# Relation of Regulatory Foxp3$^{+}$ T Cells with *Helicobacter pylori* and Its Virulence Genes

**Al-Baghdadi M[1], Omnia El-Badawy[1], Douaa M. Sayed[2], Maggie A. Ibrahim[1], Abdel Mohsen E[3], Salwa S. Seif El-din[1,4], Amany G. Thabit[1]**

Departments of [1]Medical Microbiology & Immunology Faculty of Medicine, Assiut University, Assiut, Egypt, [2]Clinical Pathology, South Egypt Cancer Institute, Assiut University, Assiut, Egypt, [3]Internal Medicine, Gastroenterology Unit, Faculty of Medicine, Assiut University, Assiut, Egypt, and [4]Basic Sciences, College of Medicine, Princess Nourah Bint Abdulrahman University, Riyadh, KSA.

**The study aimed to assess the tangled relation between various CD25 subsets (positive, negative and high) of CD4$^{+}$ FoxP3$^{+}$ T cells and *H. pylori* including its virulence genes (CagA and VacA). Diagnosis of *H. pylori* and its virulence genes was based on a positive culture, histopathology and/or CLO-test and PCR. Flow cytometry was used toquantifyTregs.CD4$^{+}$CD25$^{high}$ Foxp3$^{+}$ T cells were higher in patients than controls and somewhat more in *H. pylori* positive than negative patients. CD4$^{+}$CD25$^{high}$ Foxp3$^{+}$ T cells secreting IL10 were lower in *H. pylori* positive patients.CD4$^{+}$CD25$^{-}$Fox3$^{+}$T cells were also higher in patients than controls and more in those negative for *H. pylori.* Moderate negative correlation was found between the presence of CagA or VacA sm genotypes and Tregs secreting IL10. CD4$^{+}$CD25$^{-}$ Foxp3$^{+}$ T cells, especially those secreting IL10, tend to be higher in patients carrying VacA m1 allele than m2 allele. In conclusion, *H. pylori* stimulate a regulatory T cell response, probably contributing to gastric diseases. CD25 negative subset of Fox3$^{+}$CD4$^{+}$T cells needs further studying to declare its potential role in immunopathogenesis of gastric diseases. Tregs are positively associated with vacA alleles**