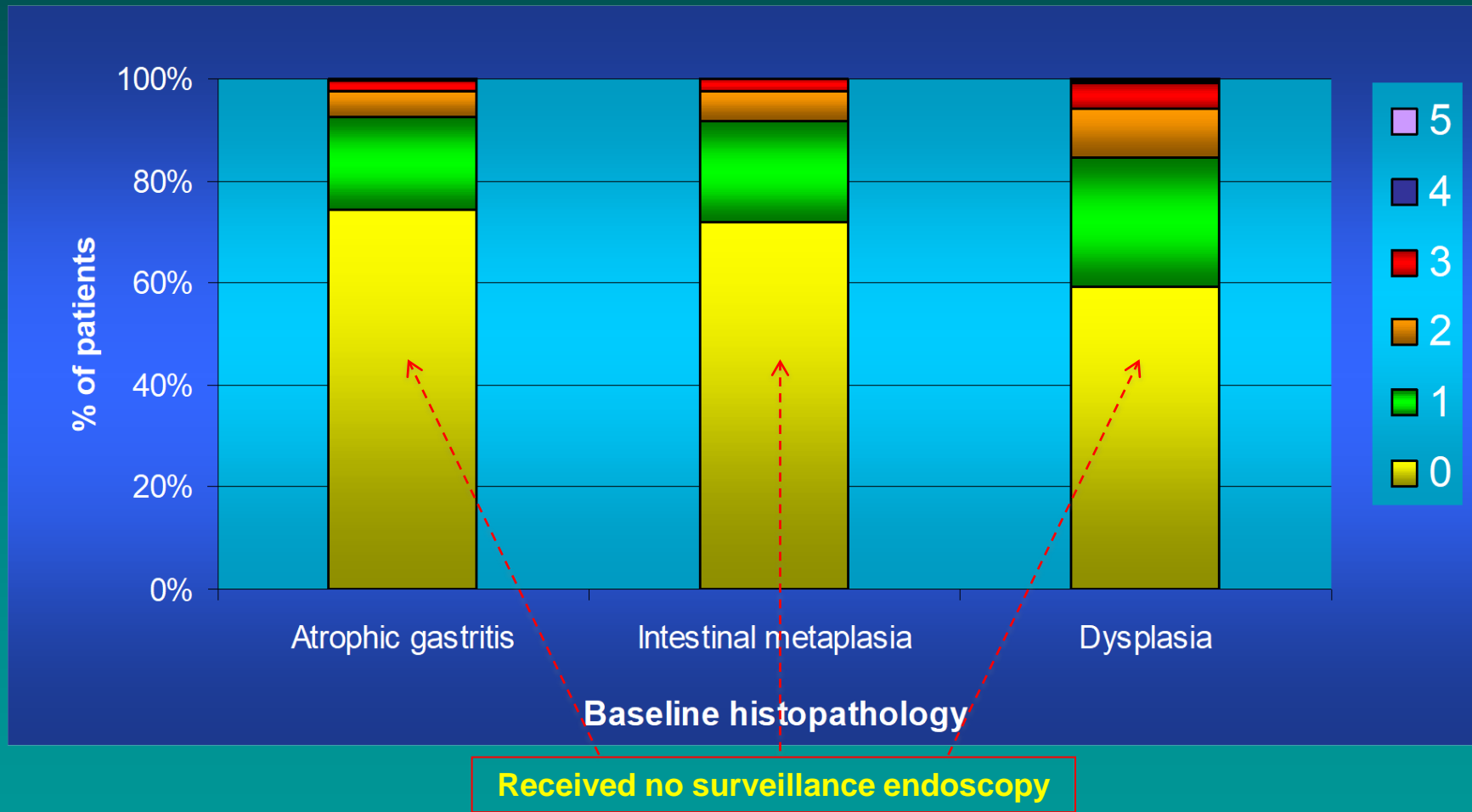
# Age-related prevalence of pre-malignant gastric lesions in 97.837 Dutch subjects



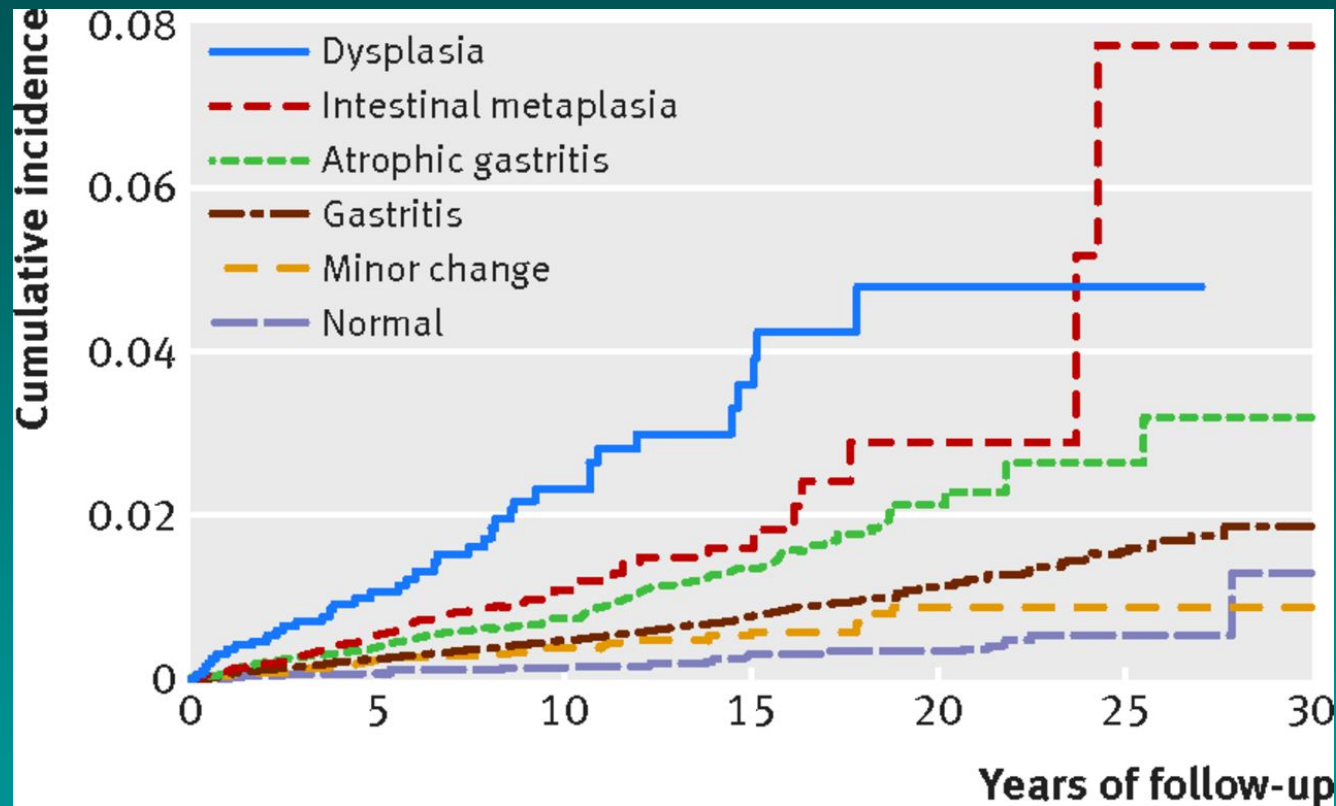
# Time-related progression of pre-malignant lesions to gastric cancer in 92.250 Dutch subjects with atrophy/IM



# Proportion of patients with premalignant gastric lesions receiving follow-up endoscopy in the Netherlands



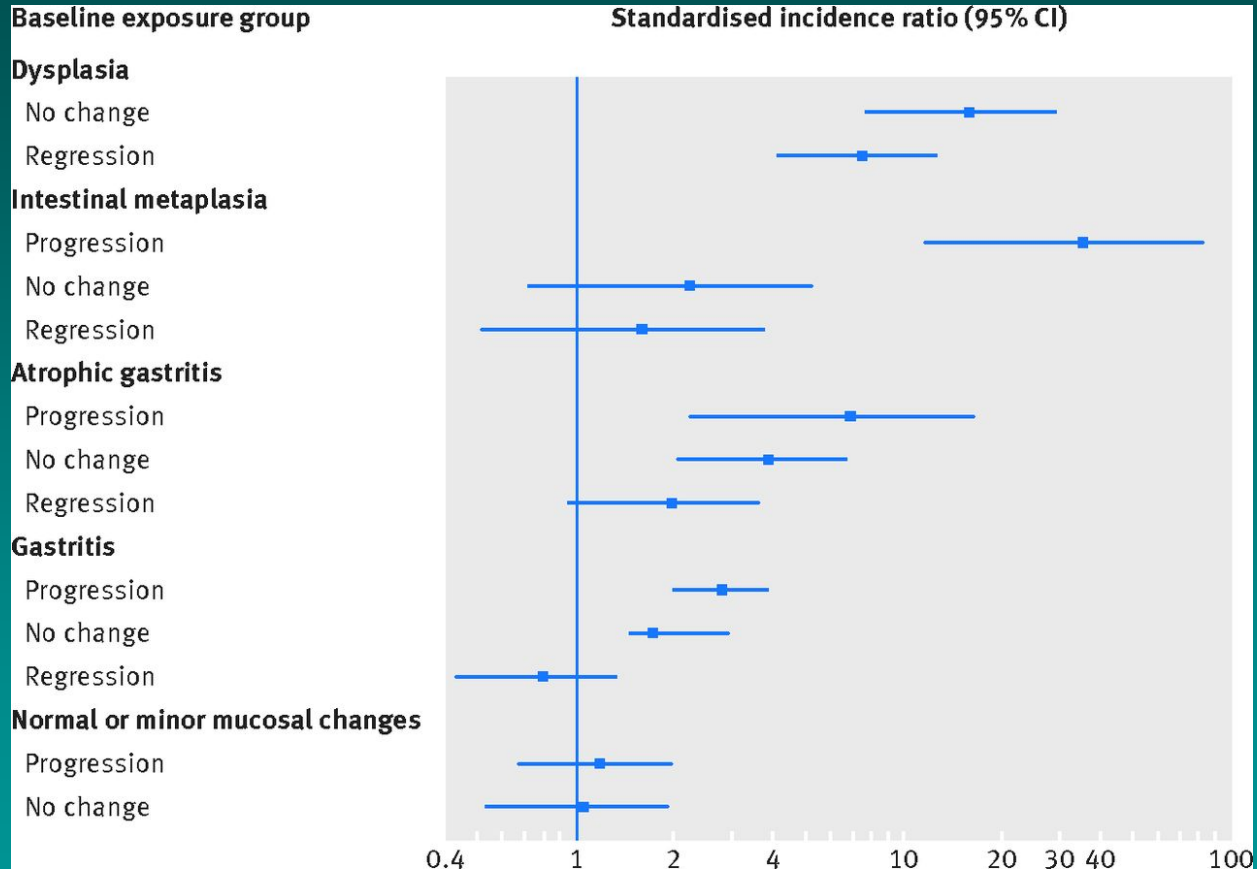
# Cumulative Incidence of GC among patients (n=55621) with different baseline diagnosis



Song et al, BMJ 2015;351:h3867



# Standardized Incidence ratio for non-cardia GC in patients (n=55621) with F/U biopsies



Song et al, BMJ 2015;351:h3867

**Both European Society of Gastroenterology (MAPS guidelines) and Kyoto Global Consensus on *Hp* gastritis recommend that:**

**Patients with more extensive and severe intestinal metaplasia should be offered endoscopic and histological surveillance**

# AGA Technical review

- Recommends **against** routine use of surveillance in patients with gastric intestinal metaplasia

GE 2020;158:693-702

# AGA Technical review

- Recommends use of surveillance is **reasonable** in patients with gastric **intestinal metaplasia and higher risk**
  - Extensive IM
  - Family history gastric cancer
  - Populations at higher risk
- **Gastroscopy every 3-5 years ?**

# Population Screening

- **Not realistic in Canada**
- **In other countries (Korea, Japan) has resulted in higher rates detection of early GC and lower mortality rates**

# AGA Technical review

- 22 studies, 3 RCTs, 7 cohort studies
- *Hp* cure **with or without IM** resulted in **32% reduction in incident** gastric cancer cases compared to placebo and 33% decrease in GC mortality

GE 2020;158:705-731

# AGA Technical review

## In patients with Intestinal metaplasia

- 0.16% annual risk of gastric cancer
- 1.6% 10 year risk of gastric cancer
- *No effect special populations*
  
- Pooled prevalence IM 4.8%  
(N=897,371)

# Gastric Cancer in Canada

## Special populations

- First Nation's people
- Immigrants from South East Asia and Central and South America
- Lower (age) threshold for gastroscopy



# Gastric Cancer in Northern Populations of North America

- **4<sup>th</sup> most frequently diagnosed cancer** in NWT males in contrast to **10<sup>th</sup>** for males across Canada
- **age-adjusted incidence rate** for NWT males **twice** Canadian rate (higher for regions with predominantly Aboriginal populations)

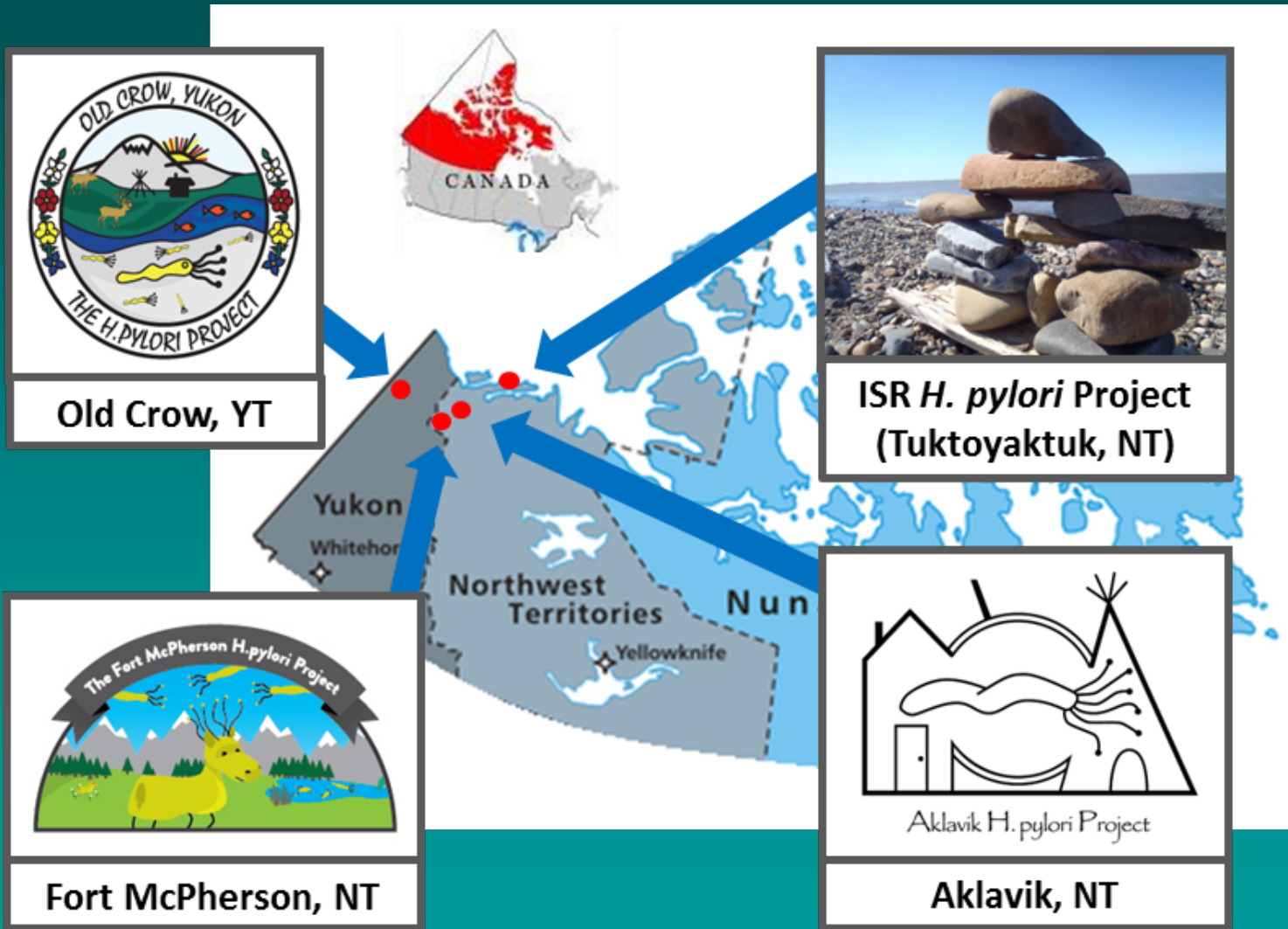
# People of Northern Canada

## ❖ 2011 Census Population

Nunavut	38,854
NorthWest Territories	44,958
Yukon	41,352



# Community *H. pylori* Projects



ISR *H. pylori* Project  
(Tuktoyaktuk, NT)



Fort McPherson, NT



Aklavik *H. pylori* Project

Aklavik, NT

# Hamlet of Aklavik, Northwest Territories

- **2019 population: 690**
  - 90% Inuvialuit (Inuit) or Gwich'in Dene (First Nation)
- **Access**
  - Reached only by air, water, or winter ice-road





# Health Center







# Findings

- Very high prevalence *Hp* >60%
- Severe gastritis with atrophic gastritis and IM
- Gastric ulcers > duodenal ulcers
- High prevalence smoking

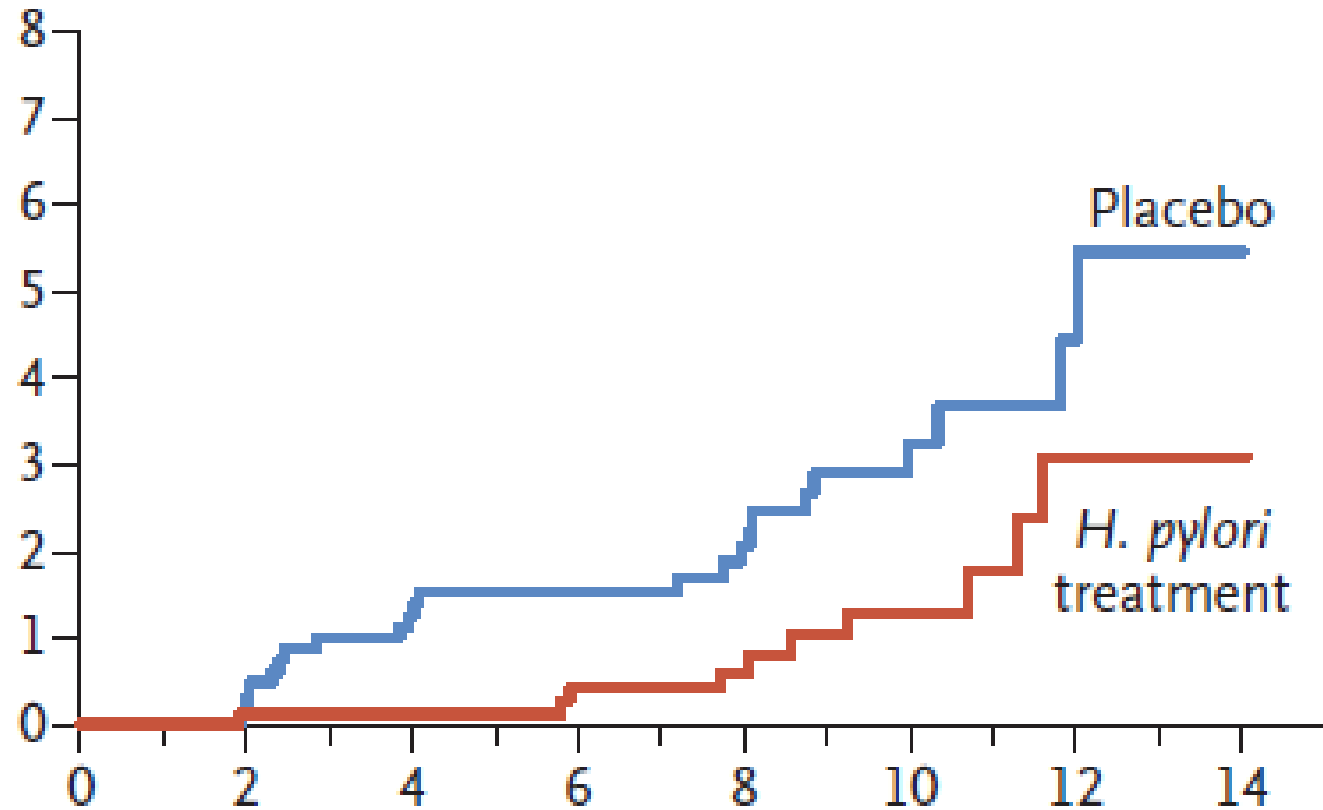
**Family History Gastric cancer**

**1<sup>st</sup> Degree Relatives**

# Hp-Rx in patients with 1 st degree relative with gastric cancer

- RCT, N=1838, Korea
- Age 40-65 years
- Hp Rx: Lanso-Clari-Amox x 7 days
  - Efficacy 71%
- Gastroscopy q 2 years
- Median F/U 9.2 years

# Cumulative Incidence Gastric Cancer



Placebo **2.7%**

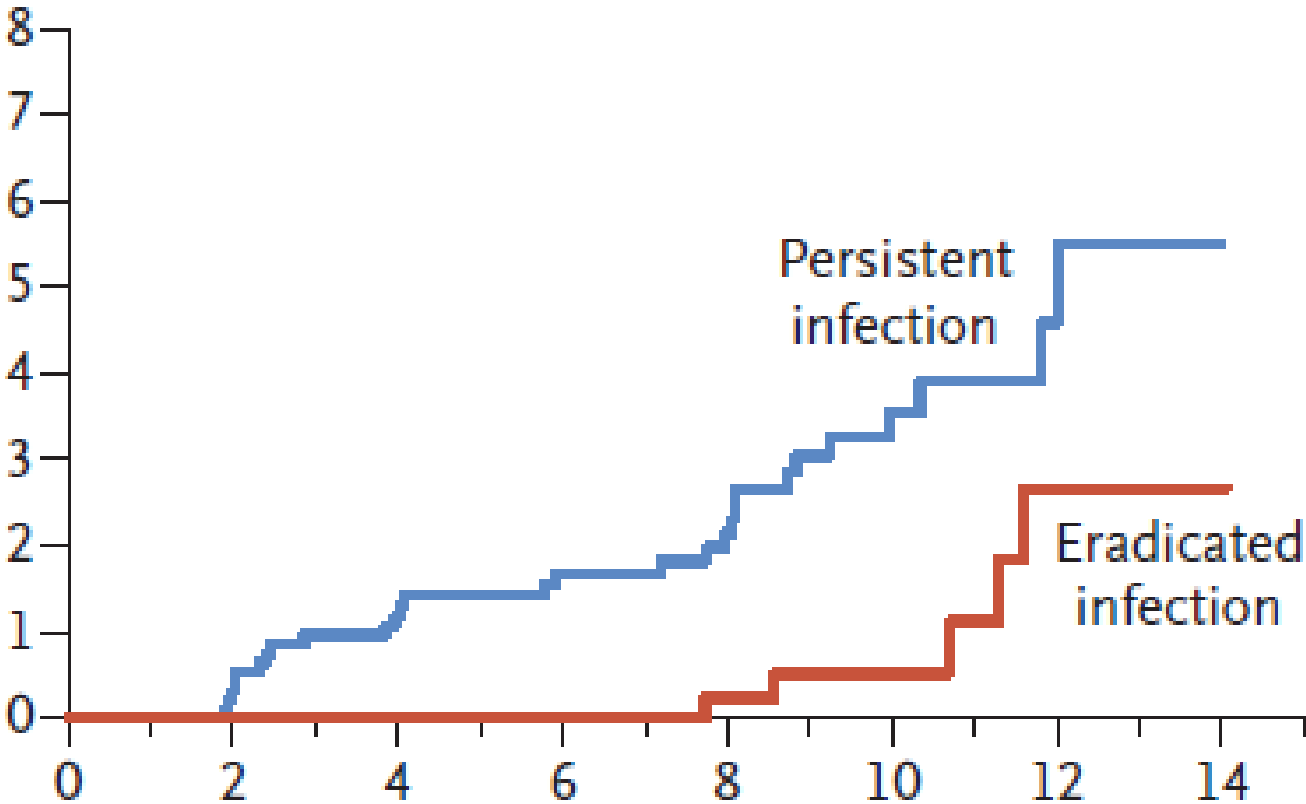
Hp-Rx **1.2%**

Hazard ratio, 0.45 (95% CI, 0.21–0.94)

P=0.03 by log-rank test

Choi et al, NEJM 2020;382:427-36

# Cumulative Incidence Gastric Cancer by *Hp* status



*Hp* persist **2.9%**

*Hp* cured **0.8%**

Hazard ratio, 0.27 (95% CI, 0.10–0.70)

Choi et al, NEJM 2020;382:427-36

# Case 45 Year old male

- **Healthy**
- **Father died Gastric cancer age 53**
  
- **What would you advise ?**

# Management

- Check for *Helicobacter* (non-invasively)
- Treat *Hp* if positive
- Gastroscopy with biopsies
  - **Separate: antrum and body**
  - *Helicobacter*
  - Intestinal metaplasia
  - Atrophic gastritis

# Follow-up gastroscopy ?

- Non-evidence based
- If index gastric cancer < 60 years of age → gastroscopy every 5 years, starting 10 years before diagnosis in index case
- Especially, if intestinal metaplasia and atrophic gastritis are present



# Intestinal metaplasia F/U

- look both at antrum and body
- any location > mild
- Both antrum and body mild IM (?)



Do F/U gastroscopy

# Conclusions

- *Hp* is a **definite** and **modifiable** risk factor for gastric cancer
- Outcome *Hp* infection depends on **gastritis pattern**
- Strong evidence to **test and treat for *Hp*** in patients with **family history of gastric cancer**

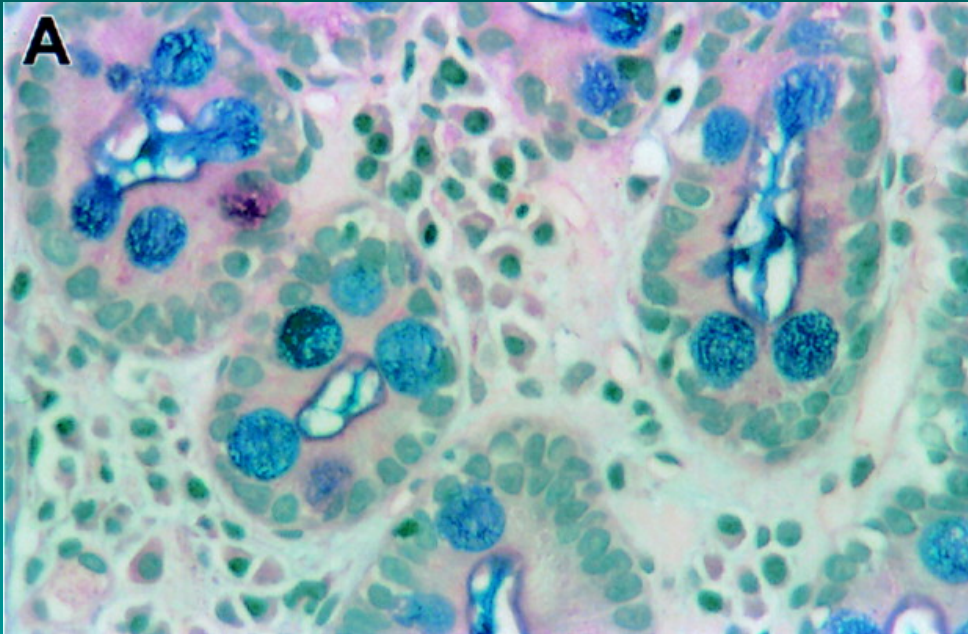
# Conclusions

- Testing and treating for *Hp* should be **considered** in patients who undergo gastroscopy for dyspepsia
- Lower thresholds apply for **populations at increased risk** for gastric cancer
- Follow-up gastroscopies are indicated for patients with more **extensive intestinal metaplasia**



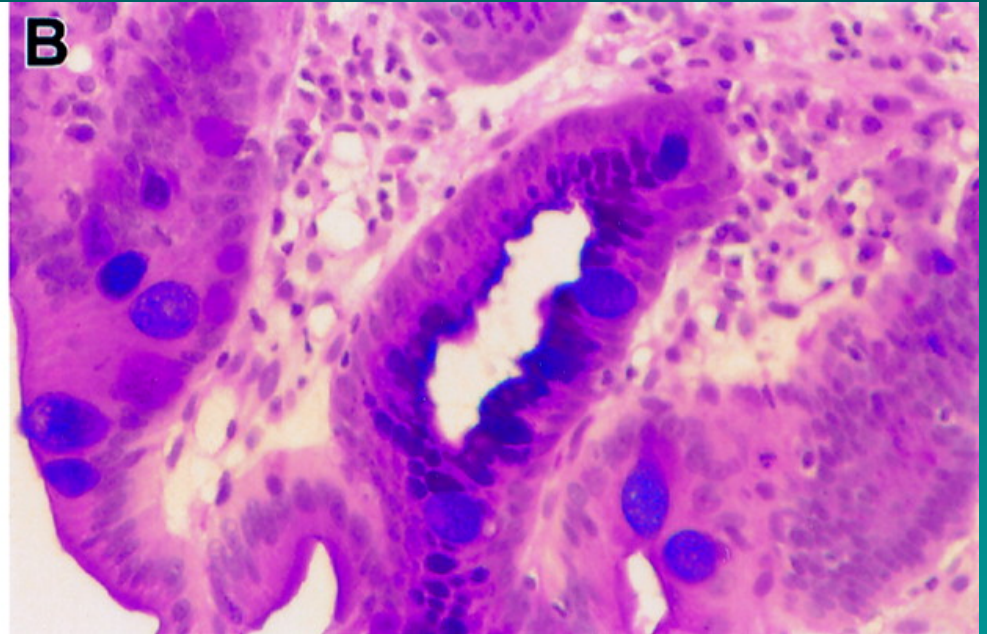
- Goblet cells **without** acidic Alcian blue staining

## Complete IM



- Interspersed goblet cells and mucus cells, **Alcian blue positive**
- No brush border

## Incomplete IM



Voutilainen et al, Gut  
1999;45:644-648

G

M

# Concomitant Therapy (CLAMET)

- All drugs given for **14** days
- PPI bid
- **C**larithromycin 500mg bid
- **A**moxicillin 1g bid
- **M**etronidazole 500mg bid

# Bismuth Based Quadruple therapy

## PPI-BMT

PPI

bid

Bismuth (PeptoBismol)

2 tabs qid

Metronidazole 500 mg

tid or qid

Tetracycline 500mg

qid



# Levofloxacin based Triple Therapy

- PPI bid
- Amoxicillin 1 g bid
- Levofloxacin 250 (500) mg bid

# Fourth Line Rifabutin Therapy

- Only regimen where duration is **10 days**
  - PPI bid
  - Amoxicillin 1g bid
  - **Rifabutin** 150mg bid
- Success rate **62%**

**Can J GE 2010;24:303-6**