

**Table 1** Demographic characteristics of children with recurrent abdominal pain (RAP) ( $n = 145$ ) and a control group ( $n = 145$ ) in Ardabil, November 2012–July 2013

Characteristic	Children with RAP		Controls		<i>P</i> -value
	<i>H. pylori</i> positive	<i>H. pylori</i> negative	<i>H. pylori</i> positive	<i>H. pylori</i> negative	
Age (years) mean (SD)	8.70 (1.80)	8.83 (1.94)	8.98 (1.91)	8.67 (1.88)	0.8
	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)	
Stool antigen test	85 (58.6)	60 (41.4)	65 (44.8)	80 (55.2)	0.01
<i>Age (years)</i>					
6–7	28 (62.2)	17 (37.8)	21 (45.7)	25 (54.3)	
8–9	25 (58.1)	18 (41.9)	14 (34.1)	27 (65.9)	
10–11	28 (59.6)	19 (40.4)	24 (53.3)	21 (46.7)	0.9
12–13	4 (40)	6 (60)	6 (46.2)	7 (53.8)	
<i>Sex</i>					
Male	49 (69.0)	22 (31.0)	36 (52.2)	33 (47.8)	
Female	36 (48.6)	38 (51.4)	29 (38.2)	47 (61.8)	0.8
<i>Source of drinking water</i>					
Mineral water	9 (75.0)	3 (25.0)	8 (44.4)	10 (55.6)	
Municipal tap water	63 (58.3)	45 (41.7)	40 (47.1)	45 (52.9)	0.6
Boiled water	13 (52)	12 (48)	17 (40.5)	25 (59.9)	
<i>Socioeconomic status*</i>					
Under poverty line	37 (71.2)	15 (28.8)	34 (55.7)	27 (44.3)	
Above poverty line	48 (51.6)	45 (48.4)	31 (36.9)	53 (63.1)	0.02

\*Self-reported (monthly income verified with parents then classified in accordance with official poverty line by researcher)