

Table 2 Symptoms associated with peptic ulcer diseases found in the patients during and after Ramadan (1992–2002)

| Variable | During Ramadan (n = 215) | | After Ramadan (n = 255) | | P-value |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------|----------------------------|------|---------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | |
| <i>Previous history of peptic ulcer</i> | | | | | |
| Indigestion/dyspepsia | | | | | |
| Yes | 73 | 34.0 | 114 | 45.0 | 0.022 |
| No | 142 | 66 | 141 | 55.0 | |
| Epigastric pain | | | | | |
| Yes | 178 | 83.8 | 195 | 76.5 | NS |
| No | 37 | 17.2 | 60 | 23.5 | |
| <i>Pain</i> | | | | | |
| Sudden | | | | | |
| Yes | 98 | 45.5 | 131 | 51.4 | NS |
| No | 117 | 54.4 | 124 | 48.6 | |
| Gradual | | | | | |
| Yes | 104 | 48.4 | 108 | 42.4 | NS |
| No | 111 | 51.6 | 147 | 57.6 | |
| <i>Level of pain</i> | | | | | |
| Mild | 14 | 6.5 | 17 | 6.7 | NS |
| Moderate | 122 | 56.7 | 140 | 54.9 | |
| Severe | 79 | 36.7 | 98 | 38.4 | |
| <i>Associated symptoms (anorexia)</i> | | | | | |
| Yes | 151 | 70.2 | 145 | 56.9 | 0.003 |
| No | 64 | 29.8 | 110 | 43.1 | |
| <i>Perforation</i> | | | | | |
| Present | 48 | 22.3 | 86 | 33.7 | 0.008 |
| Absent | 167 | 77.7 | 169 | 66.3 | |
| <i>Medicines used</i> | | | | | |
| NSAIDS/aspirin | 8 | 3.7 | 22 | 8.6 | 0.0031 |
| Anti-peptic ulcer | 106 | 49.3 | 148 | 58.0 | |
| None | 101 | 47.0 | 85 | 33.3 | |

NS = not significant.

NSAIDS = non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.