

# Changes in the mortality from peptic ulcer disease in Lithuania during 1985-2018

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## INTRODUCTION

- Peptic ulcer disease (PUD) is associated with two main factors: *Helicobacter pylori* infection and the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.
- The risk of complications (perforation, gastric obstruction, penetration and bleeding) in patients with chronic PUD has decreased rapidly over the last two decades in the Western world due to the eradication of *H. pylori* and the widespread use of drugs that reduce gastric acid secretion.
- A study conducted in Lithuania showed that the seroprevalence of *H. pylori* in students has decreased significantly over the last 25 years.
- Nevertheless, mortality trends over a long period of time in Lithuania have not yet been analyzed and compared with mortality trends in European Union (EU) Member States.

## METHODS

- A secondary data analysis was performed.
- Age-standardized data on mortality from gastric and duodenal ulcers per 100 000 population in Lithuania and EU countries over the period 1985-2018 were obtained from the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Data assessed using Joinpoint regression program.

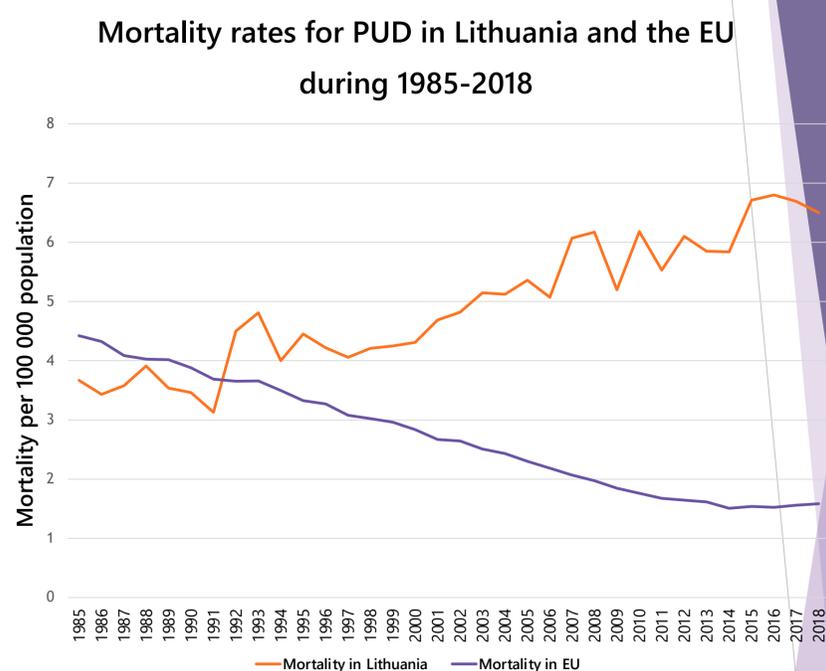
## CONCLUSIONS

The results show that mortality from PUD is steadily increasing in Lithuania, while in most other EU countries it is continuously decreasing. The main concern is the persistently high male mortality rate in Lithuania. However, the declining prevalence of *H. pylori* and daily clinical practice suggest that there may be inconsistencies in the coding of death causes in Lithuania, which is why the data provided by the WHO may not reveal the real situation in Lithuania.

## AIM

To assess changes in mortality from PUD during 1985-2018 and to compare Lithuanian data with mortality trends in the EU Member State.

## RESULTS



- In 2018, mortality rates for PUD in Lithuania were significantly higher than the EU average mortality rate, with a ratio of 4.1:1.
- In 1992, the age-standardized mortality rate in Lithuania exceeded the European mortality rate and has been higher than the EU average ever since throughout the study period.
- During 1985-2018, mortality rates in Lithuania increased by an average of 2.1% per year ( $p < 0.001$ ), while in the EU rates decreased by 3.1% per year ( $p < 0.001$ ).
- Over the entire study period, the mortality rate of men from PUD was higher than women both in Lithuania and Europe (female to male ratio 1:2).
- However, in Europe there is a trend towards a decreasing gender gap, while in Lithuania the gender gap remains: in 2018, the gender gap in the EU was 1/100 000 and in Lithuania it was 5.8/100 000.