

**Table 1 Demographic characteristics of the participants**

Characteristic	Group I (n = 20)		Group II (n = 20)		Group III (n = 20)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>Sex</i>						
Male	9	45	14	70	13	65
Female	11	55	6	30	7	35
<i>Mean (SD) age (years)</i>	48.5 (2.3)		49.3 (1.6)		46.9 (2.0)	

*Group I = control group; group II = patients with Helicobacter pylori-associated gastritis; group III = patients with stomach cancer.*

*The chi-squared test was used for difference in of distribution among the study groups and ANOVA for difference in mean age,  $P < 0.05$ .*

*SD = standard deviation.*