The following full text is a publisher's version.

For additional information about this publication click this link.
http://hdl.handle.net/2066/80257

Please be advised that this information was generated on 2017-09-07 and may be subject to change.
Association between *Streptococcus bovis* and Colon Cancer

Annemarie Boleij, Renée M. J. Schaeps and Harold Tjalsma

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 gallolyticus* 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 cancer (4, 5, 8). We were therefore somewhat puzzled by the

On the other hand, it is also likely that these associations can fluctuate in time and geographical regions, as discussed by Beck and colleagues.

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* bacteraemia, especially when it concerns *S. gallolyticus* subsp. *gallolyticus* (biotype I).

This letter was Funded by the Dutch Cancer Association (KUN-2006-3591).

**REFERENCES**


**Annemarie Roleij**
Renée M. J. Schaeps
Harold Tjalsma*

Department of Clinical Chemistry/441
Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre
P.O. Box 9101
6500 HB Nijmegen
The Netherlands

*Phone: 31 24 3618947
E-mail: H.Tjalsma@akc.umcn.nl

**Ed. Note:** The authors of the published article did not respond.