To the Editor,

We read with attention the article by Yakar et al. (1) about the relationship between recurrent aphthous stomatitis (RAS) and Helicobacter pylori, cytokine gene polymorphism, and cobalamin. In this paper, they evaluated the relationship between H. pylori infection, cytokine gene polymorphism, and serum cobalamin level in patients with and without RAS. We examined the article in detail. We particularly emphasize the statistical errors that can be explained by the authors. The prevalence of H. pylori infection varies according to age and body mass index; therefore, an interaction may be present between them (2,3). Additionally, several studies have also claimed that there is a significant interaction between cobalamin, RAS, and H. pylori infection (4,5).

Yakar et al. (1) reported that there was a statistically significant difference between the RAS and non-RAS groups in terms of age. We think that the age differences can influence the H. pylori infection analyses between the two groups. It should be interpreted after multivariate analysis (such as logistic regression) and age-related adjustment results. To claim that there is a statistically significant difference with respect to H. pylori infection between the RAS and non-RAS groups, performing multivariate analysis is required.

Erol Arslan, Musa Barış Aykan, Kenan Sağlam
Department of Internal Medicine, Gülhane Military Medical Academy, Ankara, Turkey


Conflict of Interest: No conflict of interest was declared by the authors.

Financial Disclosure: The authors declared that this study has received no financial support.

REFERENCES

Address for Correspondence: Erol Arslan
E-mail: earslan89@yahoo.com
Received: October 28, 2015 Accepted: October 31, 2015
Available Online Date: November 27, 2015
© Copyright 2016 by The Turkish Society of Gastroenterology
- Available online at www.turkjgastroenterol.org
- DOI: 10.5152/tjg.2015.150438