

# *Campylobacter concisus*

Hans Linde Nielsen, M.D., Ph.d.  
1. Års kursist, KMA Aalborg



AALBORG UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

**Table 1** | *Campylobacter* species colonize a diverse number of sites in humans

<i>Campylobacter</i> spp.*	Site of detection or isolation in humans
<i>C. coli</i>	Blood; <sup>152</sup> cerebrospinal fluid; <sup>152</sup> feces or intestinal tract; <sup>41,153</sup> gallbladder; <sup>152</sup> retroperitoneal abscess <sup>152</sup>
<i>C. concisus</i>	Blood; <sup>8</sup> brain abscess; <sup>69</sup> duodenal biopsy sample; <sup>8</sup> feces or intestinal tract; <sup>18,41,45,46</sup> oral cavity <sup>51,153,154</sup>
<i>C. curvus</i>	Oral cavity; <sup>51,154</sup> feces; <sup>41</sup> alveolar abscess <sup>153</sup>
<i>C. fetus</i> subsp. <i>fetus</i>	Blood; <sup>129,155,156</sup> cerebrospinal fluid; <sup>157,158</sup> feces; <sup>7,129,153,156</sup> gastric aspirate; <sup>156</sup> subcutaneous aspirate; <sup>129</sup> abscess; <sup>153</sup> vagina; <sup>156,159</sup> liver, lungs, skin and spleen of an aborted fetus <sup>159</sup>
<i>C. fetus</i> subsp. <i>venerealis</i>	Blood <sup>153</sup>
<i>C. gracilis</i>	Brain abscess; <sup>69</sup> oral cavity; <sup>51,153,154</sup> feces <sup>41,46</sup>
<i>C. hominis</i>	Blood; <sup>160</sup> feces or intestinal tract <sup>41,45,46</sup>
<i>C. helveticus</i>	Feces <sup>41</sup>
<i>C. hyoilectinalis</i>	Blood; <sup>161</sup> feces <sup>41,120,141,153</sup>
<i>C. insulaenigrae</i>	Feces <sup>41</sup>
<i>C. jejuni</i>	Blood; <sup>152,153</sup> cerebrospinal fluid; <sup>152,153</sup> feces or intestinal tract; <sup>41</sup> gallbladder; <sup>152</sup> gastric biopsy, <sup>153</sup> thoracic wall; <sup>152</sup> peritoneal fluid; <sup>152</sup> urine <sup>152</sup>
<i>C. lanienae</i>	Feces <sup>162</sup>
<i>C. lari</i>	Blood; <sup>163</sup> feces; <sup>153</sup> oral cavity <sup>154</sup>
<i>C. mucosalis</i>	Feces; <sup>41</sup> oral cavity <sup>154</sup>
<i>C. peloridis</i>	Dialysis fluid; feces <sup>144</sup>
<i>C. rectus</i>	Oral cavity; <sup>51,154</sup> intestinal tract; <sup>46</sup> vertebral abscess <sup>69</sup>
<i>C. showae</i>	Feces/intestinal tract; <sup>41,45,46</sup> intraorbital abscess; <sup>69</sup> oral cavity <sup>51,154</sup>
<i>C. sputorum</i>	Biovar sputorum: axillary, lung, and scrotal abscesses; <sup>164</sup> blood; <sup>165</sup> feces; <sup>18,41,153</sup> oral cavity; <sup>153,154</sup> pus <sup>166</sup> Biovar paraureolyticus: feces <sup>166</sup>
<i>C. upsaliensis</i>	Blood; <sup>167</sup> breast abscess; <sup>168</sup> feces <sup>18,41,134,167</sup>
<i>C. ureolyticus</i>	Amniotic fluids; <sup>153</sup> feces; <sup>169</sup> intestinal tract; <sup>41,45,46,153</sup> oral abscesses, perineum, genitalia, perianal abscesses, soft tissue abscesses, ulcers or gangrenous lesions of the lower limb; <sup>170</sup> urine <sup>153</sup>

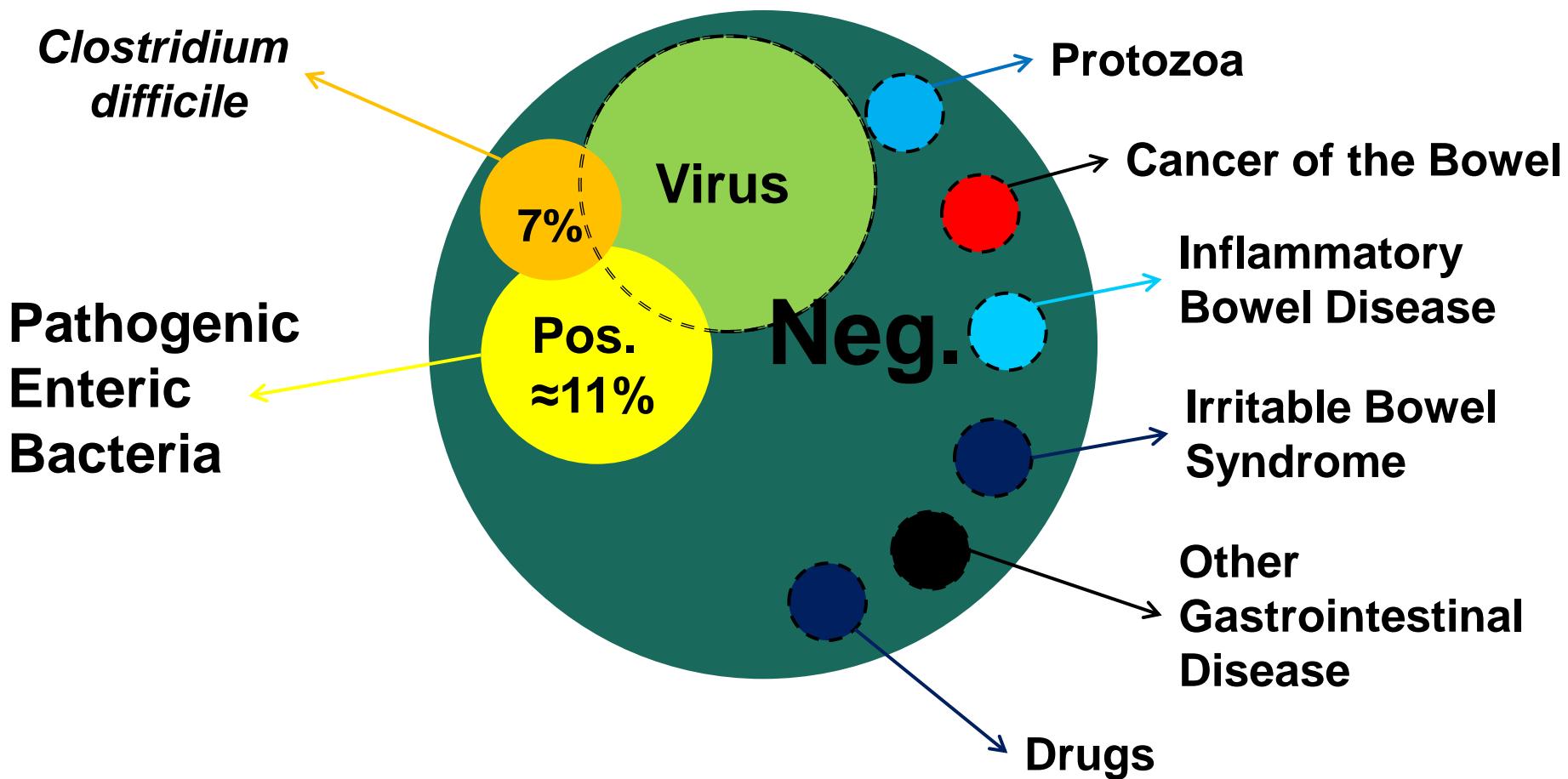
\**C. avium*, *C. canadensis*, *C. cuniculorum*, *C. subantarcticus*, *C. troglodytis*, *C. volucris*, 'Campylobacter' sp. Dolphin DP', and 'Campylobacter' sp. Prairie Dog' have not been reported in humans (as of July 2011).

# Introduction to *Campylobacter concisus*

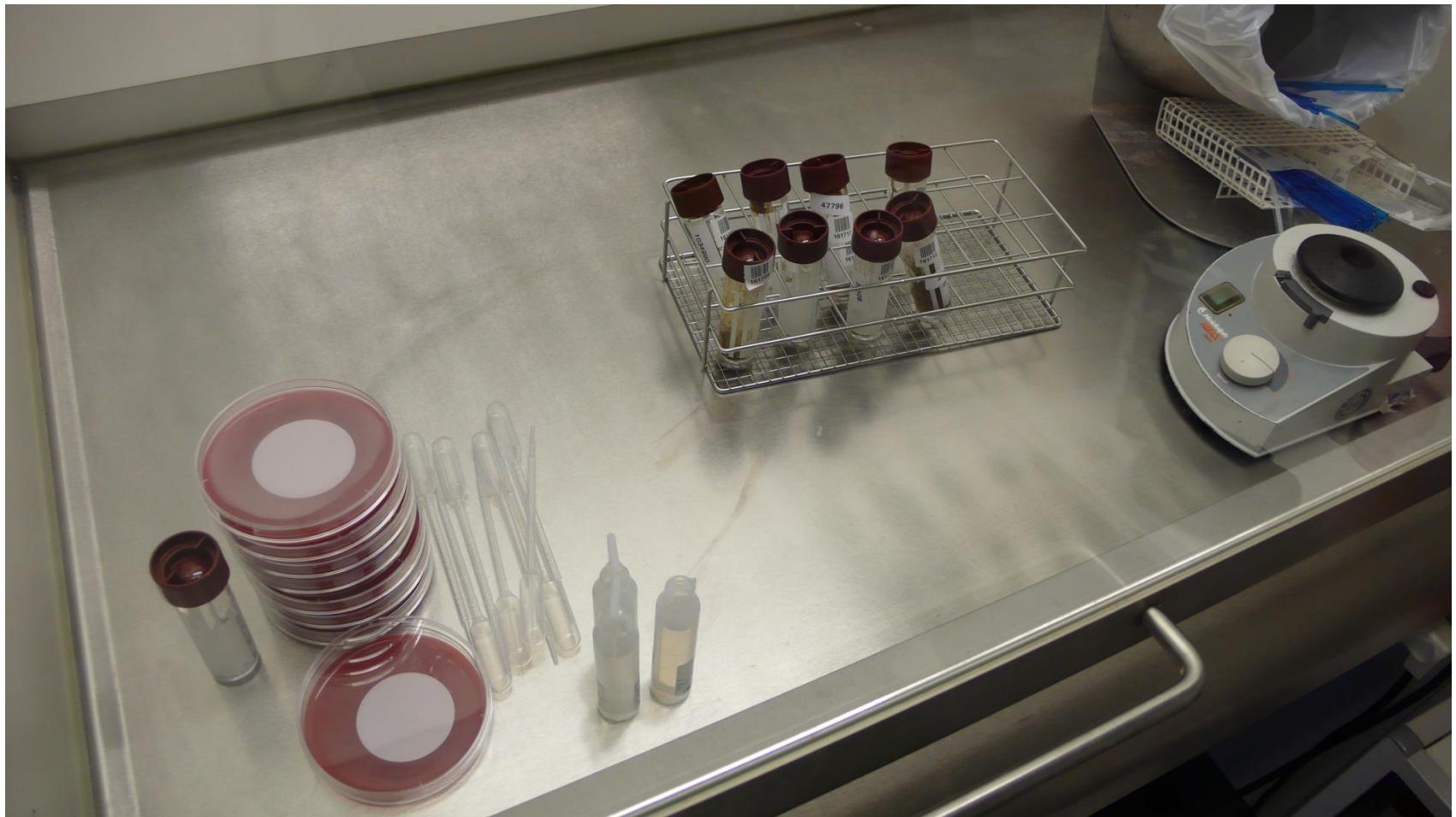
- First isolated in 1981 from the human oral cavity
- No primary animal reservoirs have been found
- Has been detected in diarrheic faecal samples from domestic dogs
- Reports have described *C. concisus* in human diarrheic stool samples (especially in a tertiary hospital setting)
- *C. concisus* has also been reported in healthy stool samples, especially children
- *C. concisus* has been associated to Inflammatory Bowel Disease



# All faecal samples sent to the Department of Clinical Microbiology



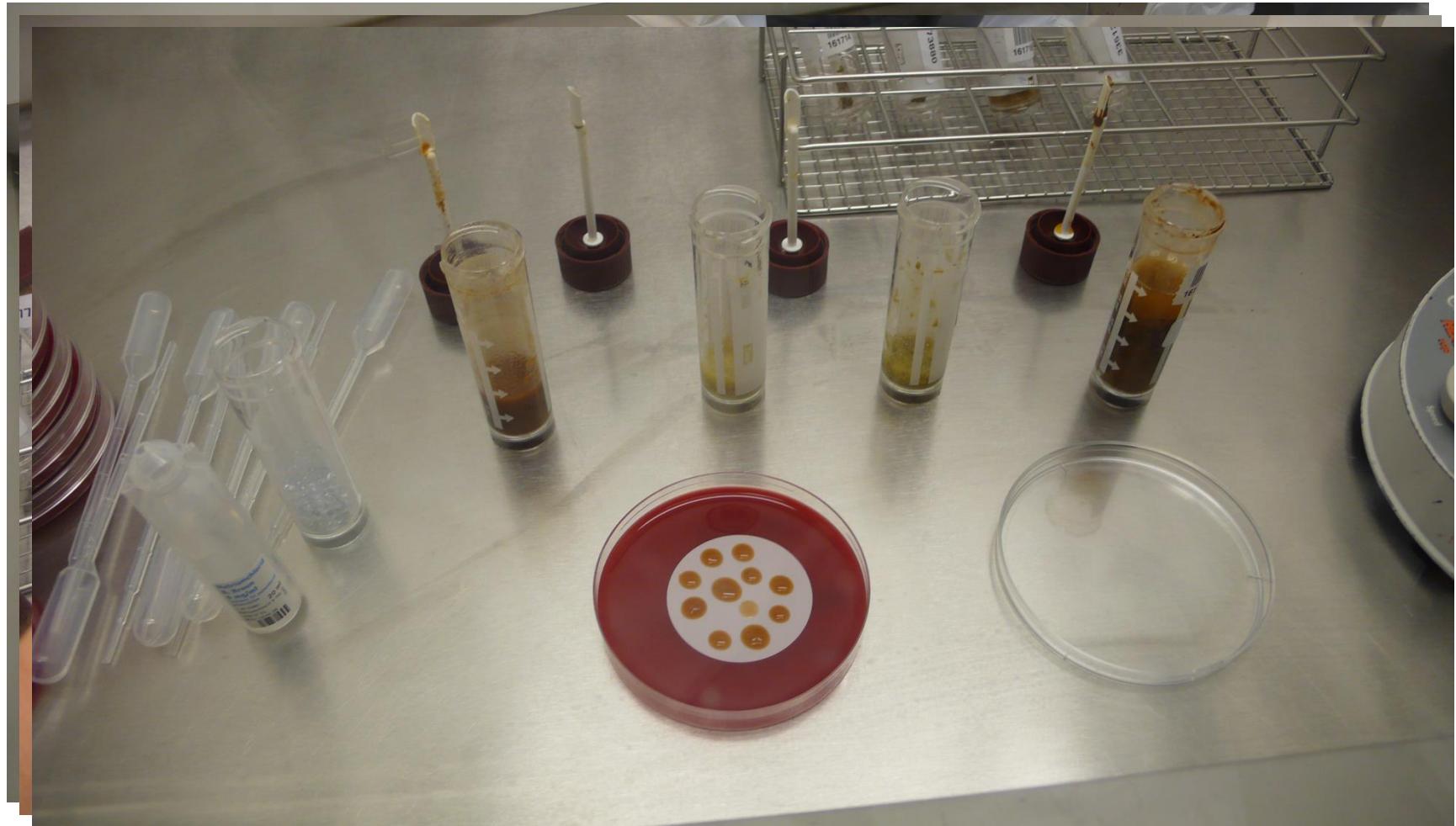
# Isolation of *Campylobacter concisus*



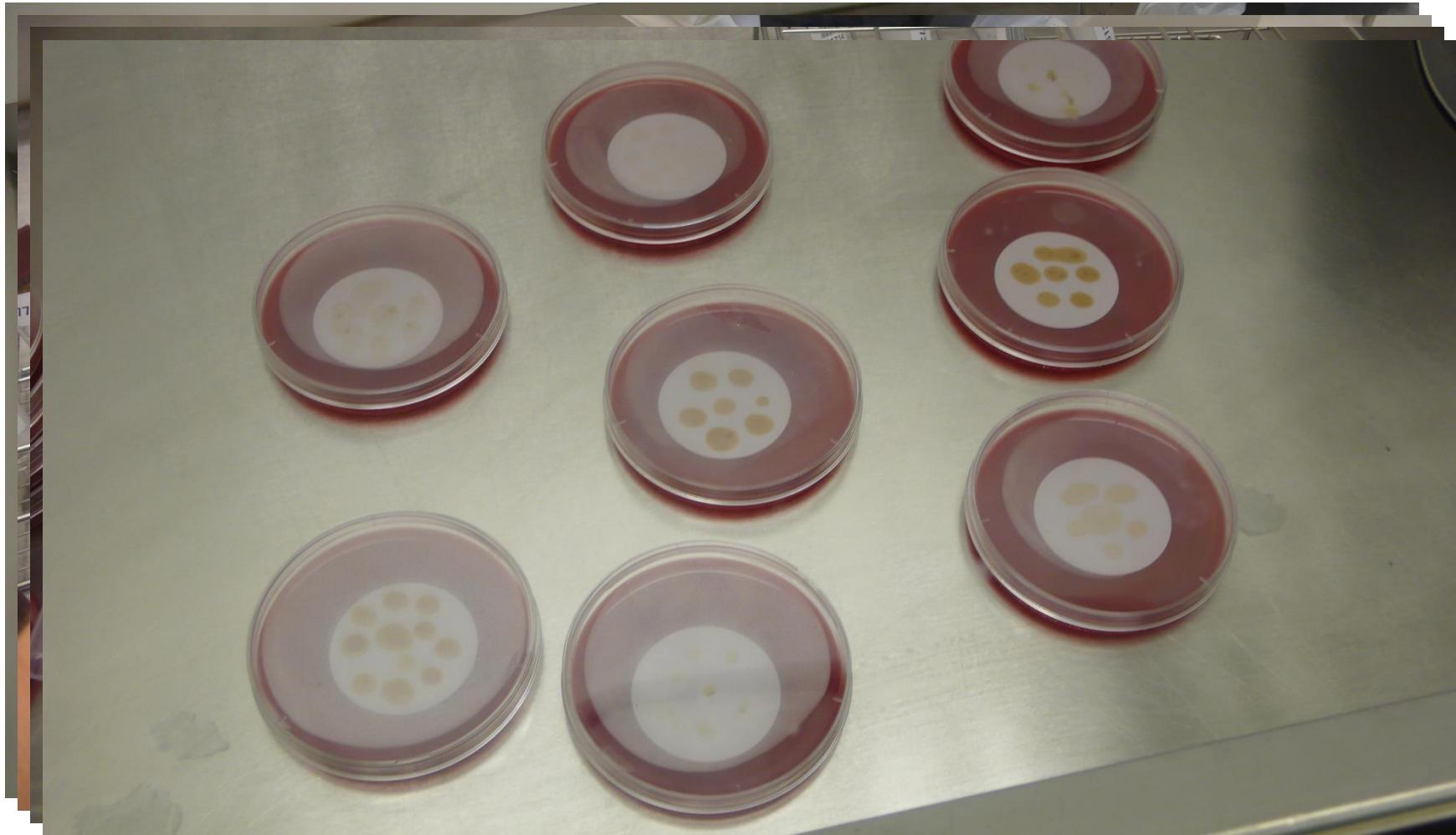
# Isolation of *Campylobacter concisus*



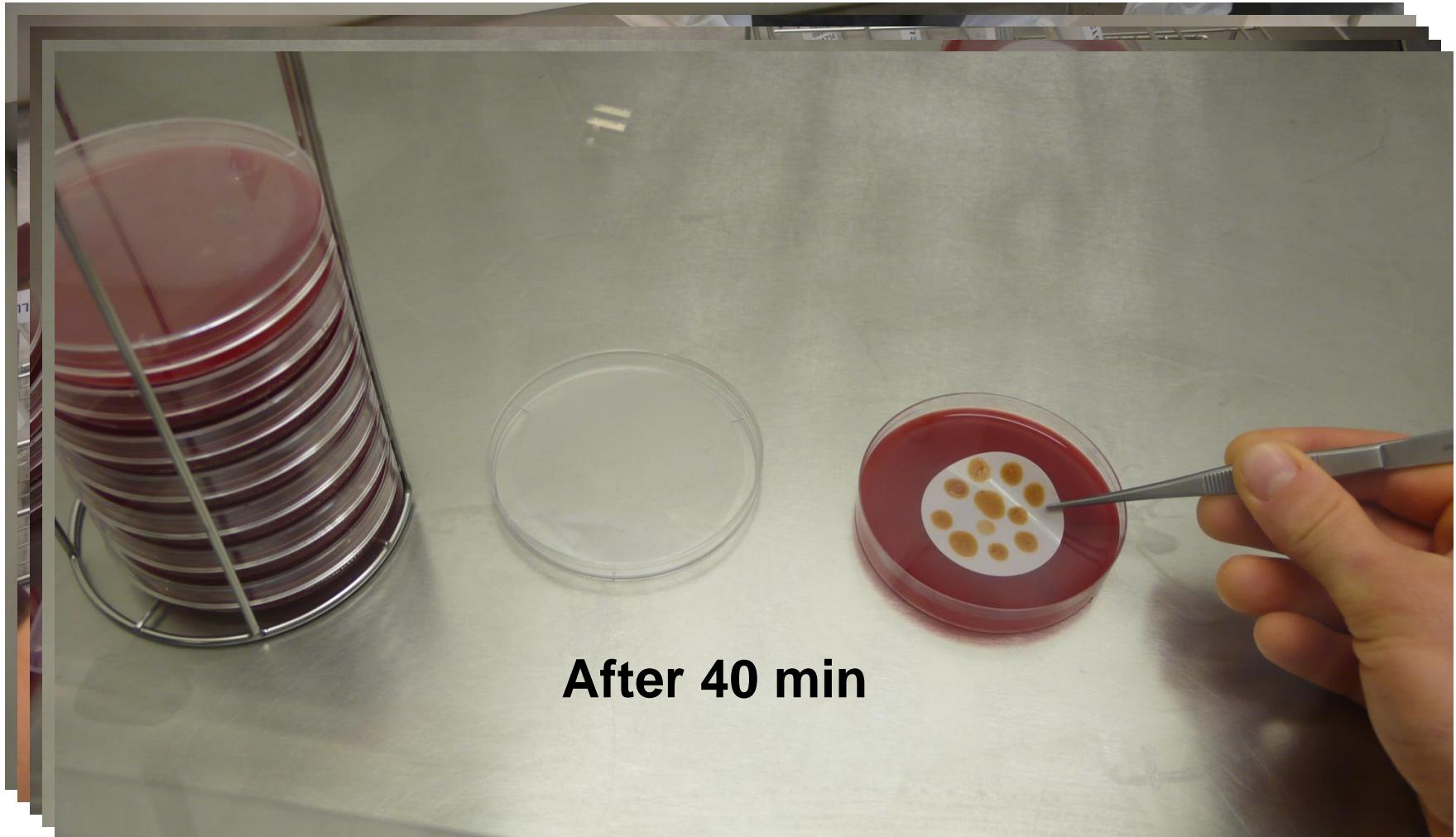
# Isolation of *Campylobacter concisus*



# Isolation of *Campylobacter concisus*



# Isolation of *Campylobacter concisus*

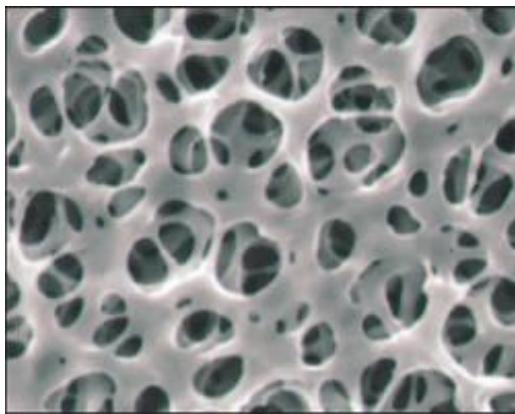
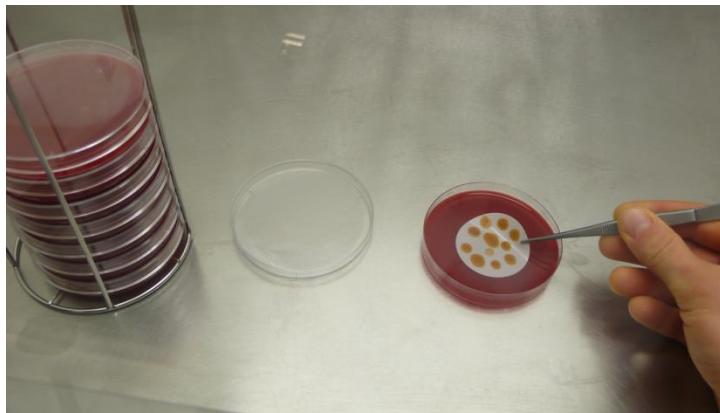


# Isolation of *Campylobacter concisus*

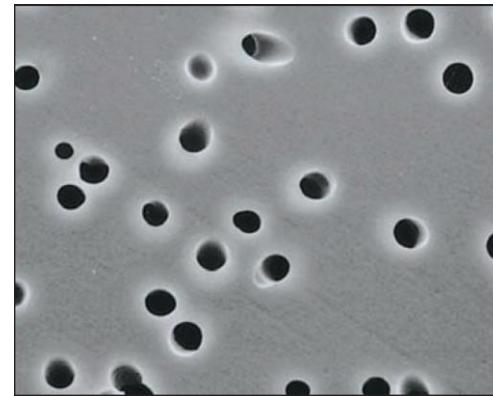


# Isolation of *Campylobacter concisus*





cellulose acetat filter



polycarbonat filter

Table 1. Number of *Campylobacter* spp. in 1,791 diarrheic stool samples from 1,377 patients using a polycarbonate (PC) and cellulose acetate (CA) membrane filter from February 2012 till June 2012 at the Department of Clinical Microbiology, Aalborg University Hospital, Denmark.

Taxon	No. of culture-positive isolates on:			P-value <sup>a</sup>
	PC only	CA only	Both PC and CA	
<i>Campylobacter jejuni/coli</i>	3	0	51	-
<i>Campylobacter concisus</i>	55	20	59	<0.0001
<i>Campylobacter upsaliensis</i>	0	0	1	-
<i>Arcobacter cryaerophilus</i> <sup>b</sup>	0	0	2	-

<sup>a</sup>The comparative efficacies of filters for the recovery of *Campylobacter concisus* were tested by McNemar's test.

<sup>b</sup>Identified with use of the MALDI-TOF biotyper.

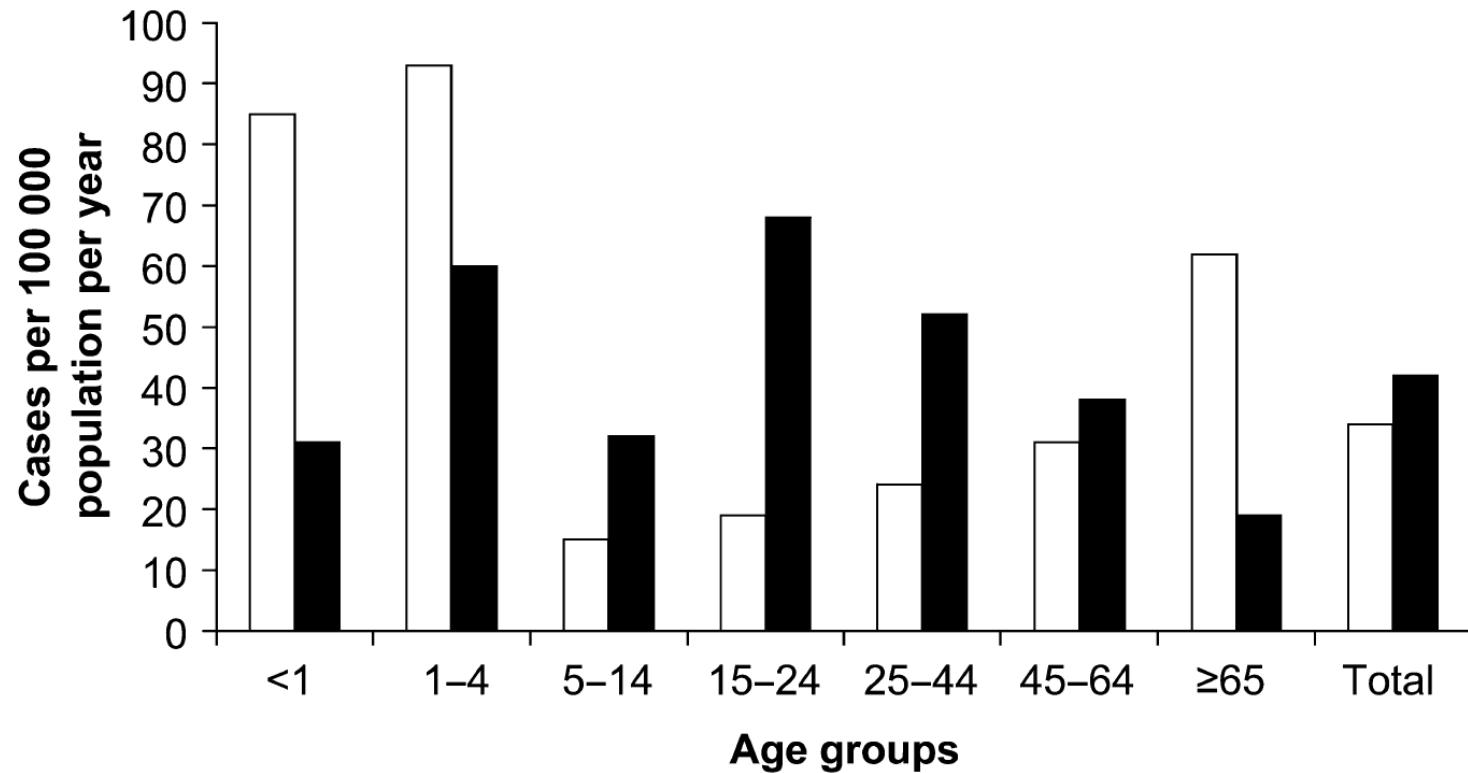
**TABLE I. Number of patients and isolates with pathogenic enteric bacteria in 11 314 diarrhoeic stool samples from 8302 patients, North Jutland, Denmark , 2009 - 2010**

Microorganism	Patients	Isolates
Campylobacteraceae		
<i>Campylobacter jejuni/coli</i>	489	541
<i>Campylobacter concisus</i>	400	441
<i>Campylobacter curvus</i>	5	5
<i>Campylobacter upsaliensis</i>	2	2
<i>Arcobacter cryaerophilus</i> <sup>a</sup>	1	1
Other bacteria		
<i>Clostridium difficile</i> <sup>b</sup>	379	546
<i>Salmonella enterica</i> serovar Typhimurium	75	93
<i>Salmonella enterica</i>	72	81
<i>Salmonella enterica</i> serovar Enteritidis	64	76
<i>Shigella</i> species	20	29
<i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i>	15	21
<i>Escherichia coli</i> , (EHEC)	6	6
Other <sup>c</sup>	4	5
Total	1532	1847

<sup>a</sup>Identified with use of the MALDI-TOF (matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization-time of flight) biotyper.

<sup>b</sup>Samples were not cultured for *Clostridium difficile* if they were from children <2 years of age or patients with a travel exposure.

<sup>c</sup>*Plesiomonas shigelloides*, *Yersinia enterocolitica* and *Aeromonas sobria*.



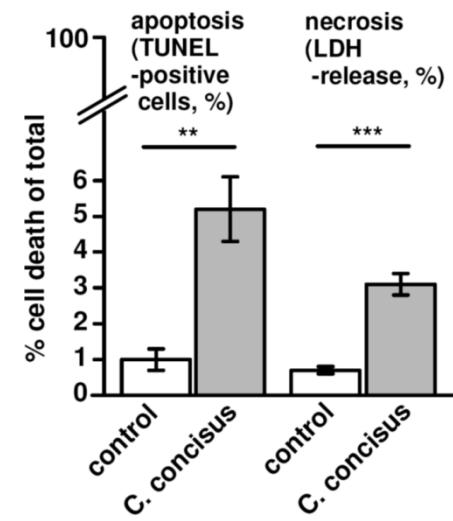
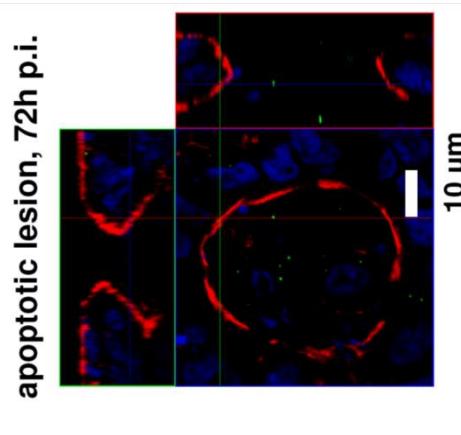
**FIG. I.** Age-related annual incidence of *Campylobacter concisus* (white) and *Campylobacter jejuni/coli* (black) gastroenteritis in North Jutland, Denmark.

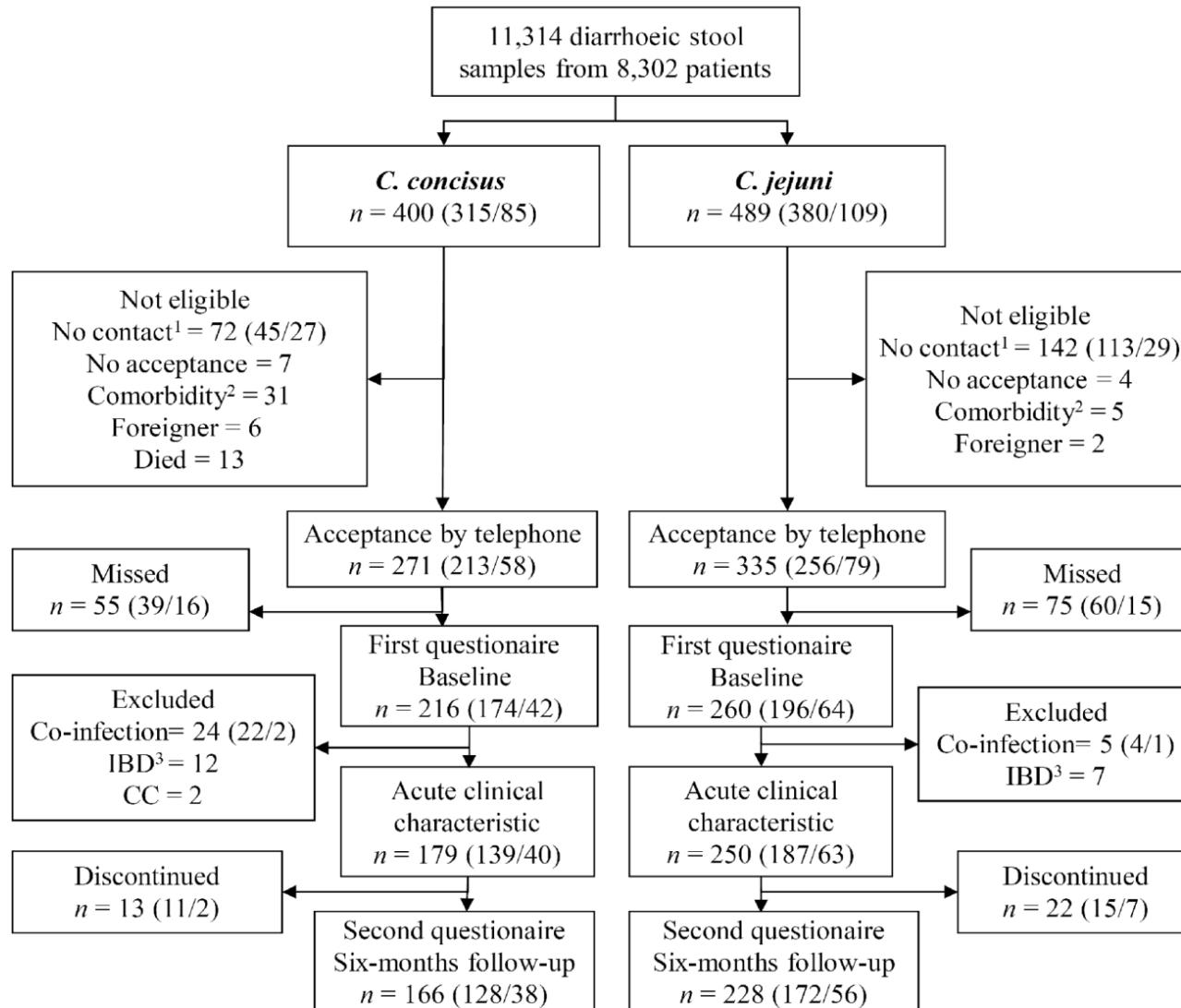
QUESTION & ANSWER

Open Access

# Q&A: What is a pathogen? A question that begs the point

- ***C. concisus* is "walking" the line between commensalism and pathogenesis**
- **It may be explained by the enormous diversity within strains of *C. concisus***
- **Does it have the capacity to cause damage in a (susceptible) host?**  
= pathogenecity





<sup>1</sup>No telephone number available or attempted unsuccessfully.

<sup>2</sup>Dementia, stroke, cancer.

<sup>3</sup>One IBD patient with *C. concisus* and two *C. jejuni* patients with IBD had a co-infection.

**TABLE 2.** Clinical characteristics of patients with *Campylobacter concisus* and *Campylobacter jejuni/Campylobacter coli* gastroenteritis; only patients with no co-infection and no prior gastrointestinal disease (inflammatory bowel disease or microscopic colitis) are shown

Variable	<i>C. concisus</i> (n = 139)	<i>C. jejuni/C. coli</i> (n = 187)	RR (95% CI) <sup>a</sup>	p-value	Adjusted RR (95% CI) <sup>b</sup>	p-value
Symptoms						
Fever	23.9	69.7	0.34 (0.25–0.47)	<0.001	0.39 (0.28–0.54)	<0.001
Chills	34.1	71.0	0.48 (0.37–0.62)	<0.001	0.50 (0.39–0.66)	<0.001
Nausea	67.4	73.6	0.92 (0.79–1.06)	0.2	0.94 (0.81–1.09)	0.4
Vomiting	40.6	35.9	1.13 (0.85–1.51)	0.4	1.19 (0.85–1.66)	0.2
Headache	50.8	61.8	0.82 (0.67–1.01)	0.06	0.92 (0.75–1.13)	0.4
Dizziness	50.8	59.9	0.85 (0.69–1.05)	0.1	0.88 (0.70–1.09)	0.2
Abdominal pain	81.6	79.0	1.03 (0.92–1.16)	0.6	1.13 (1.00–1.26)	0.05
Muscle aches	51.5	63.0	0.82 (0.67–1.00)	0.05	0.85 (0.69–1.05)	0.1
Consistency of stools						
Watery	91.7	98.4	0.93 (0.88–0.98)	<0.05	0.94 (0.89–0.99)	<0.05
Mucus in stool	47.4	67.2	0.70 (0.57–0.87)	<0.01	0.73 (0.59–0.90)	<0.01
Blood in stool	9.9	24.7	0.40 (0.22–0.71)	<0.01	0.45 (0.25–0.82)	<0.05
Weight loss	71.6	87.1	0.82 (0.73–0.93)	<0.01	0.83 (0.73–0.94)	<0.01
Duration of diarrhoea (days) <sup>c</sup>						
≤7	6.2	30.4	0.20 (0.10–0.41)	<0.001	0.22 (0.10–0.47)	<0.001
8–14	13.9	37.6	0.37 (0.23–0.59)	<0.001	0.43 (0.26–0.71)	<0.001
>14	79.9	32	2.49 (1.98–3.14)	<0.001	2.26 (1.77–2.90)	<0.001

Table I. The distribution of age, sex and f-CP (mg/kg) among patients infected with *Campylobacter concisus* and *Campylobacter jejuni/coli*.

	<i>C. concisus</i> (n = 99)	<i>C. jejuni/coli</i> (n = 140)	p-value <sup>a</sup>
Age (median, IQR)	40 (10–65)	29 (17–50)	
Age, mean (range)	41 (0–89)	33 (1–83)	0.01
Sex (female/male)	54/45	73/67	0.79
f-CP, mean (range)	188 (3–1820)	786 (2–2343)	<0.0001
f-CP, median (IQR)	53 (20–169)	631 (221–1274)	

Abbreviations: f-CP = fecal calprotectin; IQR = interquartile range.

<sup>a</sup>Statistical analysis was performed using the Student's *t*-test for continuous data and Fisher's exact test for categorical data.

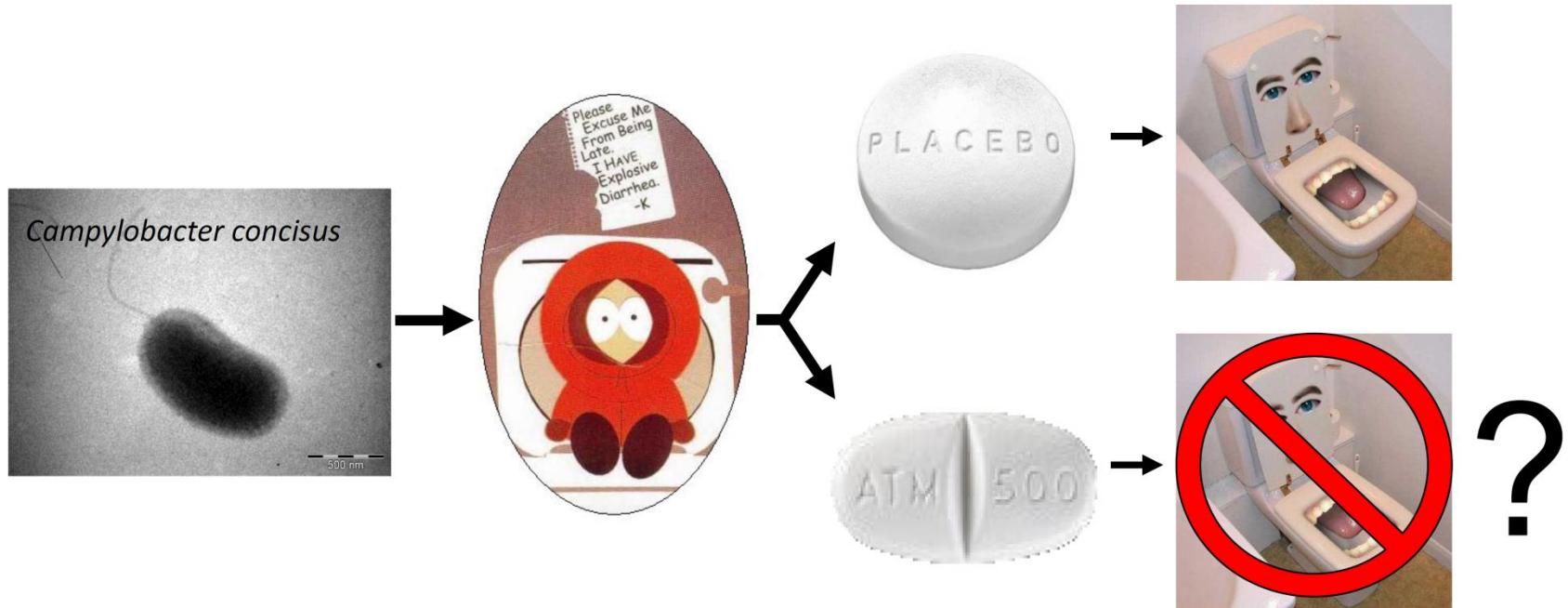
**TABLE 4. Overall clinical outcome after 6 months follow-up  
in adult patients with gastroenteritis with *Campylobacter concisus* or *Campylobacter jejuni/Campylobacter coli***

Variable	<i>C. concisus</i> (n = 128)	<i>C. jejuni/C. coli</i> (n = 172)	p-value
Enteric symptoms <sup>a</sup>			
Abdominal pain	34.4	25.3	0.1
Loose stools	54.6	52.4	0.8
Pain on defecation	11	11	1
Different consistency of stools from day to day	63.3	46.4	<0.01
Mucus in stools	9.7	8.1	0.7
Visiting GP with GI disorder	12.5	6.3	0.1
Visiting GP because of arthralgia	4.7	3.5	0.8
Hospitalized with GI disorder	25	8.1	<0.001
Lower endoscopy	23.4	5.8	<0.001
Diagnoses <sup>b</sup>			
Inflammatory bowel disease <sup>c</sup>	2.3	0	0.08
Microscopic colitis <sup>d</sup>	12.5	0	<0.001
Irritable bowel syndrome	4.7	1.2	0.08
Other	5.5	6.9	0.6

*Clinical Microbiology and Infection*, Volume 18 Number 11, November 2012

# Antibiotic treatment?

A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial of Azithromycin in Diarrheic Patients with *Campylobacter concisus*, EudraCT: 2011-000808-18



Klinisk forsøg: Campylobacter concisus  
EUdrafCT nr. 2011-000808-18

## Periode 1

Patientnummer: **XX**

**Azithromycin Sandoz® 500 mg/  
placebo i kapsler 3 stk.**  
1 kapsel daglig i 3 dage. Synkes hele.

Batch nr.

Anvendes før:

Investigator: Læge Hans Linde Nielsen,  
Aalborg Sygehus, tlf. 99 32 65 32

Må ikke opbevares over 25°

**Opbevares utilgængeligt for børn**

Glostrup Apotek

Klinisk forsøg: Campylobacter concisus  
EUdrafCT nr. 2011-000808-18

## Periode 2

Patientnummer: **XX**

**Azithromycin Sandoz® 500 mg/  
placebo i kapsler 3 stk.**  
1 kapsel daglig i 3 dage. Synkes hele.

Batch nr.

Anvendes før:

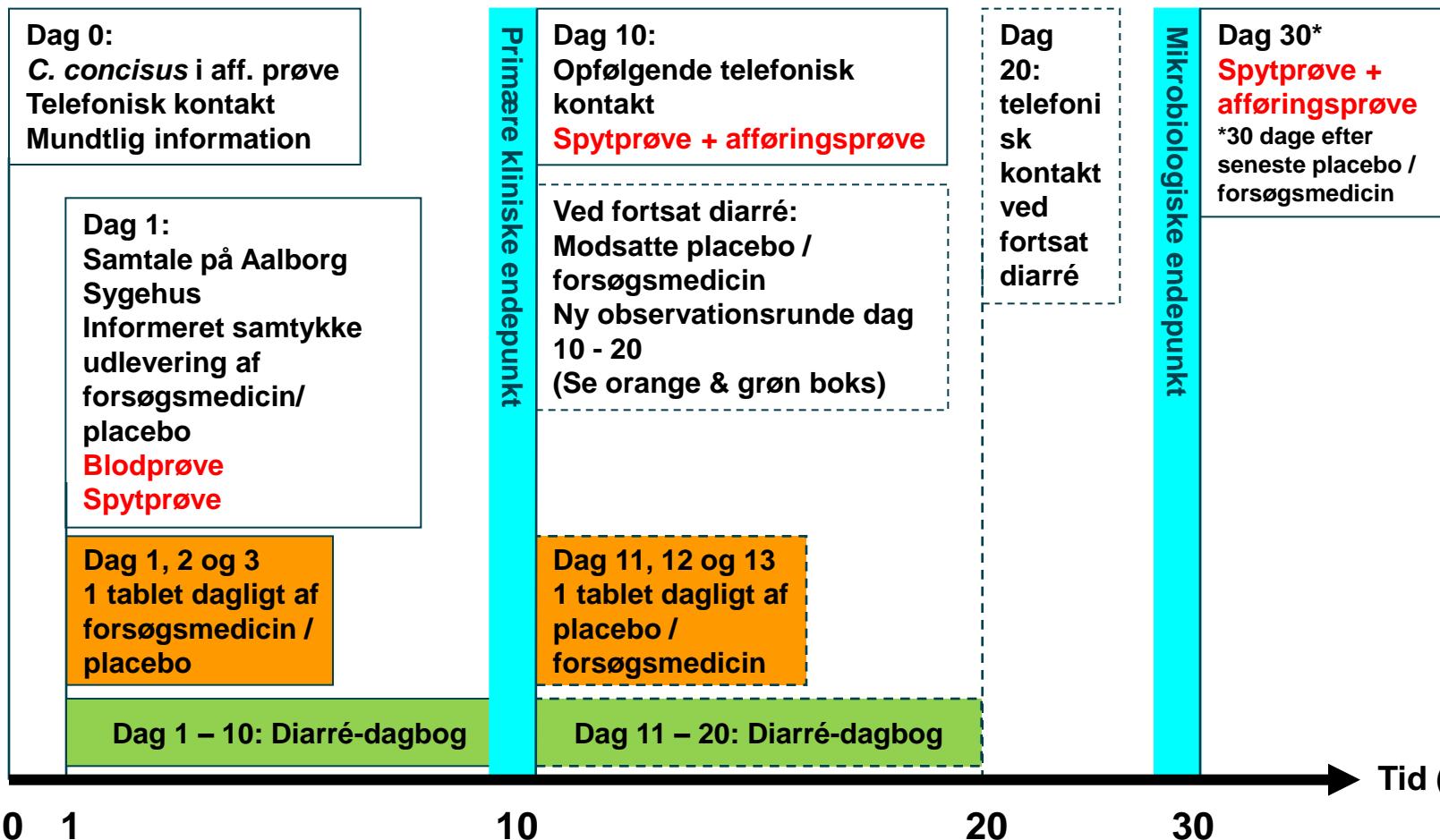
Investigator: Læge Hans Linde Nielsen,  
Aalborg Sygehus, tlf. 99 32 65 32

Må ikke opbevares over 25°

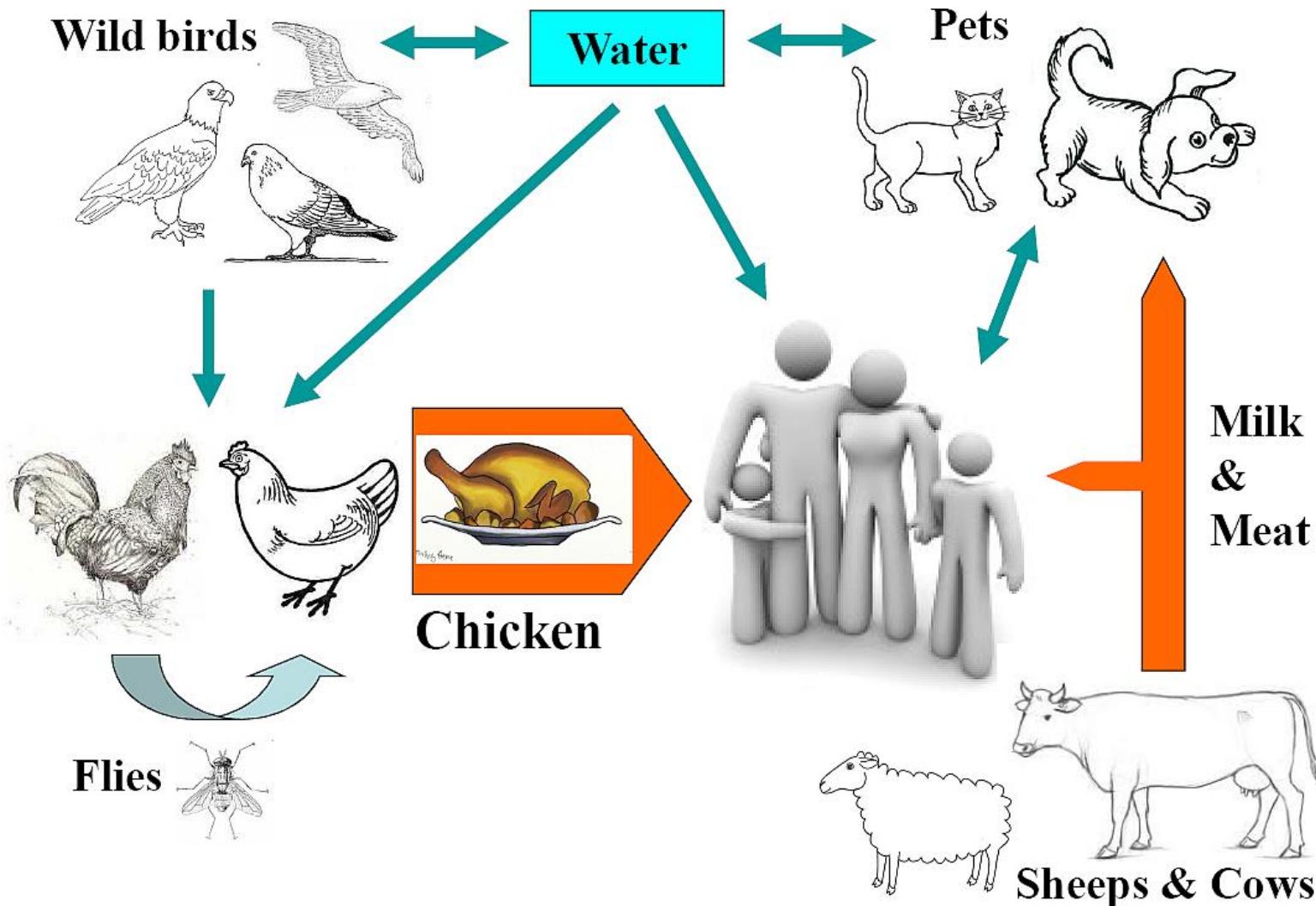
**Opbevares utilgængeligt for børn**

Glostrup Apotek

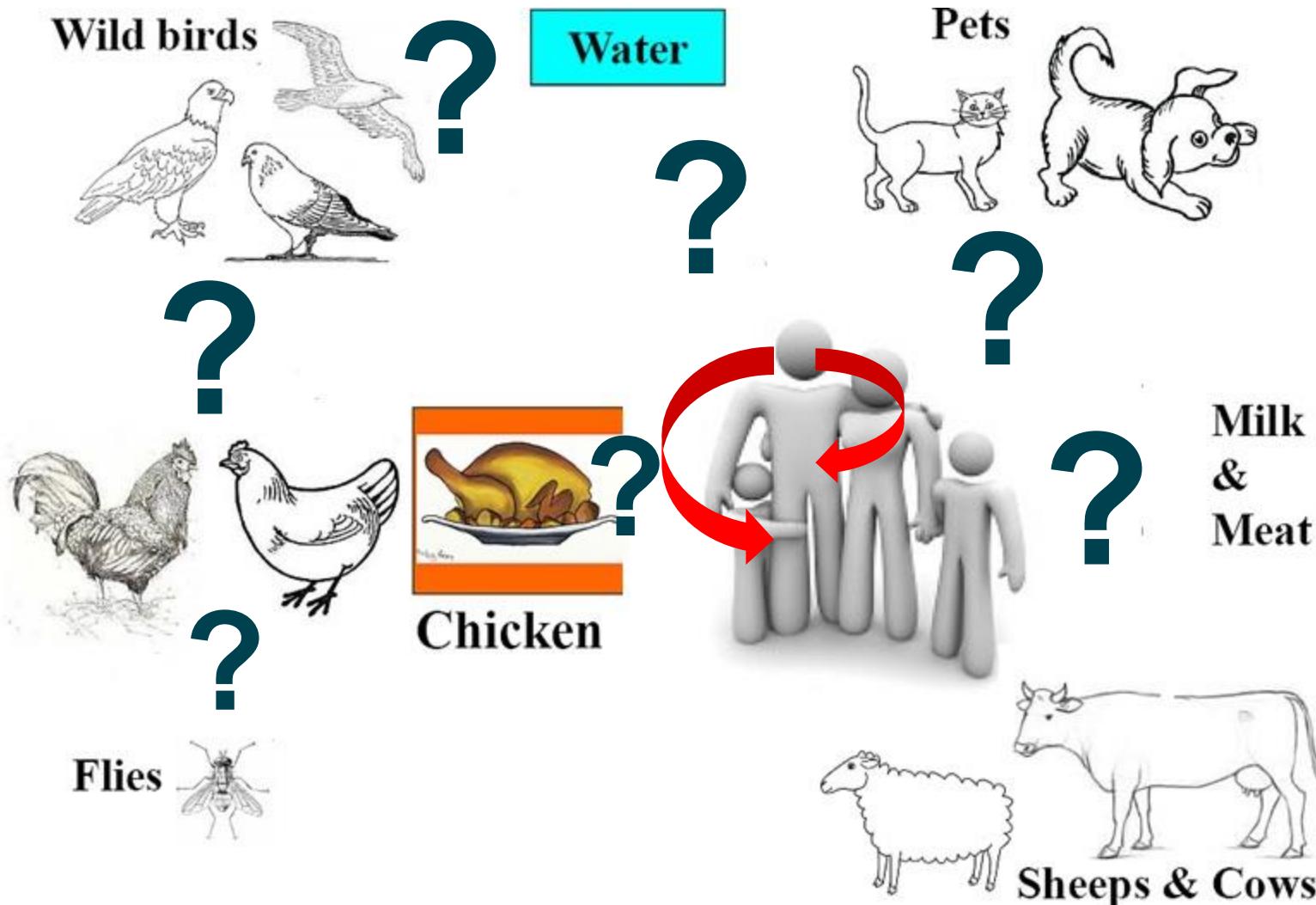
## Forsøgsdiagram ved dyrkning af *C. concisus*



## The most important routes for human infection by *Campylobacter jejuni/coli*



# The most important routes for human infection by *Campylobacter concisus*



## Campylobacter concisus and Other *Campylobacter* Species in Children with Newly Diagnosed Crohn's Disease

Si Ming Man, BSc (Hons),<sup>\*</sup> Li Zhang, PhD,<sup>\*</sup> Andrew S. Day, MD,<sup>†,‡</sup> Steven T. Leach, PhD,<sup>†</sup> Daniel A. Lemberg, MBBS,<sup>‡</sup> and Hazel Mitchell, PhD<sup>\*</sup>

JOURNAL OF CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY, Feb. 2009, p. 453–455  
0095-1137/09/\$08.00 + 0 doi:10.1128/JCM.01949-08  
Copyright © 2009, American Society for Microbiology. All Rights Reserved.

## Detection and Isolation of *Campylobacter* Species Other than *C. jejuni* from Children with Crohn's Disease<sup>†</sup>

Li Zhang,<sup>1</sup> Si Ming Man,<sup>1</sup> Andrew S. Day,<sup>2,3</sup> Steven T. Leach,<sup>3</sup> Daniel A. Lemberg,<sup>2</sup> Shoma Dutt,<sup>4</sup> Michael Stormon,<sup>4</sup> Anthony Otley,<sup>5</sup> Edward V. O'Loughlin,<sup>4</sup> Annabel Magoffin,<sup>4</sup> Patrick H. Y. Ng,<sup>1</sup> and Hazel Mitchell<sup>1,\*</sup>

The School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia<sup>1</sup>; Department of Gastroenterology, Sydney Children's Hospital, Sydney, Australia<sup>2</sup>; School of Women's and Children's Health, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia<sup>3</sup>; Department of Gastroenterology, Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sydney, Australia<sup>4</sup>; and IWK Health Centre, Division of Gastroenterology, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada<sup>5</sup>

Received 8 October 2008/Returned for modification 15 November 2008/Accepted 22 November 2008

The presence of *Campylobacter* species other than *Campylobacter jejuni* and antibodies to *Campylobacter concisus* in children were investigated. A significantly greater presence of *C. concisus* and higher levels of antibodies to *C. concisus* were detected in children with Crohn's disease (CD) than in controls. *Campylobacter* species other than *C. jejuni* were isolated from intestinal biopsy specimens of children with CD.

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

PLOS ONE

## Detection of *Campylobacter concisus* and Other *Campylobacter* Species in Colonic Biopsies from Adults with Ulcerative Colitis

Indrani Mukhopadhyia, John M. Thomson, Richard Hansen, Susan H. Berry, Emad M. El-Omar, Georgina L. Hold<sup>\*</sup>

Gastrointestinal Research Group, Division of Applied Medicine, University of Aberdeen, Foresterhill, Aberdeen, United Kingdom

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

PLOS ONE

## Prevalence of *Campylobacter* Species in Adult Crohn's Disease and the Preferential Colonization Sites of *Campylobacter* Species in the Human Intestine

Vikneswari Mahendran<sup>1</sup>, Stephen M. Riordan<sup>2,3</sup>, Michael C. Grimm<sup>4</sup>, Thi Anh Tuyet Tran<sup>1</sup>, Juelene Major<sup>1</sup>, Nadeem O. Kaakoush<sup>1</sup>, Hazel Mitchell<sup>1</sup>, Li Zhang<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, <sup>2</sup> Gastrointestinal and Liver Unit, The Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney, Australia, <sup>3</sup> Faculty of Medicine, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, <sup>4</sup> St George Clinical School, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia