Protein-Losing Gastroenteropathy and Gastric Polyps: Successful Treatment by *Helicobacter pylori* Eradication

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Dear Sir,

Protein-losing gastroenteropathy is a disease associated with excessive loss of plasma protein into the gastrointestinal tract and is caused by a wide variety of disorders. A 71-year-old man was admitted to our hospital for edema and body weight loss. His serum total protein level was 4.2 g/dl, and the albumin concentration was 2.6 g/dl. Endoscopy of the upper gastrointestinal tract showed a lot of reddish pedunculated polyps, measuring 5–20 mm in diameter, in gastric body and antrum (fig. 1). Histological investigation of biopsy specimens revealed hyperplastic changes, and *Helicobacter pylori* was confirmed. His α_1 -antitrypsin clearance was 120 ml/

day, and he was diagnosed as having protein-losing gastroenteropathy. We tried *H. pylori* eradication therapy for reduction of the polyps. After 1 month, an urea breath test revealed that *H. pylori* had been eradicated from his stomach. Two months after *H. pylori* eradication therapy, endoscopic examination showed that the gastric polyps were smaller in size. His body weight increased, and the serum total protein level also increased to 5.8 g/dl and the albumin concentration to 3.8 g/dl. We succeeded in treating protein-losing gastroenteropathy associated with gastric hyperplastic polyps by *H. pylori* eradication.

Fig. 1. Endoscopic upper gastrointestinal tract appearance before *H. pylori* eradication. Reddish pedunculated polyps are seen, some of which have an irregular surface and a spotty white coating.