Clostridium Difficile and Inflammatory Bowel Disease.

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Abstract

tools from 109 patients with inflammatory bowel disease (13.4%) contained Clostridium difficile or its toxin, an incidence similar to the stools of 99 control patients with diarrhea (11.9%), but significantly higher than the stools of 77 control patients with a normal bowel habit (1.4%). Sixty-six per cent of the diarrhea controls, but only 11% of the inflammatory bowel disease patients, reported recent antibiotic use: however, 67% of inflammatory bowel disease patients were taking sulphasalazine. The presence of Cl difficile in the stool was not related to the clinical assessment of inflammatory bowel disease relapse, but it was related to hospital admission. During the one year study, 31 of the 109 patients (28%) with inflammatory bowel disease had one or more stool samples that were positive for Cl difficile.