Association between *Streptococcus bovis* and Colon Cancer

We read with great interest the article by Marcella Beck and colleagues (1). We fully support their recommendation that proper distinction between the “*Streptococcus bovis*” strains belonging to *Streptococcus galolyticus* and *Streptococcus infantarius* (previously biotypes I and II/2, respectively) should be made in future studies to obtain a clear picture of the disease associations of these opportunistic pathogens; above all, because proper bacterial classification and subsequent recognition of their association with colon cancer can be a life-saving event for *S. bovis*-infected individuals with undiagnosed colon cancer (4, 5, 8). We were therefore somewhat puzzled by the authors’ conclusion that the association between *S. bovis* bacteremia and colon cancer (7%) may not be as strong as previously thought.

Beck and colleagues based their conclusion on the finding that 3 out of 46 individuals with *S. bovis* bacteremia and colon cancer (7%) may not be as strong as previously thought.

Taken together, we believe that the association between *S. bovis* and colon cancer (defined as carcinomas and premalignant adenomas) should not be underestimated and that full bowel examination is highly recommendable for patients that present with *S. bovis* bacteremia, especially when it concerns *S. galolyticus* subsp. *galolyticus* (biotype I).

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REFERENCES


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