Introduction: Gastric cancer is the second and fourth most common cancer in Iranian men and women respectively but it is the first leading cause of cancer deaths in Iran. Most Iranian patients with gastric cancer are diagnosed at an advanced stage of disease when the conventional treatments have no effect on improving the survival. So, early gastric cancer detection using new molecular markers is of high priority in order to decrease its high mortality rate in Iran. The Eyes Absent (EYA) proteins are implicated in processes as disparate as organ development, innate immunity, DNA damage repair, angiogenesis, and cancer metastasis. EYA1, a member of this family, is shown to overexpress in several tumor types like Wilms' and neuroblastic tumors. The aim of this study was to evaluate the clinicopathological relevance of the expression of EYA1 gene in gastric carcinoma.

Method: A total of 60 tumoral and non-tumoral gastric specimens were evaluated for EYA1 gene expression using quantitative real-time PCR.

Results: The expression of Eyes Absent Homolog 1 was heterogeneous in gastric specimens. We further showed that there was a positive correlation between the EYA1 gene expression and patient age, but not with other clinicopathological features of gastric tumors, like sex, N and M classification, lymphatic invasion and tumor size.

Conclusions: Eyes Absent Homolog 1 could serve as a tumor marker in gastric carcinoma. In future works, the mechanism by which EYA1 affects gastric tumorigenesis must be evaluated.