

## **Premedical course**

### **Christmas Clinical Trial Practical**

A general practice has a large number of patients who suffer from dyspepsia of unknown origin. In other words they have the symptoms of dyspepsia and have been investigated and found not to have peptic ulcer or gastric carcinoma or other “serious” cause for which there is a recognised treatment. They are treated by long-term administration of H<sub>2</sub>-blockers (e.g. cimetidine (Tagamet)) but nevertheless continue to suffer from their symptoms and many consume large quantities of antacids. The GPs wonder if eradication of *H. pylori* would be an effective treatment for the patients.

Design a study to test an appropriate hypothesis related to this problem. You should bear in mind that, although rare, treatment with antibiotics can lead to severe side effects.