Re: Chemoprevention of Gastric Dysplasia: Randomized Trial of Antioxidant Supplements and Anti-Helicobacter pylori Therapy

We congratulate Dr. Correa and his colleagues (1) on their factorial trial evaluating the effects on gastric histopathology of treatment of Helicobacter pylori, supplementation with β-carotene, and supplementation with vitamin C. The article is very useful, but the authors were probably constrained in the amount of data that they could present. Particularly important would be a tabulation of counts of subjects cross-classified by treatment-combination group (eight groups) and by final histopathologic classification (nonatrophic gastritis, multifocal nonmetaplastic atrophy, intestinal metaplasia, dysplasia, and cancer). Such a table would permit the assessment of the overall impact of treatments on the distribution of histopathology after 72 months of intervention and would complement the data on progression and regression rates given in the article. Such data would allow one to determine whether some treatment or combination of treatments produces a substantially favorable shift in the average severity of histopathology and in the proportion of individuals having dysplasia or cancer after 72 months of treatment. Having such data would also facilitate comparison with the results of other ongoing studies, when they become available.

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RESPONSE

We thank Drs. Gail, Brown, and You for their comments on our article (1). To facilitate further analysis and comparisons with similar studies, we provide the detailed information requested in Table 1.

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