

REVIEW

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Recent trends in *Helicobacter pylori* management: harnessing the power of AI and other advanced approaches

Tamer A. Addissouky^{1,2,3*} , Yuliang Wang⁴, Ibrahim El Tantawy El Sayed², Ayman El Baz^{5,6}, Majeed M. A. Ali¹ and Ahmed A. Khalil⁷

Abstract

Background *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*) is a bacterial infection that is prevalent and affects more than half of the world's population, causing stomach disorders such as *gastritis*, peptic ulcer disease, and gastric cancer.

Main body The diagnosis of *H. pylori* infection relies on invasive and non-invasive techniques emerging artificial intelligence, and antibiotic therapy is available, but antibiotic resistance is a growing concern. The development of a vaccine is crucial in preventing *H. pylori*-associated diseases, but it faces challenges due to the bacterium's variability and immune escape mechanisms. Despite the challenges, ongoing research into *H. pylori*'s virulence factors and immune escape mechanisms, as well as the development of potential vaccine targets, provides hope for more effective management and prevention of *H. pylori*-associated diseases. Recent research on *H. pylori*'s immune escape mechanisms and novel immune checkpoint inhibitors could also lead to biomarkers for early cancer detection. Therefore, experts have suggested a combination of traditional and herbal medicine with artificial intelligence to potentially eradicate *H. pylori*.

Short conclusion *H. pylori* infection remains a significant global health problem, but ongoing research into its properties and advanced technologies in addition to the combination of traditional and herbal medicine with artificial intelligence may also lead to the eradication of *H. pylori*-associated diseases.

Keywords *Helicobacter pylori*, AI, Personalized medicine, Traditional and herbal medicine, Novel alternative medicine

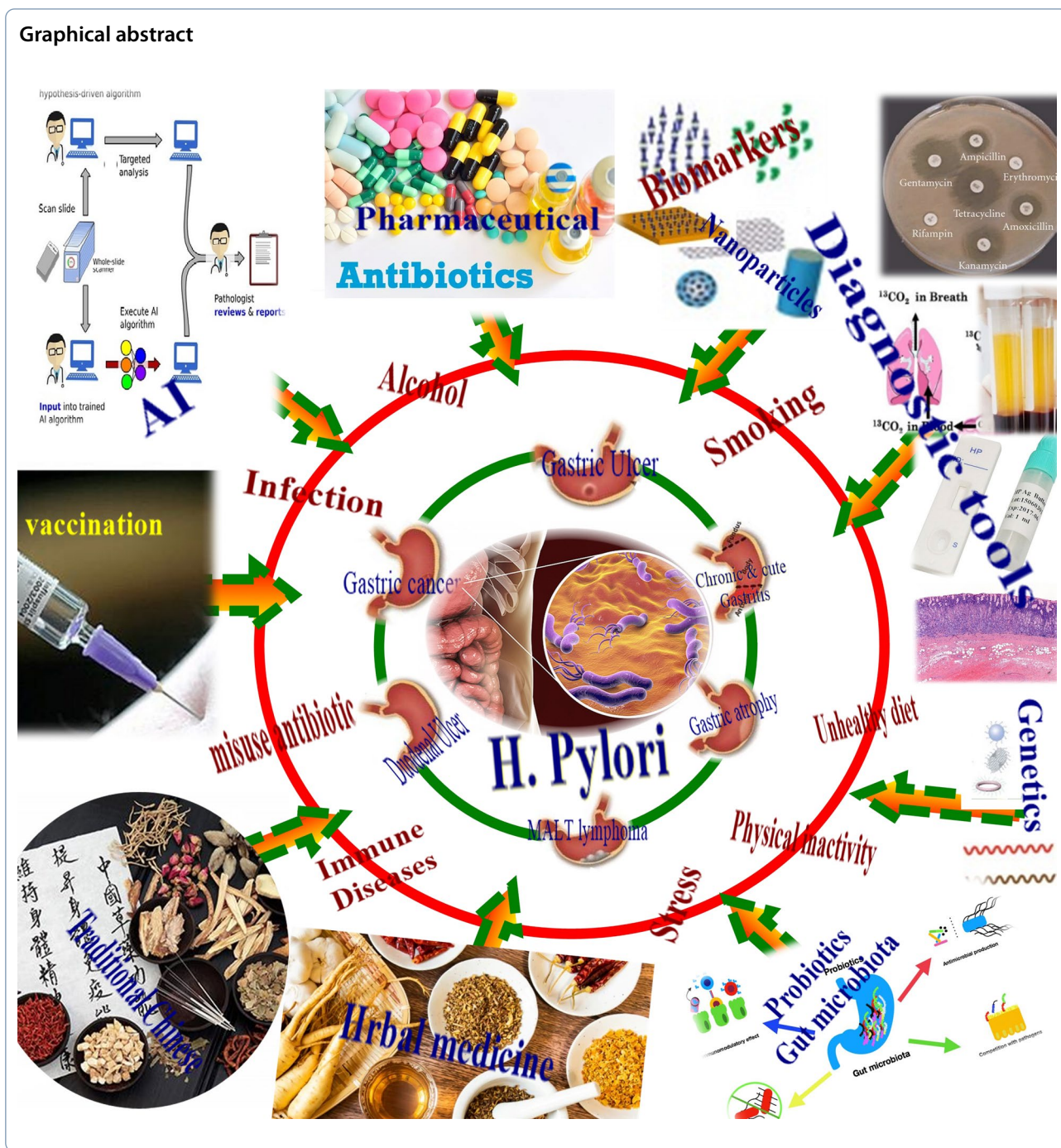
*Correspondence:

Tamer A. Addissouky
tedesoky@gmail.com

Full list of author information is available at the end of the article



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1 Background

Helicobacter pylori (*H. pylori*) is a prevalent pathogen that infects half of the global population, causing various stomach disorders, including *peptic ulcer* disease, primary *gastritis*, and *gastric cancer*. It is a type of bacteria that has a spiral shape, does not require oxygen to grow, and is Gram-negative. It can only survive in very difficult growth conditions [1]. *H. pylori* is a widespread bacterial

infection in humans, affecting about 58% of the global population. It is a well-known cause of *gastritis* and a type I carcinogen, with *gastric cancer* developing in up to 3% of patients with clinical symptoms of the infection. *H. pylori* infection is a major contributor to *gastroduodenal* diseases, particularly in countries where it is highly prevalent, and is typically acquired during childhood. It can lead to *chronic gastritis* and *gastroduodenal ulcers* and

may increase the risk of stomach cancer or lymphoma, especially in children. Additionally, *H. pylori* infection may be linked to certain extra-intestinal diseases. Diagnosis relies on upper gastrointestinal endoscopy using biopsy-based diagnostic tests, with acceptable indications for endoscopies [2]. Over the last four decades, significant progress has been made in understanding the properties of *H. pylori* since its initial identification as a human pathogen. Although it was first linked to chronic gastritis and peptic ulcer disease, research has shown that *H. pylori* is the most potent risk factor for gastric cancer (GC), one of the deadliest forms of cancer worldwide. *H. pylori* is also linked to various extra-gastric conditions, including hematological, cardiovascular, respiratory, neurological, ophthalmic, metabolic syndrome-related disorders, and non-gastric neoplasms. The bacteria have been found in organs and tissues beyond the stomach, such as the nose and colonic polyps. *H. pylori* can reside in the nasal and oral cavities, potentially leading to sinus and nasal problems, including chronic *rhinosinusitis* and nasal polyps [3]. *H. pylori* is known to cause various disorders, including those related to the head and neck, *atherosclerosis*, lung, *hepato-biliary*, hematological, and intestinal diseases. Although primarily found in the stomach, studies have linked it to upper airway disorders. Gastroesophageal reflux patients may develop otitis media with effusion due to gastric acid's damaging effects on the *Eustachian* tube lining. However, recent studies have found no connection between *H. pylori* and otitis media with effusion, bilateral nasal polyposis, or chronic *adenotonsillitis*. The high prevalence of chronic inflammatory *rhinosinusitis* associated with nasal polyps is a significant public health issue with limited effective treatments available [4]. The development of gastric cancer associated with *H. pylori* infection can be broadly classified into different types based on its location, such as *adenocarcinoma*, *lymphoma*, *carcinoid tumor*, and *leiomyosarcoma*. *Adenocarcinoma* is the most common type of gastric cancer and can be further categorized into two types: intestinal and diffuse. The intestinal type is typically caused by an acute immune response triggered by *H. pylori* infection, which can lead to chronic inflammation, *gastritis*, and ulcers that may result in gastric perforation. Over time, the chronic inflammation may cause epithelial tissue to undergo *metaplasia*, or cell differentiation, leading to a loss of function and the formation of malignant neoplastic tissue caused by gene mutations. In contrast, genetic factors that affect the expression of intercellular adhesion proteins, such as *E-cadherin*, can cause the development of diffuse type *adenocarcinoma*, which disrupts the normal cell cycle and cell connections in gastric epithelial cells (Fig. 1) [5]. The primary treatment involves a triple combination of a proton pump

inhibitor and two antibiotics, but eradication rates have decreased due to *H. pylori* developing resistance to antibiotics. An increased resistance rates to *clarithromycin*, *metronidazole*, *levofloxacin*, *amoxicillin*, and *tetracycline*, and MDR strains have been reported in China, indicating a global emergence of *H. pylori* antibiotic resistance. Recent data suggest that *H. pylori* resistance may be associated with *dysbiosis* caused by multi-drug use and cohabitation compositions. *H. pylori* resistance was linked to an increase in the diversity of the gastric microbiome composition, where non-*H. pylori* pathogens, particularly in triple-resistant strains, were more abundant. Clinicians should be careful when administering antibiotic combination treatments because drug resistance in the gut environment could affect the gastrointestinal niche and potentially induce drug resistance in other bacteria [6]. While antibiotic therapies are available to treat *H. pylori* infection, antibiotic resistance and the bacterium's high prevalence highlight the need for a protective vaccine. GC's bacterial etiology makes it a vaccine-preventable cancer. *H. pylori* has several virulence factors that mediate pathogenesis and could be potential vaccine targets to prevent the associated morbidity and mortality. However, vaccine development has encountered challenges due to the variability among *H. pylori* strains and the bacterium's immune escape mechanisms. Despite the lack of *H. pylori* vaccine, ongoing research is promising and may eventually lead to new ways to decrease the burden of *H. pylori*-associated diseases. Research into *H. pylori*'s immune escape mechanisms and GC-induced expression of novel immune checkpoint inhibitors could yield candidate biomarkers to detect cancer progression in its early stages [7]. Several diagnostic methods are available to detect *H. pylori*, including invasive and non-invasive techniques. Histology was the first method, but non-invasive methods such as serology, urea breath test, and stool antigen tests have been developed. Invasive methods involve taking biopsies for histological examination and using various stains such as *Giemsa*, *Warthin–Starry*, *acridine orange*, *Dieterle*, *H. pylori* silver stain, *Gimenez*, *McMullen*, and immunostaining. *Giemsa* stain is frequently used as it is practical, easy to prepare, inexpensive, and has high sensitivity. Its specificity is 85.7%, better than *H&E* stains, with a 100% sensitivity in detecting *H. pylori*. PCR can also be used to detect *H. pylori* using samples from gastric juice, biopsy, dental plaque, saliva, stools, and even middle ear effusion [4]. Currently, there is no single treatment that can completely eliminate *H. pylori*, but a combination of an antiulcer medication and two antibiotics has shown success in many cases. Experts have proposed that a combination of traditional and herbal medicine, as well as the use of artificial intelligence, could potentially lead to the complete eradication

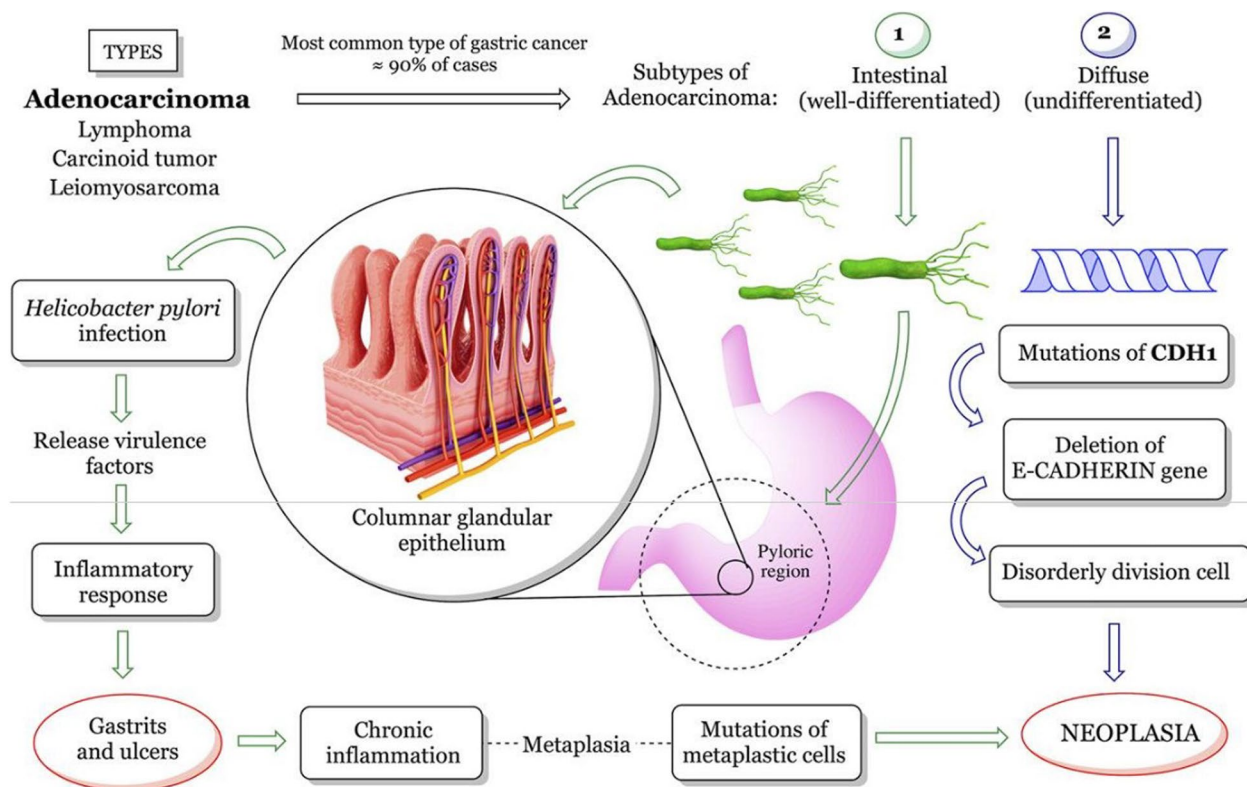


Fig. 1 An overall description of how *H. pylori* infection is linked to the development of gastric cancer [5]

of *H. pylori*. As a result, this review will examine recent advancements and research in preventing and managing *H. pylori* and their potential impact.

2 Novel diagnostic tools for *H. pylori*

Accurately diagnosing *H. pylori* infection is critical for effective management of the condition. There are currently a variety of diagnostic methods available that have high levels of sensitivity and specificity. These methods can be grouped into two categories: non-invasive and invasive. Non-invasive techniques include the urea breath test, stool antigen test, serological tests, and molecular tests, whereas invasive techniques require an endoscopy and consist of endoscopic imaging, histology determination, rapid urease testing, and culture and molecular tests [8].

2.1 Recent non-invasive techniques for *H. pylori*

There have been some recent advancements in non-invasive techniques for detecting *H. pylori* infection. These include:

2.1.1 Multiplex PCR

This is a new molecular diagnostic technique that can detect multiple bacterial pathogens, including *H. pylori*,

in a single sample. It uses a single PCR to amplify and detect multiple target genes, providing a rapid and accurate diagnosis of *H. pylori* infection.

2.1.2 Fecal microbiota analysis

This novel method analyzes the gut microbiota, which refers to the collection of microorganisms inhabiting the digestive tract. Recent studies have suggested that changes in the gut microbiota may be linked to the development of *H. pylori* infection and other gastrointestinal disorders. Fecal microbiota analysis can provide valuable information about the composition and function of the gut microbiota, which may help diagnose and treat *H. pylori* infection.

2.1.3 Point-of-care testing

This new approach to testing for the bacteria *H. pylori* allows for faster diagnosis compared to traditional laboratory-based testing. *H. pylori* testing can now be performed at the point of care—meaning in the doctor’s office or clinic—rather than having to send samples out to a diagnostic laboratory. This point-of-care testing is made possible by innovative rapid tests that can provide results within minutes or hours. Specifically, there are two main types of rapid tests for *H. pylori* suitable for point-of-care

use. Rapid antigen tests detect proteins from the bacteria in biopsy or stool samples, providing results in just minutes. Molecular tests, such as loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) and PCR, detect *H. pylori*'s genetic material and take about one hour to provide results.

2.1.4 Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) analysis

This is a new method that involves analyzing the VOCs in a patient's breath to detect the presence of *H. pylori*. *H. pylori* produces specific VOCs that can be detected using specialized equipment. This technique has shown promising results in early studies, but more research is needed to validate its accuracy and reliability.

2.1.5 Serological tests

Recent advances in serological testing have led to the development of new assays that can detect specific antibodies against *H. pylori* with high accuracy and sensitivity. These tests are based on advanced immunoassay techniques, such as enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) and chemiluminescence immunoassay (CLIA), and can provide rapid and reliable results. Recent studies have demonstrated that the combination of new criteria for gastric cancer risk classification, based on both pepsinogen (PG) values and *H. pylori* antibody, has been shown to be more effective in identifying individuals at high risk of the disease compared to the conventional criteria, thus reducing the possibility of missing truly high-risk subjects.

2.1.6 Smartphone-based diagnostics

This is a new approach to *H. pylori* testing that uses a smartphone app and a portable device to perform diagnostic tests. The device is connected to the smartphone, and the patient provides a sample of saliva or breath, which is analyzed using the device. The results are displayed on the smartphone app, allowing for rapid diagnosis and treatment of *H. pylori* infection.

2.1.7 Microbiome analysis

This is a new method of analyzing the gut microbiome, which is the collection of microorganisms that live in the digestive tract. Recent studies have suggested that changes in the gut microbiome may be linked to the development of *H. pylori* infection and other gastrointestinal disorders. Microbiome analysis can provide valuable information about the composition and function of the gut microbiome, which may help diagnose and treat *H. pylori* infection as shown in Fig. 2 which depicts the primary mechanisms that facilitate the connection between *H. pylori* and the gastric microbiota.

2.2 Recent invasive techniques of *H. pylori*

There have been some recent advancements in invasive techniques for diagnosing and treating *H. pylori* infection. These include:

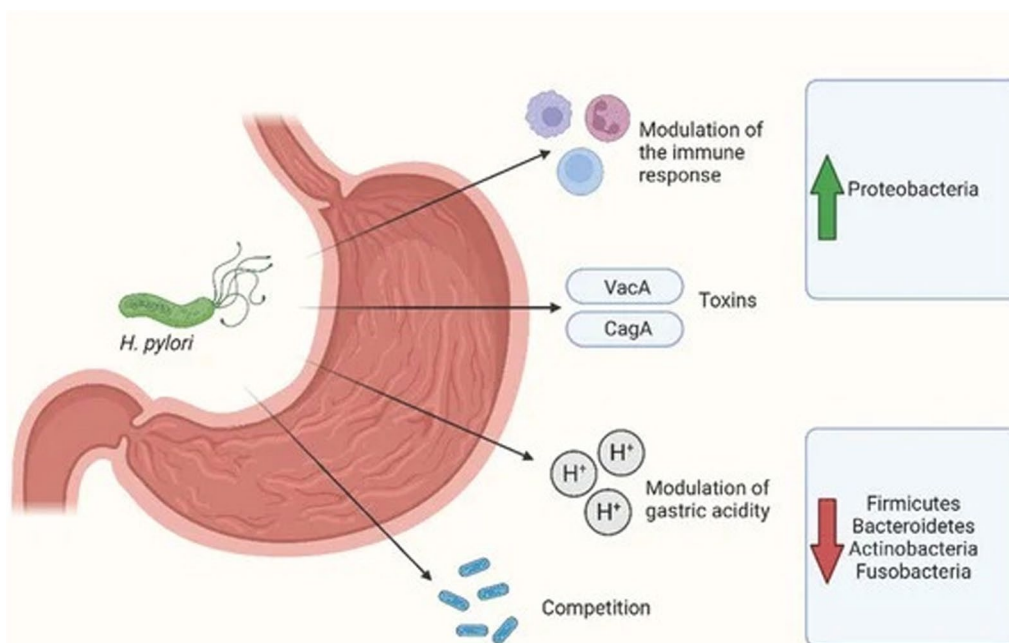


Fig. 2 The primary mechanisms that underlie the connection between *H. pylori* and the microbiota within the stomach [16]

2.2.1 Confocal laser endomicroscopy (CLE)

This is a new endoscopic technique that allows real-time microscopic examination of the gastrointestinal mucosa. CLE can be used to detect *H. pylori* infection and to evaluate the severity of gastritis and other gastrointestinal disorders. CLE can also be used to guide biopsies and to monitor the response to treatment.

2.2.2 Endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD)

This is a new endoscopic technique that allows the removal of early-stage gastrointestinal tumors without the need for open surgery. ESD can also be used to remove *H. pylori*-infected gastric mucosa, which can help reduce the risk of developing gastric cancer.

2.2.3 Rapid urease test (RUT)

This is a widely used invasive technique for diagnosing *H. pylori* infection during endoscopy. Recent advancements in RUT technology have led to the development of new tests that provide rapid and accurate results.

2.2.4 Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)

This is a sensitive and specific molecular diagnostic technique that can detect *H. pylori* DNA in biopsy samples with high accuracy. Recent advancements in PCR technology have led to the development of new assays that can detect specific *H. pylori* strains and antibiotic resistance genes.

2.2.5 Helicobacter pylori culture

This is a traditional invasive technique for diagnosing *H. pylori* infection that involves culturing the bacteria from biopsy samples [21]. Recent advancements in culture techniques have led to the development of new media and methods that can improve the sensitivity and specificity of *H. pylori* culture [22]. Initially, the microbiology laboratory used Gram stained smears of fresh gastric biopsy smears as the first method for quickly detecting patients who were positive for *C. pyloridis*. To culture the bacteria, a microaerobic atmosphere was required, and researchers initially used Skirrow's medium. However, a modified version of Skirrow's medium was developed that incorporated in vitro antimicrobial susceptibility results. This modification involved substituting *cefsulodin* (5 mg/l) for *polymyxin* and adding *amphotericin B* (5 mg/l) to inhibit *Candida* spp., which is a common contaminant of the stomach. Dent's medium, which is a commercially available version of the modified medium, is still in use today and can be obtained from *Oxoid* [23].

3 Multi-drug resistant strains (MDRS) of *H. pylori*

Multi-drug resistant strains (MDRS) of *H. pylori* have become a growing concern in recent years due to the increasing prevalence of antibiotic-resistant strains. MDRS of *H. pylori* are strains that are resistant to multiple antibiotics, making them difficult to treat. The prevalence of MDRS of *H. pylori* is increasing worldwide, with some regions reporting rates as high as 50%. This is a major concern as it can lead to treatment failure and the development of more severe forms of gastritis and peptic ulcer disease. Accurate and timely diagnosis of antibiotic resistance is crucial for the effective treatment of *H. pylori* infection. Recent advancements in antibiotic resistance testing have led to the development of new molecular diagnostic techniques, such as PCR and whole-genome sequencing, which can provide rapid and accurate results [24]. Tailored therapy is a new approach to *H. pylori* treatment that involves testing for antibiotic resistance before selecting a treatment regimen. This approach can help reduce the risk of treatment failure and the development of MDRS. However, it may not be feasible in all settings due to costs and turnaround times [25].

There is a need for new antibiotics to treat MDRS of *H. pylori*. Recent studies have identified several potential new antibiotics, such as *rifabutin*, *rifaximin*, and *sitafloxacin*, that show promise in treating *H. pylori* infection, including MDRS. Combination therapy is another approach to treating MDRS of *H. pylori*. Recent studies have shown that combining different classes of antibiotics can improve treatment outcomes and reduce the risk of developing antibiotic resistance [26]. Recent studies have also shown that the use of probiotics may have potential in the treatment of *H. pylori* infection, including MDRS. Probiotics are live microorganisms that can confer health benefits when ingested. They have antibacterial activity against *H. pylori* and can help to restore the balance of gut microbiota, which may be disrupted by antibiotic treatment. The emergence of MDRS of *H. pylori* underscores the importance of appropriate antibiotic use and stewardship. Overuse and misuse of antibiotics can lead to the development of antibiotic resistance, which can have serious consequences for the treatment of infectious diseases. Healthcare providers should be judicious in their use of antibiotics and should follow established guidelines for the treatment of *H. pylori* infection [27].

In addition to antibiotic stewardship, other strategies for reducing the burden of MDRS of *H. pylori* include improved sanitation and hygiene, vaccination, and the development of new treatments and preventive measures. It is important for healthcare providers, researchers, and policymakers to work together to address this growing public health challenge and to help ensure the effective management of *H. pylori* infection, including MDRS [28].

4 Novel pharmaceutical treatment against *H. pylori*

Novel pharmaceutical treatments against *H. pylori* have been developed in recent years to address the growing concern of antibiotic resistance and treatment failure. There are several novel pharmaceutical treatments for *H. pylori* infection that have emerged in recent years. Some of these treatments include:

4.1 Hybrid therapy

This is a novel treatment regimen that combines two antibiotics (*amoxicillin* and *clarithromycin*) with a proton pump inhibitor (PPI) and a *nitroimidazole* (such as *metronidazole* or *tinidazole*) [29, 30]. Hybrid therapy has been shown to be highly effective in treating *H. pylori* infection, even in areas with high antibiotic resistance [31, 32].

4.2 Levofloxacin-based therapy

This is a newer treatment regimen that uses the antibiotic *levofloxacin* in combination with a PPI and *amoxicillin* [33]. *Levofloxacin*-based therapy has been shown to be effective in areas with high *clarithromycin* and *metronidazole* resistance [34].

4.3 Lactoferrin-based therapy

Lactoferrin is a protein that has antimicrobial activity against *H. pylori*. Recent studies have suggested that *lactoferrin*-based therapy may be effective in treating *H. pylori* infection, either alone or in combination with other antibiotics [35].

4.4 Bismuth-based therapies

Bismuth-based therapies have been used for the treatment of *H. pylori* infection for many years. Recent studies have shown that *bismuth*-based quadruple therapy, which includes *bismuth*, *metronidazole*, *tetracycline*, and a proton pump inhibitor (PPI), can achieve high eradication rates, even in areas with high rates of antibiotic resistance [36].

4.5 Non-bismuth-based quadruple therapy

Non-*bismuth*-based quadruple therapy, which includes a PPI, *amoxicillin*, *clarithromycin*, and *nitroimidazole*, has been proposed as an alternative to *bismuth*-based therapy. Recent studies have shown that non-*bismuth*-based quadruple therapy can achieve high eradication rates, even in areas with high rates of *clarithromycin* resistance [37].

4.6 Sequential therapy

Sequential therapy involves the use of two different antibiotics, followed by a PPI and another antibiotic,

for the treatment of *H. pylori* infection. Recent studies have shown that sequential therapy can achieve high eradication rates and may be effective in areas with high rates of *clarithromycin* resistance [38].

4.7 Novel antibiotics

New antibiotics, such as *rifabutin*, *rifaximin*, *sitafloxacin*, and *fidaxomicin*, have shown promise in treating *H. pylori* infection, including MDRS [39]. These antibiotics offer new opportunities for effectively treating *H. pylori* infection and reducing the risk of antibiotic resistance [40].

4.8 New antibiotics to treat MDRS of *H. pylori*

The emergence of multi-drug resistant strains (MDRS) of *H. pylori* has become a major concern in recent years, and there is a need for new antibiotics to effectively treat these infections. Fortunately, recent advancements in antibiotic research have identified several new antibiotics that show promise in treating MDRS of *H. pylori* [41]. One of the most promising new antibiotics is *rifabutin*, which is a *rifamycin* antibiotic that has shown excellent activity against MDRS. In recent studies, *rifabutin*-based therapy has achieved high eradication rates in patients with MDRS, including those who have failed previous treatments [42]. Another new antibiotic, *rifaximin*, is a *rifamycin* that has been primarily used to treat gastrointestinal infections. However, recent studies have suggested that *rifaximin* may also be effective in treating *H. pylori* infection, including MDRS [43]. *Sitafloxacin* is a new *fluoroquinolone* antibiotic that has shown activity against MDRS of *H. pylori*. Recent studies have demonstrated that *sitafloxacin*-based therapy can achieve high eradication rates in patients with MDRS, including those who have failed previous treatments [44]. *Nitazoxanide* is an antiparasitic drug that has shown activity against *H. pylori*, including MDRS [45]. Recent studies have suggested that *nitazoxanide*-based therapy may be effective in treating *H. pylori* infection, either alone or in combination with other antibiotics [46]. Finally, *fidaxomicin* is a new macrocyclic antibiotic that has been approved for the treatment of *Clostridioides difficile* infection. Recent studies have suggested that *fidaxomicin* may have activity against *H. pylori*, including MDRS [47].

5 Nanotechnology against *H. pylori* infection

Nanotechnology has emerged as a promising field for the development of new treatments against *H. pylori* infection [48]. The current state of nanotechnology against *H. pylori* includes:

5.1 Nanoparticle-based therapies

Nanoparticles have been investigated for their potential to inhibit the growth of *H. pylori*. Metal nanoparticles, such as silver, copper, gold, titanium dioxide, magnesium oxide, zinc oxide, and selenium nanoparticles, have shown promising results in both in vitro and in vivo studies. Polymer-based nanoparticles, such as *chitosan* nanoparticles, have also been investigated for their potential as a drug delivery system for the treatment of *H. pylori* infection [49]. Functionalization of *chitosan* with the monosaccharide *D-mannose* has enhanced the targeting abilities of the nanoparticles [50]. Researchers have developed a new dual-action nanoparticle treatment that combines *p-coumaric acid* (p-CoA) and *gallic acid* (GA) to more effectively treat bacteria. These nanoparticles are loaded with the two antimicrobial compounds and also have magnetic and biosurfactant properties. The p-CoA and GA act together to inhibit bacterial growth and prevent biofilm formation. Biofilms are problematic as they allow bacteria to adhere to surfaces and evade antibiotics. By disrupting biofilm formation, this new therapy helps overcome bacterial resistance mechanisms. Additionally, the magnetic nanoparticle delivery system targets and accumulates the antimicrobial agents at infected sites [51].

5.2 Nanobiosensors

Nanobiosensors have been developed for the rapid and sensitive detection of *H. pylori*. These biosensors can detect *H. pylori* in biological samples, such as saliva, blood, and stool, and can provide results within minutes [52].

5.3 Nanoemulsions

Nanoemulsions have been developed as a potential treatment for *H. pylori* infection. These emulsions consist of oil droplets dispersed in water and can be used to deliver antimicrobial agents directly to the site of infection [53].

5.4 Nanopore sequencing

Nanopore sequencing has been investigated for the rapid and accurate detection of *H. pylori* [54]. This technology uses a nanopore to sequence DNA, allowing for the detection of *H. pylori* and its antibiotic resistance genes [55].

5.5 Nanocarriers

Nanocarriers have been developed as a potential drug delivery system for the treatment of *H. pylori* infection [56]. These carriers can protect drugs from degradation

and can deliver them directly to the site of infection, increasing their efficacy and reducing their side effects [57].

5.6 Nanostructured surfaces

Recent studies have explored the use of nanostructured surfaces to inhibit the adhesion of *H. pylori* to gastric epithelial cells. These surfaces consist of nanoparticles that are coated onto a substrate to create a nanostructured surface. The nanostructured surface reduces the surface area available for bacterial adhesion and can prevent the formation of biofilms [58].

5.7 Nanoparticle-based vaccines

Nanoparticle-based vaccines have been developed as a potential prophylactic treatment against *H. pylori* infection. These vaccines consist of nanoparticles that are coated with *H. pylori* antigens to stimulate an immune response. Recent studies have shown that nanoparticle-based vaccines can induce a strong immune response and may be effective in preventing *H. pylori* infection [59].

5.8 Nanoparticle-based imaging

Nanoparticle-based imaging has been investigated for the diagnosis of *H. pylori* infection. These imaging agents consist of nanoparticles that are coated with antibodies or peptides that target *H. pylori*. The imaging agents can be used for non-invasive imaging of *H. pylori* in vivo, allowing for the early detection of infection [60].

5.9 Nanoparticle-based drug conjugates

Nanoparticle-based drug conjugates have been developed as a potential treatment for *H. pylori* infection. These conjugates consist of nanoparticles that are coated with antimicrobial agents, such as antibiotics or probiotics. The nanoparticles protect the drugs from degradation and can deliver them directly to the site of infection, increasing their efficacy and reducing their side effects [61].

5.10 Lipid-based nanocarrier for drug delivery

Lipid-based carriers have gained considerable attention in targeted drug delivery, particularly for drugs with poor solubility. Nanostructured lipid carriers (NLCs), which are lipid nanoparticles composed of non-toxic surfactants and physiological lipids, are highly regarded for their low toxicity and excellent drug delivery capabilities. NLCs, distinguished by their solid lipid core and surfactant stabilization, provide enhanced stability, efficient drug entrapment, and high drug loading capacity compared to other lipid nanoparticles. These NLCs have shown promising therapeutic potential as antibacterial drug delivery systems, effectively targeting various microorganisms,

including *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Propionibacterium acnes*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Escherichia coli*, and *Helicobacter pylori* [62]. Also, nanostructured lipid carriers (NLCs) loaded with two drugs, hesperidin and clarithromycin at specific drug doses. The loaded NLCs were stable in water and simulated gastric fluids, biocompatible, and negatively charged. The in vitro experiments showed that these NLCs were effective in delivering the drugs to target *H. pylori* and exhibited prolonged release of both drugs for approximately 24 h [63].

6 Challenges and limitations of novel pharmaceuticals and nanotechnology

Novel pharmaceuticals and nanotechnology have been explored as potential treatment options for *H. pylori*, but they also face several challenges and limitations.

One of the challenges in developing novel pharmaceuticals for *H. pylori* is its ability to develop antibiotic resistance. *H. pylori* has been shown to develop resistance to commonly used antibiotics, such as *clarithromycin* and *metronidazole*, which can make treatment more difficult. This highlights the need for novel pharmaceuticals with different mechanisms of action that can overcome antibiotic resistance [64].

Nanotechnology-based approaches, such as using nanoparticles to deliver drugs specifically to the site of infection, have shown promise in treating *H. pylori*. However, there are also limitations to this approach [65]. The nanoparticles need to be stable, biocompatible, and specifically targeted to the site of infection. Additionally, there may be issues with toxicity and the potential for nanoparticles to accumulate in organs and tissues, which could cause unintended side effects. Another challenge in treating *H. pylori* is that the bacterium can exist in a biofilm, which can protect it from antibiotics and other treatments. This makes it difficult to completely eradicate the infection. Novel pharmaceuticals and nanotechnology-based approaches will need to be able to penetrate these biofilms to be effective [66].

7 Effective herbal and traditional medicine against *H. pylori*

The use of herbal and traditional medicine against *H. pylori* has shown promising results. Several studies have reported the efficacy of various plants and natural compounds in treating *H. pylori* infections, with fewer side effects than conventional antibiotics. One such study found that the use of garlic extract significantly reduced *H. pylori* colonization in the stomach. Garlic has been shown to have potent antimicrobial properties, and its active compounds, such as *allicin*, can inhibit *H. pylori* growth and reduce inflammation in the stomach. Another study investigated the use of honey as a potential

treatment for *H. pylori* [67]. The study found that honey had antibacterial activity against *H. pylori*, and it could inhibit the growth and formation of *H. pylori* biofilms. Honey also has anti-inflammatory properties, which can help reduce the severity of gastritis and other gastrointestinal symptoms [68]. Other natural compounds, such as curcumin, green tea, and probiotics, have also been studied for their potential anti-*H. pylori* activity. These compounds have been shown to reduce *H. pylori* colonization and improve gastric health in animal and human studies [69]. *Hesperetin* demonstrated potent inhibition against *H. pylori* urease by effectively slowing down its activity. This inhibition was achieved through various mechanisms, including the establishment of hydrogen bonding interactions with specific residues in the active pocket and the formation of molecular interactions with the target proteins [70].

Mastic gum is a natural resin obtained from the stem and branches of the mastic tree (*Pistacia lentiscus*) [71]. It has been traditionally used for its medicinal properties, particularly for the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders. Recent studies have investigated the potential efficacy of mastic gum against *H. pylori* infections. Several in vitro studies have shown that mastic gum has antibacterial activity against *H. pylori*, inhibiting its growth and reducing its colonization in the stomach. Mastic gum has anti-inflammatory properties, which may help alleviate the symptoms of *gastritis* and other gastrointestinal disorders caused by *H. pylori* infections [72]. Mastic gum has antibacterial activity against *H. pylori*, and *Artemisia* has been traditionally used for the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders [73]. Pomegranate has antibacterial properties, and castor oil has been traditionally used as a laxative and for its anti-inflammatory effects. The mix of fig with olive is also known to have antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties [74]. While these natural compounds may have individual benefits, there is currently limited research on their combined effects on *H. pylori* eradication. One study investigated the efficacy of a combination therapy consisting of mastic gum and fennel essential oil for the treatment of *H. pylori* infections and found that it was effective in eradicating the bacterium in 14 out of 19 patients (73.7%) [75]. However, it is important to note that natural compounds may interact with each other and with other medications, which could lead to adverse effects or reduce their efficacy. Patients should always consult with their healthcare provider before using any natural or herbal remedies for the treatment of *H. pylori* infections [76]. The combination of mastic gum, *Artemisia*, pomegranate, castor oil, and a mix of fig with olive has been proposed as a potential natural treatment for *H. pylori* infections. While there is some evidence to suggest that these natural compounds

may have antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties, there is currently limited research on the efficacy of this combination therapy for *H. pylori* eradication. Our suggestion is that the combination of mastic gum, Artemisia, pomegranate, castor oil, and a mix of fig with olive may have potential benefits for the treatment of *H. pylori* infections, further research is needed to establish its efficacy and safety [77].

One of the advantages of using herbal and traditional medicine against *H. pylori* is that they are generally safe and well tolerated, with fewer side effects than conventional antibiotics. However, it is important to note that these natural compounds may not be as potent as antibiotics and may require longer treatment durations or higher doses to achieve the desired effects. Furthermore, the use of herbal and traditional medicine may also provide a more sustainable and cost-effective approach to treating *H. pylori* infections, particularly in resource-limited settings. Many of these natural compounds are readily available and affordable, making them accessible to a wider population. It is also worth noting that the use of herbal and traditional medicine should not replace conventional antibiotics for the treatment of *H. pylori* infections. Instead, they may be used as adjunct therapies or as a complementary approach to conventional treatments. Additionally, patients should always consult with their healthcare provider before using any herbal or traditional medicine, as some natural compounds may interact with other medications or have adverse effects in certain individuals.

7.1 Challenges and limitations of herbal and traditional medicine in treating *H. pylori*

One of the main challenges is the lack of standardization and quality control of herbal and traditional medicine. Many natural compounds used for the treatment of *H. pylori* infections have not been fully characterized, and their efficacy and safety may vary depending on the source and preparation method. This highlights the need for standardized protocols for the production and quality control of herbal and traditional medicine [78]. Another challenge is the limited availability of clinical data on the efficacy and safety of herbal and traditional medicine for the treatment of *H. pylori* infections. While several studies have reported promising results, the sample sizes and study designs are often limited, and there is a lack of randomized controlled trials. This makes it difficult to establish the true efficacy and safety of these natural compounds. Additionally, the use of herbal and traditional medicine may not be suitable for all patients, particularly those with underlying medical conditions or who are taking other medications. Some natural compounds may interact with other medications or have

adverse effects in certain individuals, which could lead to unintended health consequences [79].

8 The potential role of artificial intelligence on *H. pylori*

Artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as a powerful tool for diagnosing and treating various diseases, including *H. pylori* infections. Recent updates on the potential role of AI in the management of *H. pylori* have provided valuable insights into the development of novel strategies for the detection and treatment of this bacterium. One potential application of AI in the management of *H. pylori* is in the development of algorithms for the analysis of endoscopic images to detect *H. pylori*-associated gastritis [80]. Several studies have reported the use of machine learning algorithms to analyze endoscopic images and accurately diagnose *H. pylori* infection with high sensitivity and specificity.

Another potential application of AI in the management of *H. pylori* is in the development of predictive models for the identification of patients at high risk of developing *H. pylori*-associated diseases, such as gastric cancer [80]. AI can be used to analyze endoscopic images and accurately diagnose *H. pylori* infections with high sensitivity and specificity. Several studies have reported the use of machine learning algorithms to analyze endoscopic images, which could lead to a more efficient and cost-effective method for the detection and diagnosis of *H. pylori* infections. AI can also be used in the development of personalized treatment plans for *H. pylori* infections. Machine learning algorithms can analyze patient data, such as medical history, laboratory results, and imaging studies, to develop individualized treatment plans based on the patient's unique characteristics and medical history [81]. AI can be used to accelerate drug discovery and development. Machine learning algorithms can analyze large datasets and identify potential drug candidates for the treatment of *H. pylori* infections. AI can also be applied in the area of nanotechnology, where it can be used to develop nano-based drug delivery systems for the targeted delivery of drugs to the site of *H. pylori* infection. AI can be used to analyze the efficacy and safety of natural compounds for the treatment of *H. pylori* infections. Machine learning algorithms can analyze large datasets and identify potential natural compounds with anti-*H. pylori* activity. This could lead to the development of new and effective treatment options based on natural compounds [82]. Finally, AI can be used for the management and prevention of *H. pylori* infections. Machine learning algorithms can analyze large datasets and identify risk factors associated with the development of *H. pylori*-associated diseases, such as gastric cancer. This could help healthcare providers identify and manage

high-risk patients more effectively and prevent the development of *H. pylori*-associated diseases [83].

8.1 Challenges and Limitations of Artificial Intelligence in Managing *H. Pylori*

While artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to revolutionize the management of *H. pylori* infections, there are also several challenges and limitations that need to be addressed.

One major challenge is the need for large datasets and high-quality data. Machine learning algorithms require large datasets to train and validate their models, and the quality of the data can affect the accuracy and reliability of the algorithms [84]. In the case of *H. pylori* infections, there is a lack of large, high-quality datasets that can be used for the development and validation of AI-based approaches. Another challenge is the ethical considerations surrounding the use of AI in healthcare [85]. The use of AI raises questions about patient privacy, data security, and the impact on healthcare professionals. It is important to establish ethical guidelines and frameworks to ensure that the use of AI in healthcare is safe, ethical, and beneficial to patients [86].

Furthermore, the use of AI in the management of *H. pylori* infections should not replace conventional approaches, but rather complement them. AI-based approaches should be used in conjunction with existing diagnostic and treatment methods to improve patient

outcomes. Another limitation is the complexity of *H. pylori* infections. *H. pylori* is a highly adaptable bacterium that can evade the immune system and develop resistance to antibiotics. This complexity makes it challenging to develop effective AI-based approaches for the diagnosis and treatment of *H. pylori* infections. Finally, there is a lack of standardization and regulation of AI-based approaches. AI is a rapidly evolving field, and there is a need for standardized protocols and guidelines for the development and validation of AI-based approaches for the management of *H. pylori* infections [87].

8.2 Future and directions for Prevention and management of *H. pylori* infections

The diagram in Fig. 3 illustrates how the invasion of *Helicobacter pylori* in the human stomach can have a detrimental effect on the host's health, which can be exacerbated by particular dietary habits. The primary consequences include gastritis, which may progress to peptic ulcers and potentially gastric cancer, changes in the gut's microbiota, and inflammation. To evaluate the effectiveness of new treatments for eradicating *Helicobacter pylori*, animal and in vitro models are commonly employed [88].

8.3 Vaccination against *H. pylori*

Vaccination against *H. pylori* is an area of active research and development, with several promising approaches under investigation. Recent updates on the development

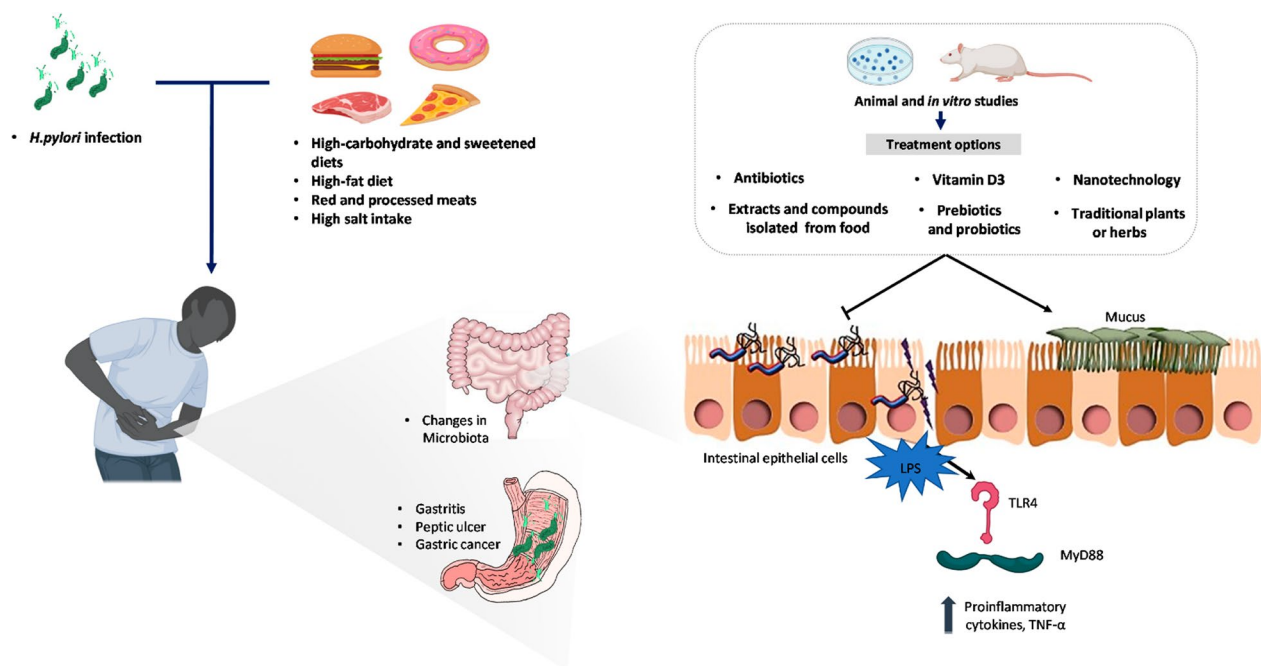


Fig. 3 The consequences of *Helicobacter pylori* infection in humans and the latest methods for its eradication [83]

and implementation of *H. pylori* vaccines highlight the potential for these vaccines to prevent *H. pylori* infections and associated diseases, including gastritis, peptic ulcers, and gastric cancer. One approach to *H. pylori* vaccination is the use of subunit vaccines, which contain specific antigens from *H. pylori* that can stimulate an immune response [89]. Clinical trials of subunit vaccines have shown promising results in preventing *H. pylori* infection and reducing the incidence of associated diseases. Another approach is the use of whole-cell vaccines, which contain inactivated or killed *H. pylori* bacteria. These vaccines can stimulate a broad immune response and have been shown to be effective in preventing *H. pylori* infection and reducing the incidence of associated diseases. Live attenuated vaccines, which contain weakened strains of *H. pylori*, are also under investigation. These vaccines can stimulate a strong immune response and have shown promising results in preventing *H. pylori* infection and reducing the incidence of associated diseases [90].

Recent updates on the development and implementation of *H. pylori* vaccines highlight the safety and efficacy of these vaccines in preventing *H. pylori* infection and reducing the incidence of associated diseases. Additionally, the development of *H. pylori* vaccines has the potential to significantly reduce the burden of *H. pylori*-associated diseases, making them an important area of research and development. However, there are also challenges associated with the development and implementation of *H. pylori* vaccines. One significant challenge is the high genetic diversity of *H. pylori* strains, which can make it difficult to develop a vaccine that is effective against all strains. Additionally, the development of *H. pylori* vaccines requires significant investment and resources, which may limit their availability and accessibility in some regions [91].

8.4 Probiotics against *H. pylori*

Probiotics are live microorganisms that confer health benefits to the host by improving the gut microbiome's composition and function. Recent updates on the role of probiotics in the prevention and management of *H. pylori* infections highlight their potential to reduce the incidence of *H. pylori* infection and alleviate *H. pylori*-associated symptoms. Studies have shown that certain strains of probiotics, such as *Lactobacillus* and *Bifidobacterium* [92], can reduce the incidence of *H. pylori* infection and alleviate *H. pylori*-associated symptoms, such as abdominal pain and bloating. Additionally, probiotics can modulate the immune system and improve the gut barrier function, which can reduce the risk of *H. pylori* infection and associated diseases [93].

Recent updates on the role of probiotics in the prevention and management of *H. pylori* infections highlight the potential for these interventions to be used in conjunction with other approaches, such as antibiotics and lifestyle modifications. Probiotics can improve the effectiveness of antibiotics in eradicating *H. pylori* bacteria and reducing the risk of antibiotic-associated side effects, such as diarrhea. However, there are also challenges associated with the use of probiotics in the prevention and management of *H. pylori* infections. One significant challenge is the lack of standardization in probiotic products, which can make it difficult to compare their efficacy and safety. Additionally, the optimal dose, duration, and strain of probiotics for the prevention and management of *H. pylori* infections are still being studied [94].

8.5 Antibiotic stewardship against *H. pylori*

Antibiotic stewardship is a critical component of the management of *H. pylori* infections, as overuse and misuse of antibiotics can lead to the development of antibiotic resistance, which can make treatment more difficult. Recent updates on the role of antibiotic stewardship in the management of *H. pylori* infections highlight the importance of using antibiotics judiciously and developing more targeted and effective antibiotic therapies [95]. One approach to antibiotic stewardship in the management of *H. pylori* infections is to use the minimum effective dose of antibiotics for the shortest duration possible. This can help reduce the risk of antibiotic resistance while still effectively eradicating the *H. pylori* bacteria. Another approach is to use targeted antibiotic therapy based on the patient's microbiome analysis data. By identifying the specific strains of *H. pylori* bacteria present in the patient's gut, healthcare providers can develop individualized treatment plans that target the specific strains of *H. pylori* present in the patient's gut, increasing the likelihood of successful treatment and reducing the risk of antibiotic resistance [96].

Recent updates on the role of antibiotic stewardship in the management of *H. pylori* infections also highlight the potential of alternative therapies, such as probiotics and herbal remedies, as an adjunct to antibiotic therapy [97]. By improving the gut microbiome's composition and function, alternative therapies can reduce the risk of *H. pylori* infection and associated diseases and improve the efficacy of antibiotic therapy [98]. However, there are also challenges associated with antibiotic stewardship in the management of *H. pylori* infections. One significant challenge is the increasing prevalence of antibiotic-resistant strains of *H. pylori*, which can limit the effectiveness of antibiotic therapy. Additionally, the optimal antibiotic regimen for the management

of *H. pylori* infections is still being studied, and more research is needed to develop more targeted and effective antibiotic therapies [99].

8.6 Personalized medicine against *H. pylori*

Personalized medicine is an area of active research and development for the management of *H. pylori* infections, which can lead to various gastrointestinal diseases, including *gastritis*, peptic ulcers, and gastric cancer. Recent updates on the role of personalized medicine in the management of *H. pylori* infections highlight the potential for individualized treatment plans to improve patient outcomes. Personalized medicine for *H. pylori* infections involves tailoring the treatment to the patient's unique characteristics, such as their genetic makeup, medical history, and lifestyle factors. By taking a personalized approach, healthcare providers can develop more effective treatment plans that are tailored to the individual patient's needs. One approach to personalized medicine for *H. pylori* infections is the use of genetic testing to identify patients who are at increased risk of *H. pylori*-associated diseases, such as gastric cancer. By identifying these high-risk patients, healthcare providers can develop individualized treatment plans that aim to prevent the development of these diseases. Another approach is to use microbiome analysis to identify the specific strains of *H. pylori* bacteria present in the patient's gut. This information can be used to develop individualized treatment plans that target the specific strains of *H. pylori* present in the patient's gut, increasing the likelihood of successful treatment [100].

Recent updates on the role of personalized medicine in the management of *H. pylori* infections highlight the potential for individualized treatment plans to improve patient outcomes. By taking a personalized approach, healthcare providers can develop more effective treatment plans that are tailored to the individual patient's needs, leading to improved patient outcomes. However, there are also challenges associated with personalized medicine for the management of *H. pylori* infections. One significant challenge is the cost and availability of genetic testing and microbiome analysis, which may limit their use in some regions. Additionally, personalized medicine may not be effective in all cases and may need to be combined with other interventions, such as vaccination or lifestyle modifications [101].

8.7 Lifestyle against *H. pylori*

Lifestyle modifications have been shown to help prevent and manage *H. pylori* infections, which can lead to various gastrointestinal diseases, including *gastritis*, peptic

ulcers, and gastric cancer. Recent updates on the role of lifestyle modifications in the prevention and management of *H. pylori* infections highlight their potential to improve patient outcomes.

Good hygiene practices, such as frequent hand washing, can help prevent the acquisition and transmission of *H. pylori* bacteria. Additionally, avoiding contaminated food and water, as well as avoiding smoking and excessive alcohol consumption, can reduce the risk of *H. pylori* infection and associated diseases. Adopting a healthy diet that is rich in fruits, vegetables, and fiber, as well as engaging in regular exercise, can also boost the immune system and reduce the risk of *H. pylori*-associated diseases [68]. Recent updates on the role of lifestyle modifications in the prevention and management of *H. pylori* infections highlight the importance of these interventions in improving patient outcomes [102]. Lifestyle modifications can reduce the risk of *H. pylori* infection and associated diseases, as well as improve the effectiveness of conventional treatments, such as antibiotics and proton pump inhibitors [103]. However, there are also challenges associated with lifestyle modifications for the prevention and management of *H. pylori* infections. One significant challenge is the difficulty in implementing and maintaining lifestyle modifications, particularly in populations with limited access to healthy food and safe water. Additionally, lifestyle modifications may not be sufficient to prevent or manage *H. pylori* infections in all cases and may need to be combined with other interventions, such as vaccination or personalized medicine [104].

9 Conclusion

Helicobacter pylori is a prevalent pathogen that infects half of the global population and is a well-known cause of *gastritis* and a type I carcinogen. Recent advancements in invasive techniques for diagnosing and treating *H. pylori* infection offer new opportunities for improving patient outcomes and reducing the risk of developing gastric cancer. Novel pharmaceutical treatments, including bismuth-based therapies, non-bismuth-based quadruple therapy, concomitant therapy, and sequential therapy, have shown promise in achieving high eradication rates, even in areas with high rates of antibiotic resistance. New antibiotics also offer promising new opportunities for treating *H. pylori* infection, including multi-drug resistant strains. Nanotechnology has shown great potential in the fight against *H. pylori* infection, with the development of nanoparticle-based therapies, nanobiosensors, nanoemulsions, nanopore sequencing, nanocarriers, nanostructured surfaces, nanoparticle-based vaccines, nanoparticle-based imaging, and nanoparticles-based drug and lipid conjugates opening up new avenues for

diagnosis and treatment. Herbal and traditional medicine and lifestyle modifications also offer potential alternative treatment options, while personalized medicine and antibiotic stewardship can improve patient outcomes. Therefore, advanced technologies and innovative approaches, such as novel diagnostics, pharmaceuticals, nanotechnology, herbal medicine, AI, and future directions, have the potential to play significant roles in the eradication of *H. pylori* infection.

While these advancements offer promising solutions, challenges and limitations remain. Further research is needed to develop effective and safe treatments for *H. pylori* infections and optimize these technologies for clinical use, ensure their safety and efficacy, and address challenges such as limited resources, the emergence of multi-drug resistant strains, ethical considerations, and lack of standardization and regulation of AI-based approaches. However, continued efforts in prevention and management are crucial to reduce the burden of *H. pylori* infection and improve patient outcomes, and healthcare providers should stay up-to-date with the latest advancements in *H. pylori* diagnosis and treatment to provide the best possible care for their patients.

10 Recommendations

- While several diagnostic methods are available to detect *H. pylori*, ongoing research should focus on developing more rapid and accurate diagnostic tools that can detect *H. pylori* in its early stages.
- Antibiotic therapies are available to treat *H. pylori* infection, but given the high prevalence of the bacterium and its increasing resistance to antibiotics, alternative treatment options should be explored. Combination of traditional and herbal medicine could be a promising approach, and research should be conducted to identify effective herbal compounds that could be used in conjunction with antibiotics.
- With *H. pylori* being a vaccine-preventable cancer, developing a protective vaccine could significantly decrease the burden of *H. pylori*-associated diseases. Ongoing research into *H. pylori*'s immune escape mechanisms and potential vaccine targets should be a priority.
- The use of artificial intelligence in *H. pylori* management is still in its early stages, but it holds promise in optimizing treatment strategies, predicting outcomes, and identifying novel drug targets. Researchers should continue to explore the use of AI in *H. pylori* management.

- Public health campaigns should be developed to increase awareness of *H. pylori* infection, its associated diseases, and the importance of early detection and treatment. This should include educating people on the importance of good hygiene practices, such as hand washing and food safety, to prevent the spread of *H. pylori*.

Abbreviations

<i>H. pylori</i>	<i>Helicobacter pylori</i>
GC	Gastric cancer
Gram-negative	A group of bacteria that do not retain the violet stain used in the Gram staining method
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
E-cadherin	Epithelial cadherin, a protein that plays a crucial role in cell adhesion
MDR	Multi-drug-resistant
H&E	Hematoxylin and eosin, a commonly used stain in histology
AI	Artificial intelligence
VOCs	Volatile organic compounds
ELISA	Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
CLIA	Chemiluminescence immunoassay
PG	Pepsinogen
CLE	Confocal laser endomicroscopy
ESD	Endoscopic submucosal dissection
RUT	Rapid urease test
PPI	Proton pump inhibitor
p-CoA	P-coumaric acid
GA	Gallic acid
NLCs	Nanostructured lipid carriers

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Author contributions

The authors completed the study protocol and were the primary organizers of data collection, as well as the draft and revision process of the manuscript. TAA wrote the article and ensured its accuracy. All authors contributed to the discussion, assisted in designing the study and protocol, and engaged in critical discussions of the draft manuscript. Lastly, the authors (TA, YW, IE, AE, AK) reviewed and confirmed the final version of the manuscript. In addition, MA reviewed the edited manuscript after incorporating the reviewers' comments. Furthermore, all authors have read and approved the manuscript.

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Availability of data and materials

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Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate

Not applicable.

Consent for publication

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Competing interests

The authors hereby declare that they have no competing interests.

Author details

¹Al-Hadi University College, Baghdad, Iraq. ²Department of Biochemistry, Science Faculty, Menoufia University, Menoufia, Egypt. ³MLS Ministry of Health, Alexandria, Egypt. ⁴Joint International Research Laboratory of Metabolic and Developmental Sciences, Key Laboratory of Urban Agriculture (South) Ministry of Agriculture, Plant Biotechnology Research Center, Fudan-SJTU-Notttingham Plant Biotechnology R&D Center, School of Agriculture and Biology, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, China. ⁵Department of Basic Medical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Ibn Sina University for Medical Sciences, Amman, Jordan. ⁶Department of Medical Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Medicine Faculty, Mansoura University, Mansoura, Egypt. ⁷Department of Pathology, BayState Medical Center, Springfield, MA, USA.

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