agents of inflammatory bowel disease in children. The prevalence of these bacteria in adult patients with IBD would give a better insight into their role as immune triggers that initiate and perpetuate chronic inflammation. This study aims to investigate the prevalence of *C concisus* in colonic biopsy samples from adult patients with UC and compare that with control patients.

Methods Adult patients who were undergoing diagnostic colonoscopy were recruited for the study, which included 68 patients with histologically proven UC and 79 control patients with no macroscopic or microscopic evidence of IBD. Biopsies were obtained during colonoscopy and immediately snap frozen in liquid nitrogen and transferred to a −80°C freezer. DNA was extracted from the biopsy samples and subjected to PCR utilising *Campylobacter* genus-specific primers. Positive *Campylobacter* samples were then subjected to nested PCR using *C concisus*–specific primers. Fisher's exact test was used to examine any statistical difference in the presence of *Campylobacter* and *C concisus* DNA between the study groups.

Results Detection of all *Campylobacter* DNA utilising genus specific primers was significantly higher in cases of UC, with a prevalence of 72.1% (49/68) compared to 24.1% (19/79) in control patients (p=0.0001). Nested PCR for *C concisus* DNA was positive in 30.9% (21/68) of biopsy samples from patients with UC, which was significantly higher than the prevalence rate of 7.6% (6/79) from control patients (p=0.0005).

Conclusion The higher prevalence of *Campylobacter* genus and more specifically *C concisus* in biopsy samples from adult patients with UC suggest a key role of this genus of bacteria in initiating the chronic inflammation that is characteristically seen in UC. To the best of our knowledge this is the first report of this association of *C concisus* with UC in adult patients.

Competing interests None.

Keywords *Campylobacter concisus*, inflammatory bowel disease, ulcerative colitis.

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DETECTION OF *CAMPYLOBACTER CONCISUS* IN COLONIC BIOPSIES FROM ADULT PATIENTS WITH ULCERATIVE COLITIS

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Introduction The critical role of luminal bacteria in the pathogenesis of ulcerative colitis (UC) is well recognised, but an individual causative microorganism has not been singled out so far. *Campylobacter concisus* and other *non-jejuni* species of *Campylobacter* have been implicated as putative aetiological