



# Colonic neoplasms and *S. gallolyticus* and *E. faecalis* endocarditis

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16<sup>TH</sup> SYMPOSIUM

ISCVID

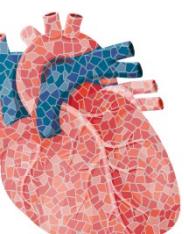
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2022

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY  
FOR CARDIOVASCULAR  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES

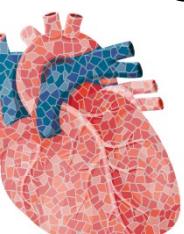
# Disclosures

- **Educational, consultory, and research or travel grants:** Gilead, NovoNordisk, Novartis, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Intercept, BMS, Pfizer, Accelerate, Astellas, ViiV, Janssen, MSD, Abbvie
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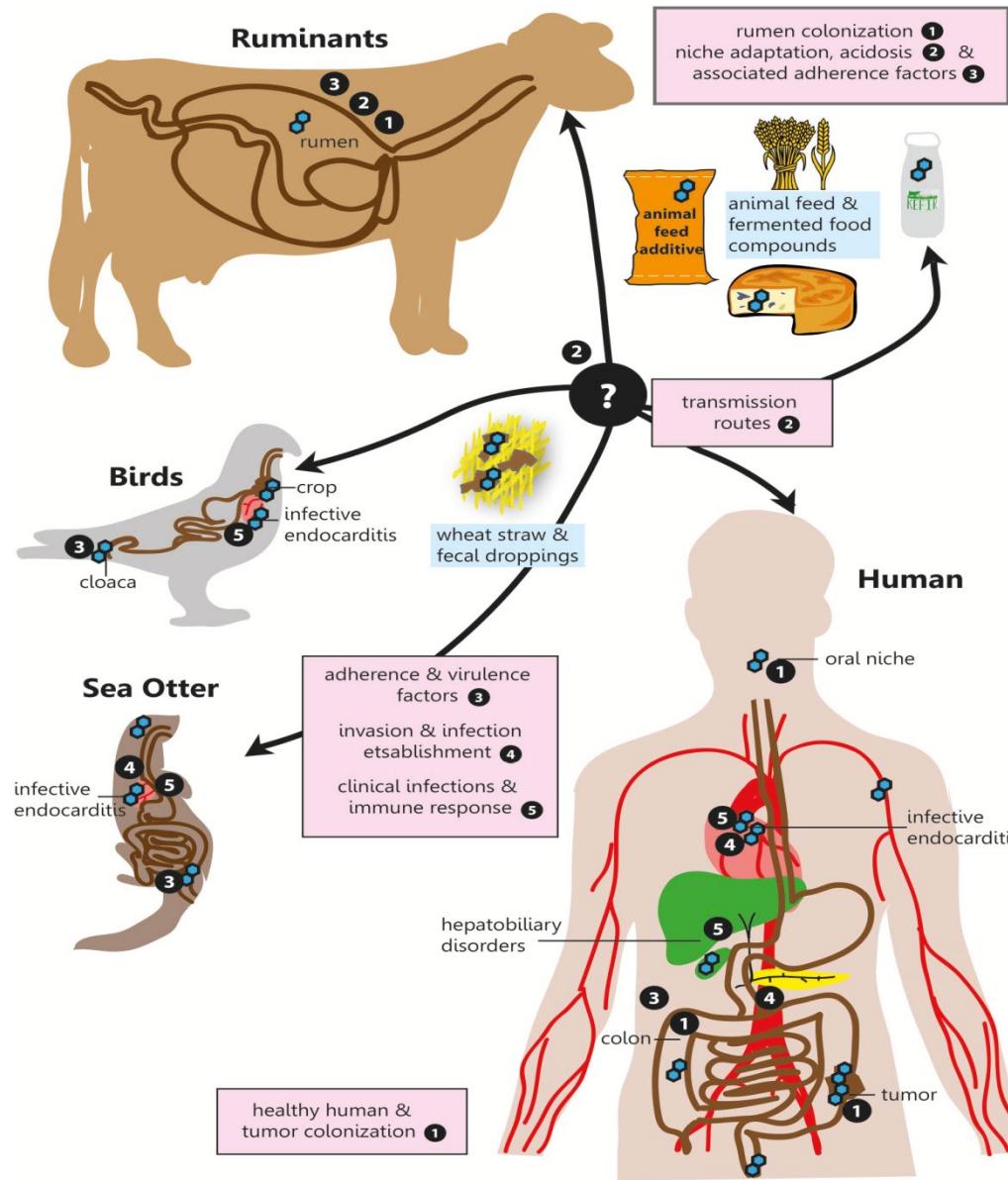


# Ground to be covered

- SGG IE and CRN: strength of the association
- SGG and CRN: causation?
- EFIE and CRN: still preliminary evidence?
- Any translational evidence linking EF and CRN?  
Active role or mere bystander?
- SGG and EF often dance together
- Colonoscopy: to whom and when?

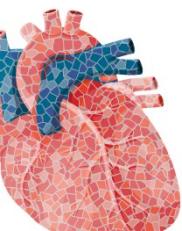


# *S. bovis/S. equinus complex:* the road to infection



# *S. Bovis: new nomenclature*

New name	Former phenotypic designation	Synonym
<i>Streptococcus gallolyticus</i> subsp <i>gallolyticus</i>	<i>S. bovis</i> biotype I	<i>S. gallolyticus</i>
<i>Streptococcus infantarius</i> subsp <i>infantarius</i>	<i>S. bovis</i> biotype II/1	<i>S. infantarius</i>
<i>S. infantarius</i> subsp <i>coli</i>	<i>S. bovis</i> biotype II/1	<i>Streptococcus lutensis</i>
<i>S. gallolyticus</i> subsp <i>pasteurianus</i>	<i>S. bovis</i> biotype II/2	<i>Streptococcus pasteurianus</i>



# Current guidelines

## 2015 ESC Guidelines for the management of infective endocarditis



In the setting of *S. bovis* IE, there is a need for proper microbiological classification. In case of *S. bovis/S. gallolyticus* IE, it is recommended to rule out occult colon cancer during hospitalization. In the absence of any tumour, scheduling an annual colonoscopy is highly suggested.<sup>482</sup>

European Heart Journal (2015) 36, 3075–3123

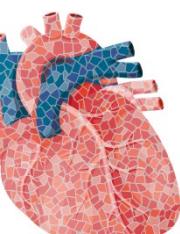
## Infective Endocarditis in Adults: Diagnosis, Antimicrobial Therapy, and Management of Complications

A Scientific Statement for Healthcare Professionals From the American Heart Association

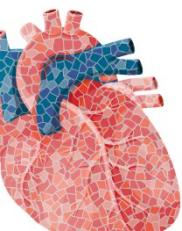
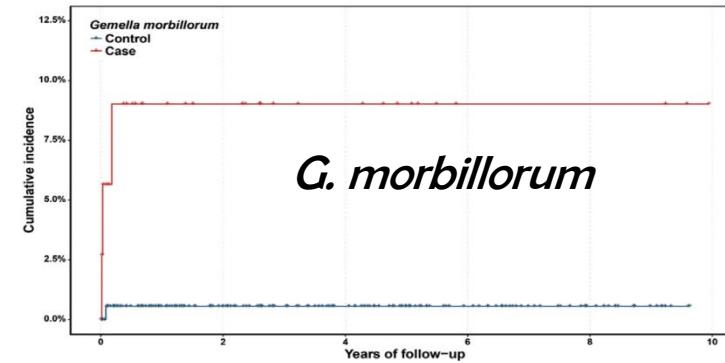
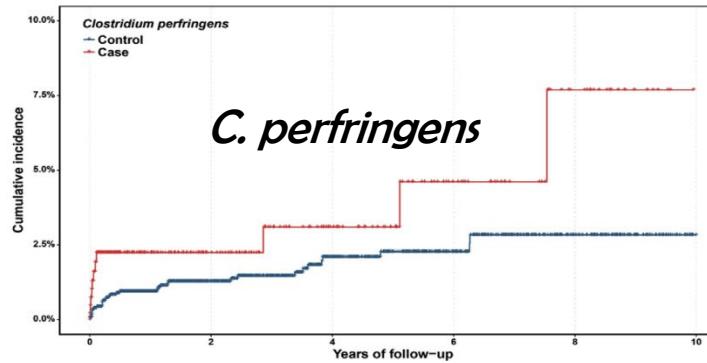
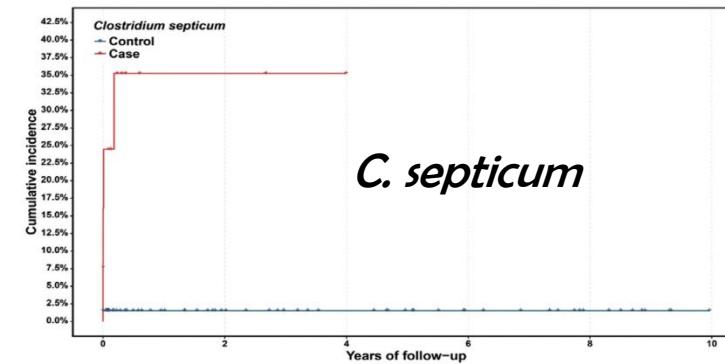
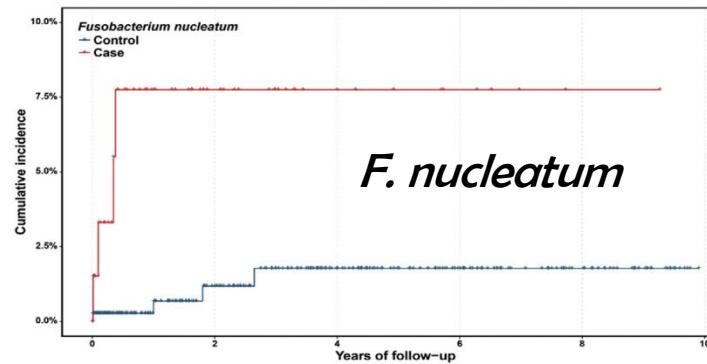
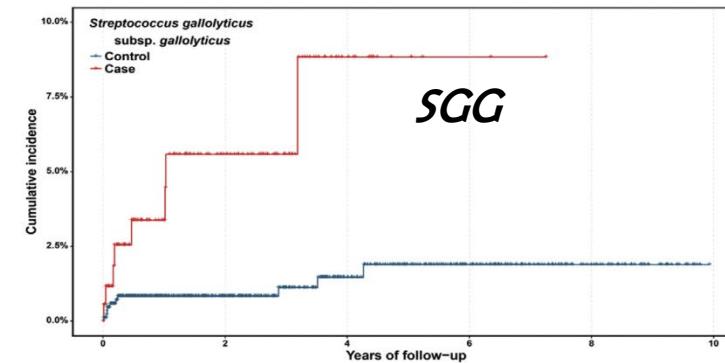
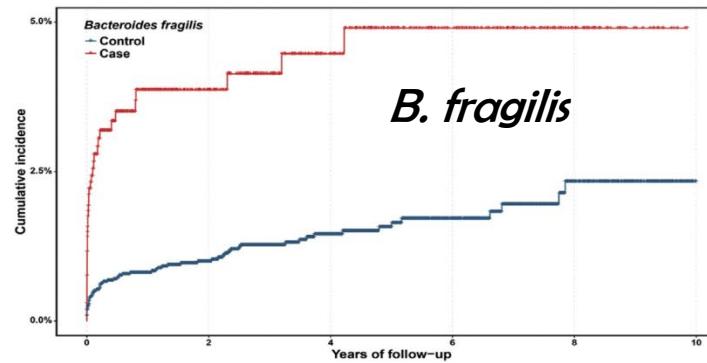
Endorsed by the Infectious Diseases Society of America

*Enterococcus* by appropriate biochemical tests. Patients with either *S gallolyticus (bovis)* bacteremia or IE should undergo a colonoscopy to determine whether malignancy or other mucosal lesions are present.

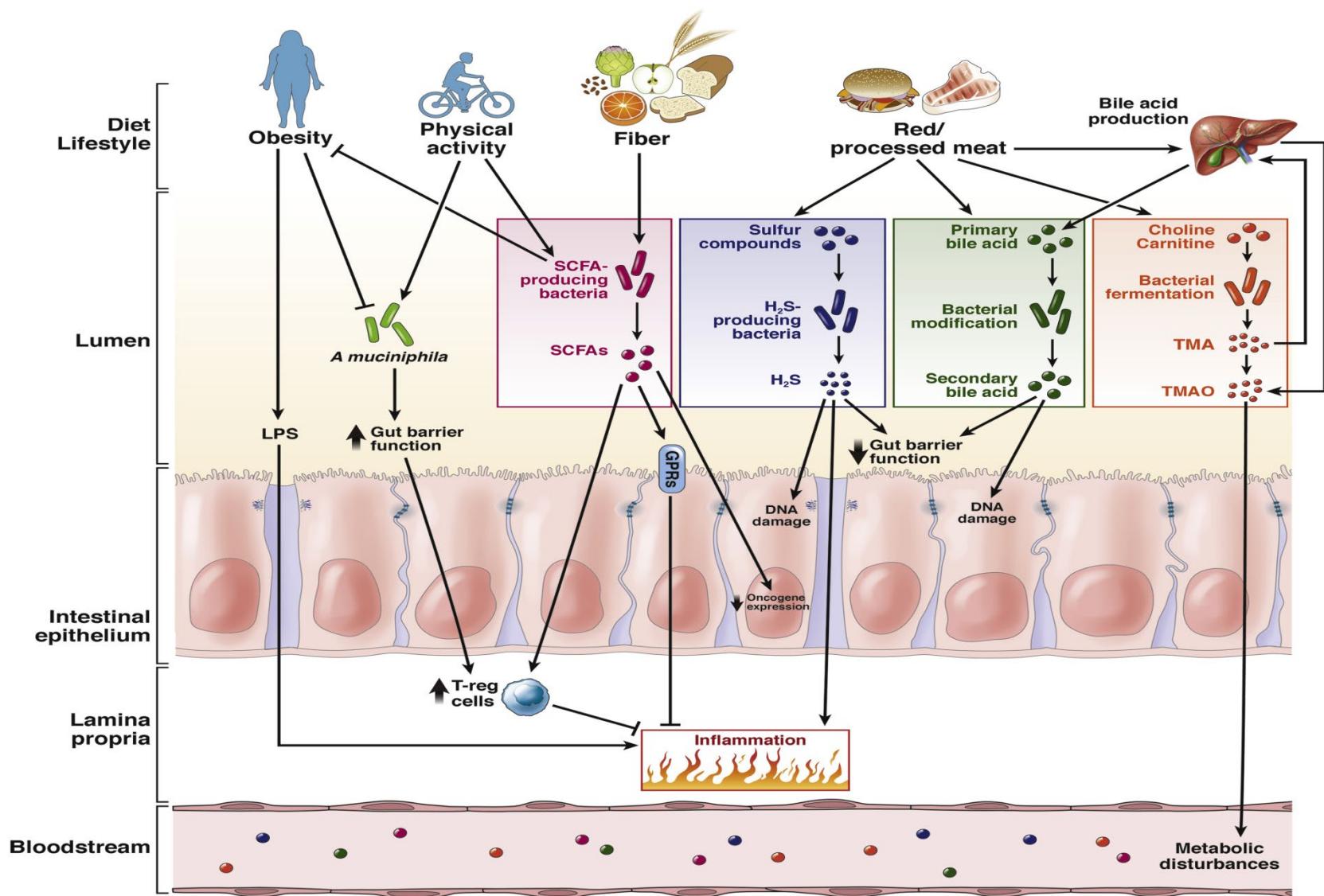
Circulation. 2015;132:1435-1486.



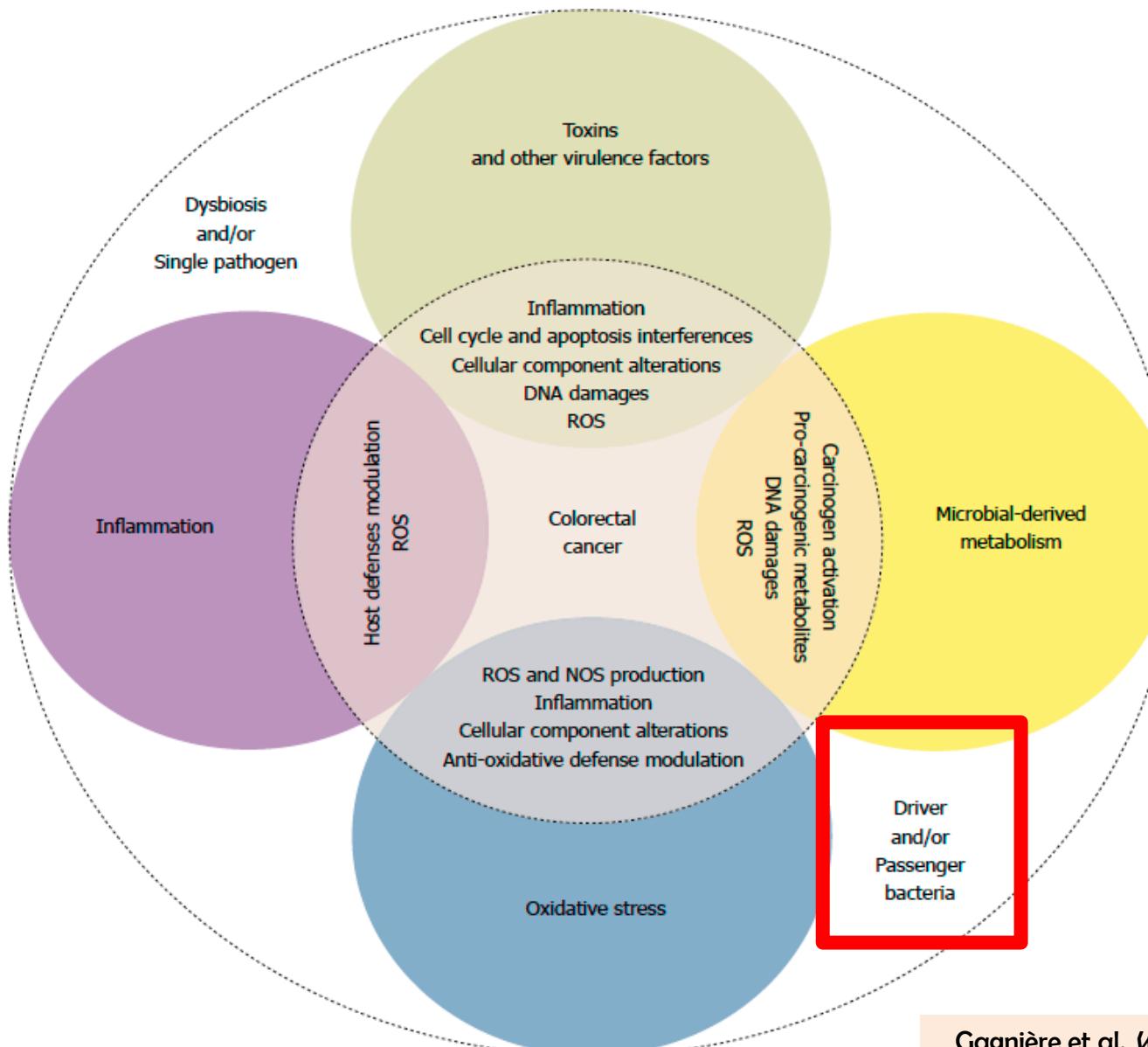
# Bacteremia and subsequent diagnosis of CRC



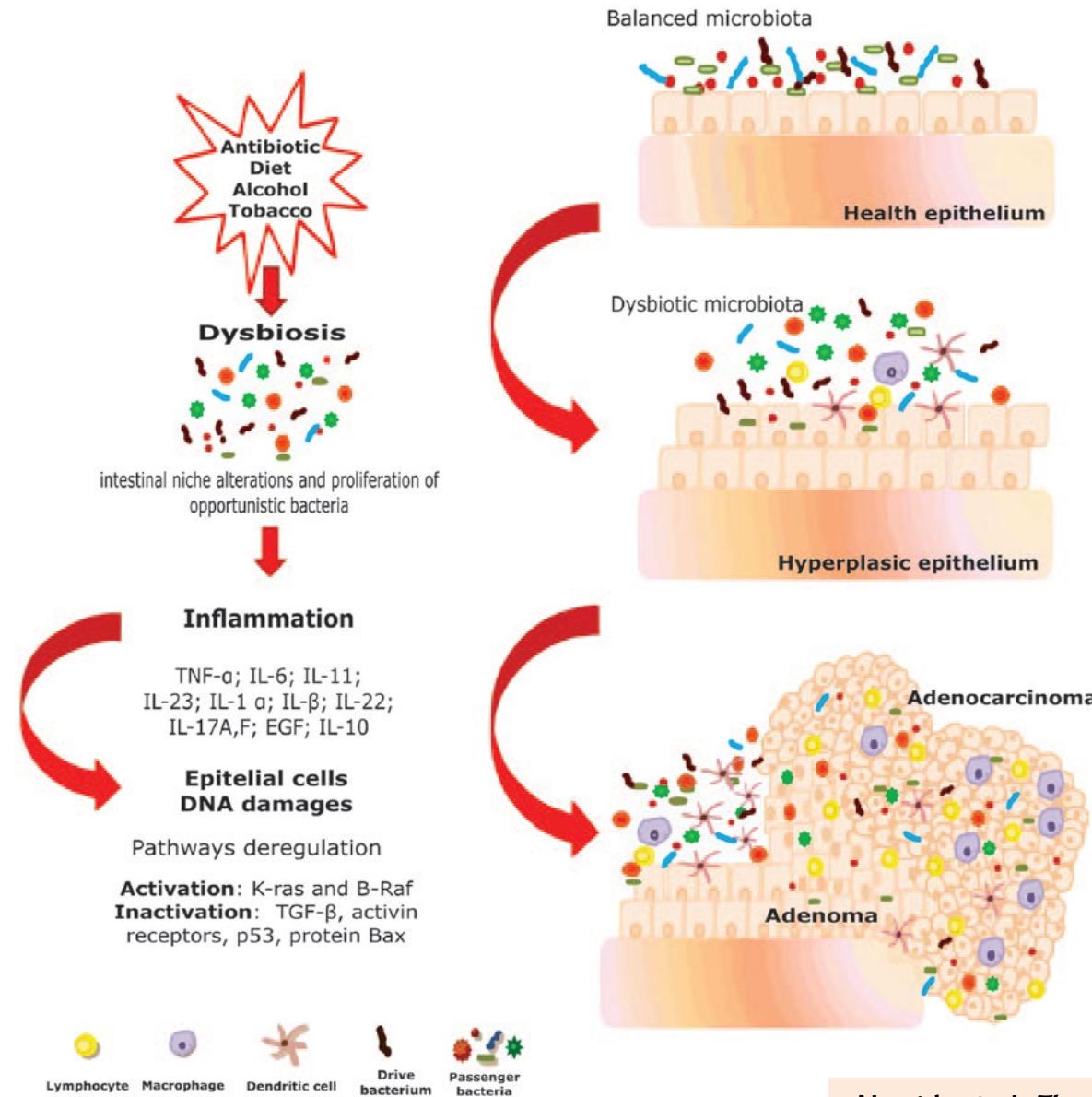
# Gut microbiota and CRC



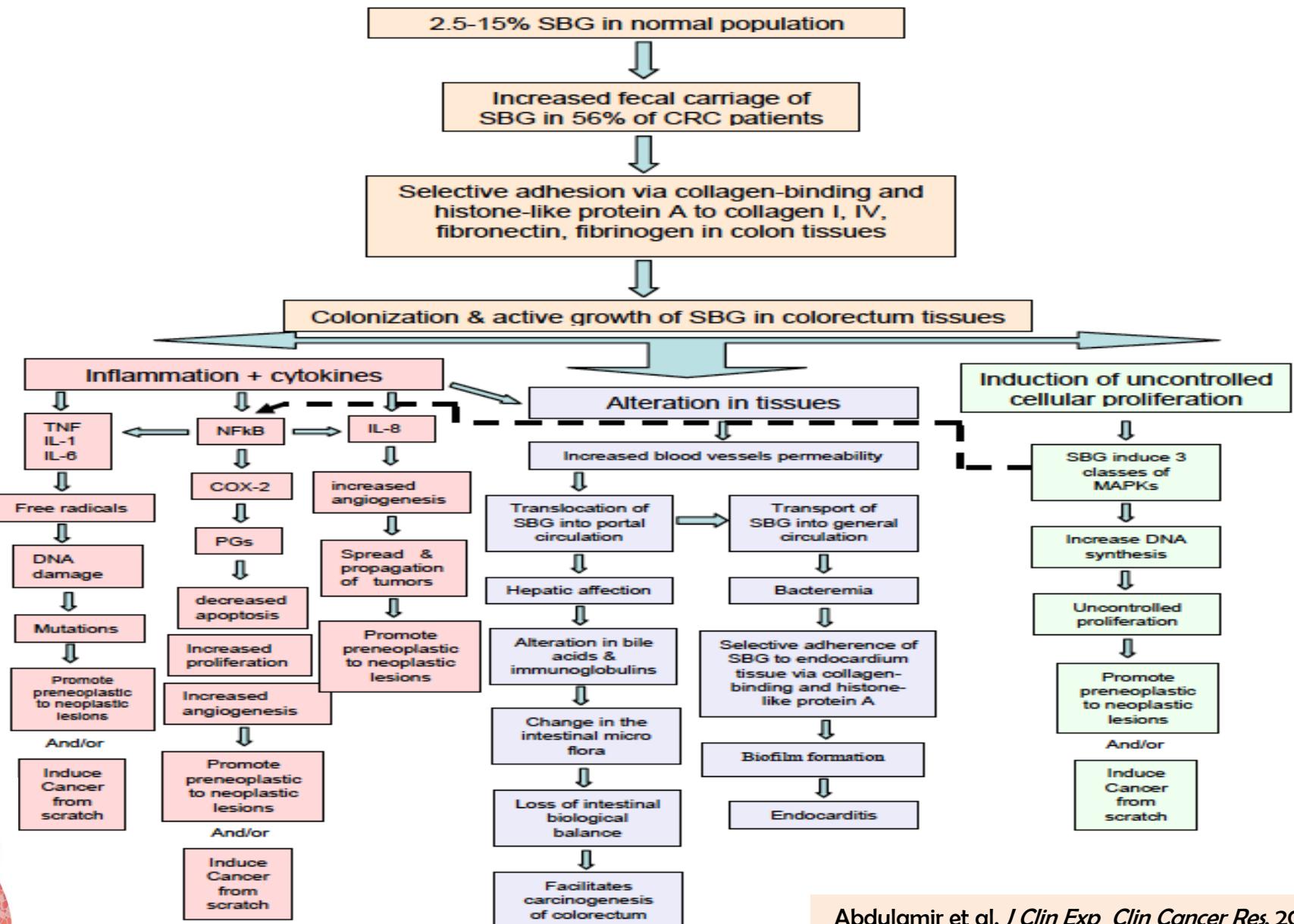
# Mechanisms gut microbiota → CRC



# The “adenoma-carcinoma sequence”

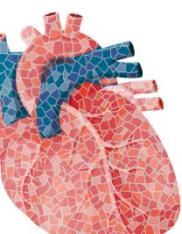
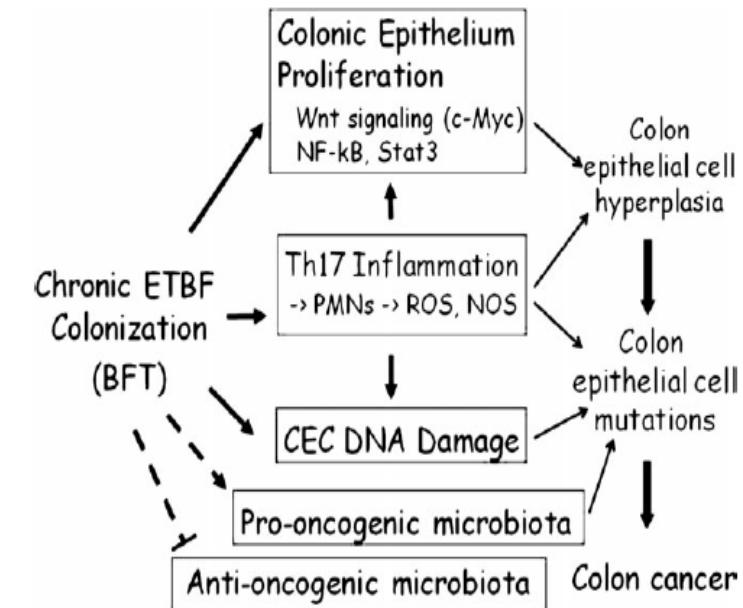


# SGG: Proposed mechanisms of carcinogenesis



# “Alpha” bugs

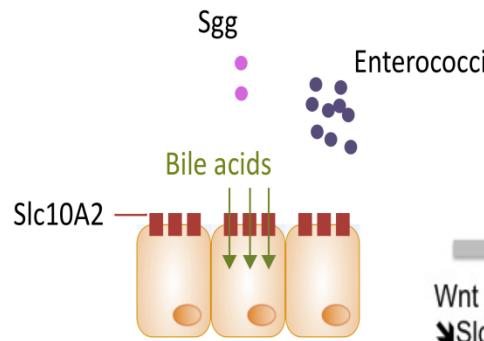
- Certain gut bacteria acquire oncogenic capacity through **direct or indirect mechanisms**
- SGG terminal ileum, not colon, but CRN induce carbohydrate-rich microenvironments
- **Remodeling** the colonic flora, **favoring** development of other oncogenesis-contributing bacteria, and **preventing** the development of anti-oncogenic microbiota
- Unknown whether these bacteria **persist** in advanced phases of neoplasia or are rather **progressively replaced** as the CRN advances



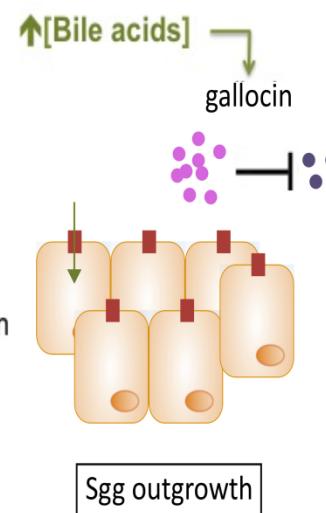
# “Passenger” and “driver” bacteria toward CRC

## Passenger bacteria

Normal epithelium

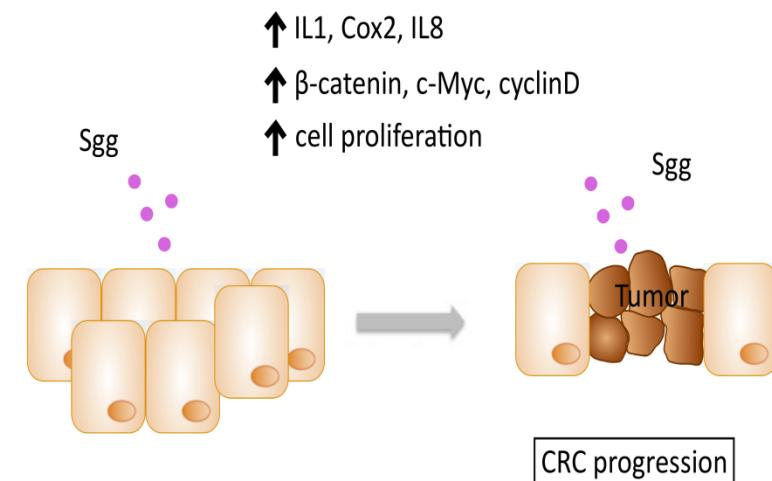


Pre-neoplastic epithelium



## Driver bacteria

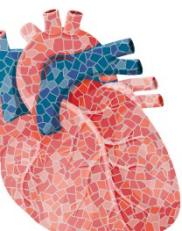
Pre-neoplastic epithelium



malignant epithelium

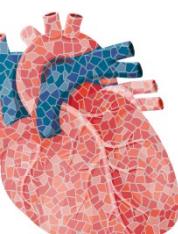
# Pathophysiology keys

Microorganism	Phylum	Natural habitat	Characteristics in CRC	Effectors	References
<i>Streptococcus bovis</i>	Firmicutes	GI tract	Early sign for CRC		(38-40)
<i>Enterotoxigenic Bacteroides fragilis</i>	Bacteroidetes	GI tract	Detected in ~90% of CRC patients	BFT	(41-44)
<i>Fusobacterium nucleatum</i>	Fusobacteria	Oral cavity	Increased in CRC patients, indicate a worse prognosis	Adhesin FadA, Fap2	(45-49)
<i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>	Firmicutes	GI tract	Increased in CRC patients	Production of superoxide	(31, 50-52)
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	Proteobacteria	GI tract	Increased in CRC patients	Colibactin	(53, 54)
<i>Peptostreptococcus anaerobius</i>	Firmicutes	GI tract	Increased in CRC patients	PCWBR2	(55, 56)

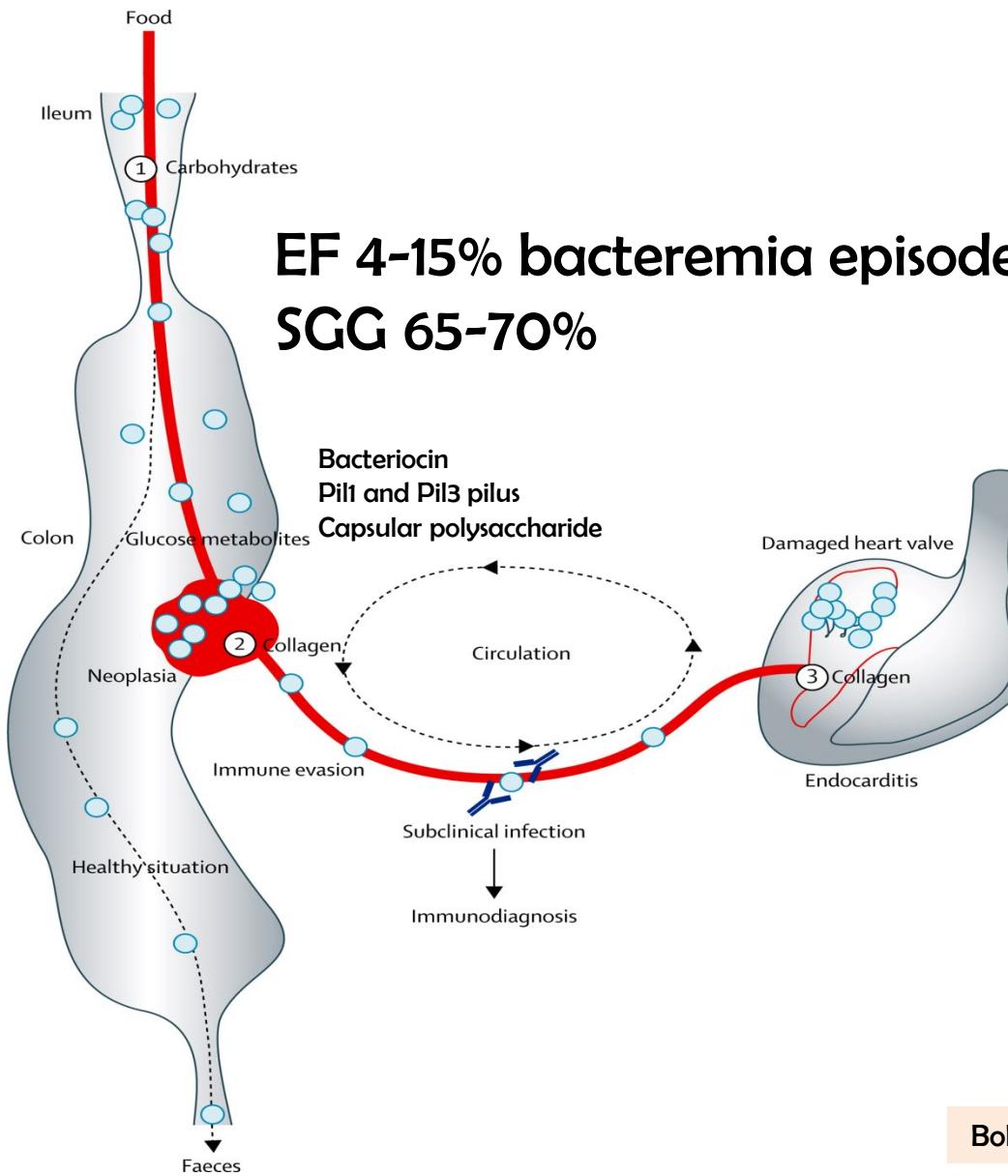


# Experimental evidence of *E. faecalis*-induced carcinogenesis

	IBD Associated	Immuno-Suppressive	Pro-Inflammatory	CHROMOSOMAL instability	MSI Associated	CIMP Associated	DNA Damage Induction in Cultured Colonocytes	Proliferation Influence over Cultured Colonocytes	Metastasis Influencing
<i>Streptococcus gallolyticus</i>			++					++	
<i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>	++		++	++			++	++	+
CIF+ve <i>Escherichia coli</i>	++							++	
CNF+ve <i>Escherichia coli</i>				+				++	
Colibactin+ve <i>Escherichia coli</i>	++						++	++	
BFT+ve <i>Bacteroides fragilis</i>	++		++				++	++	
<i>Fusobacterium nucleatum</i>		++			++	++		++	



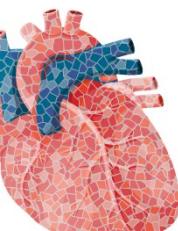
# The journey of SGG from gut to heart



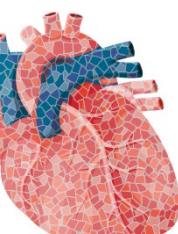
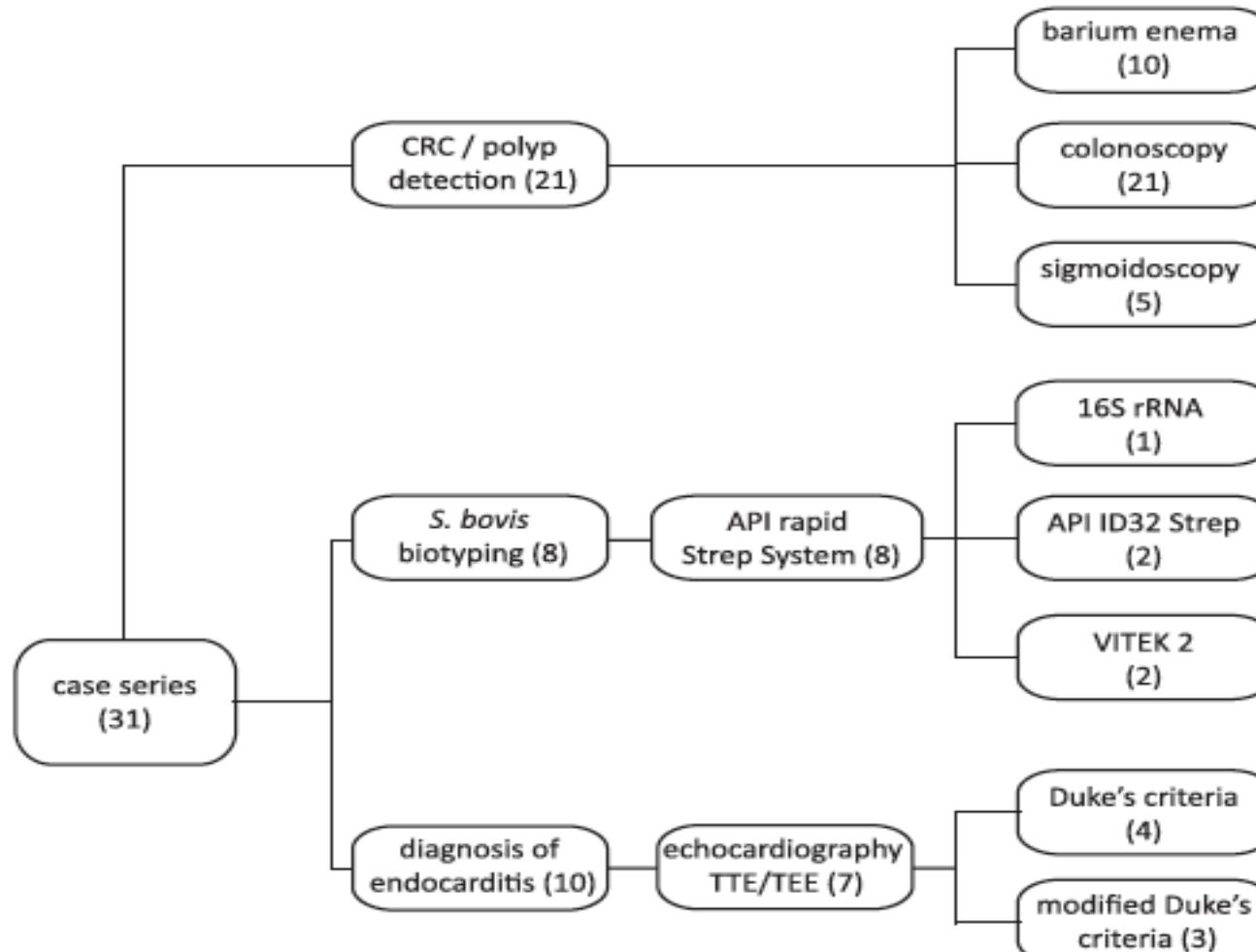
**EF 4-15% bacteremia episodes associated to IE**  
**SGG 65-70%**

# Clinical evidence: SGG IE and CRN

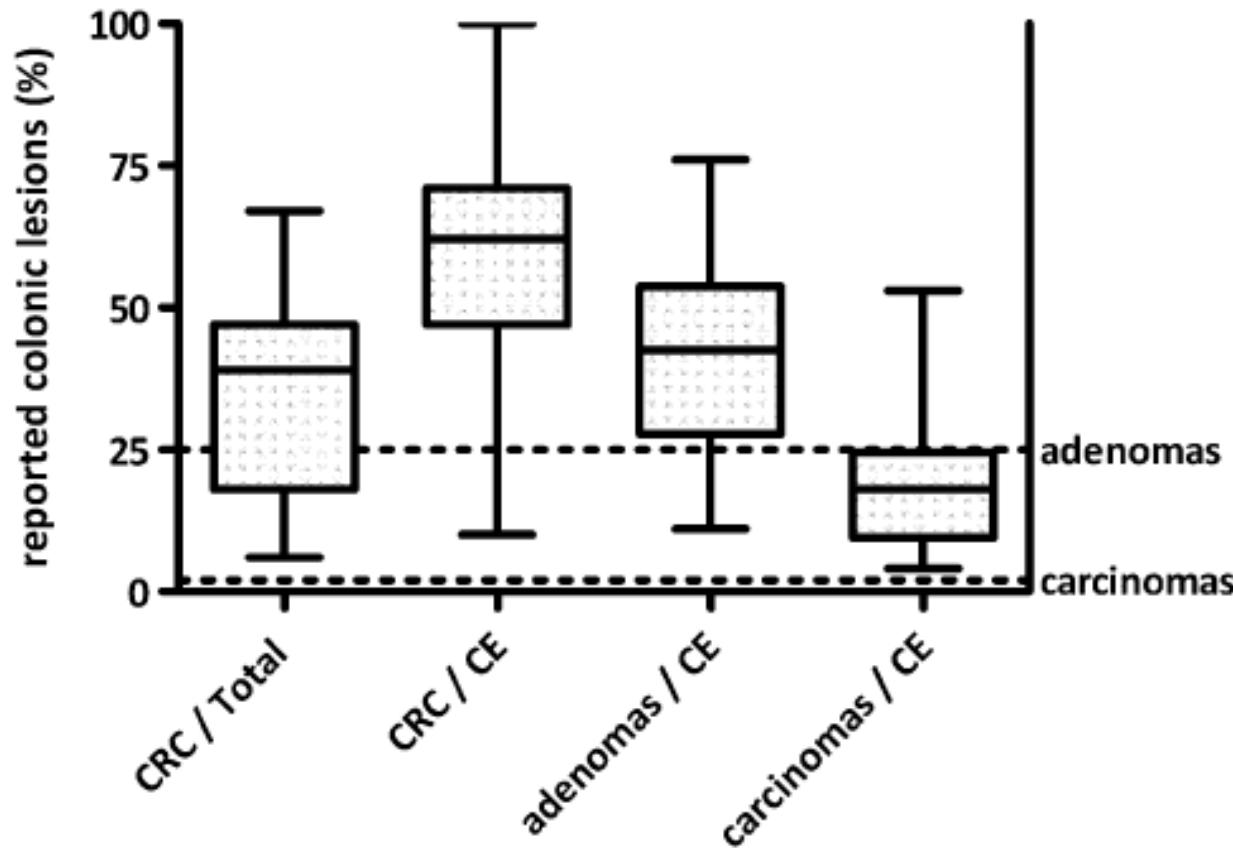
<i>S. bovis</i>	
<b>Strength</b>	ORs for detection of <i>S. bovis</i> in stool range from 1.0 to 10.7 +
<b>Temporality</b>	Not evaluated 0
<b>Consistency</b>	<i>S. bovis</i> endocarditis studies consistently show elevated risks for colorectal neoplasia. However, stool studies of colorectal cancer cases and controls are not consistent. ++
<b>Specificity</b>	<i>S. bovis</i> is a cause of septicemia and endocarditis. +
<b>Biological plausibility</b>	<i>S. bovis</i> is known to inhabit the colon, and molecular studies indicate that <i>S. bovis</i> proteins have carcinogenic properties. +++
<b>Coherence</b>	Many colorectal cancers exhibit overexpression of cyclooxygenase-2. <i>S. bovis</i> proteins up-regulate cyclooxygenase-2 <i>in vitro</i> . +++



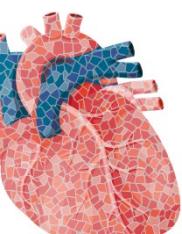
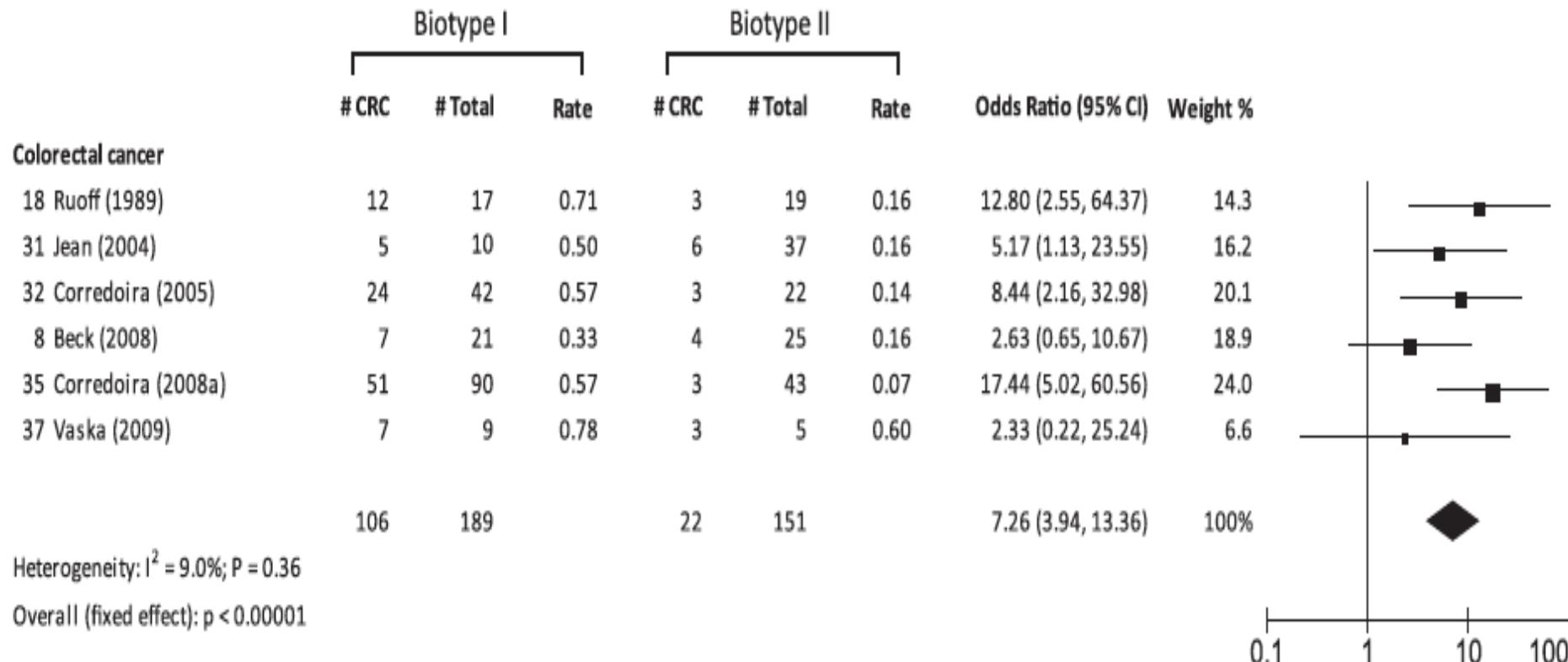
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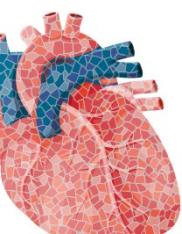
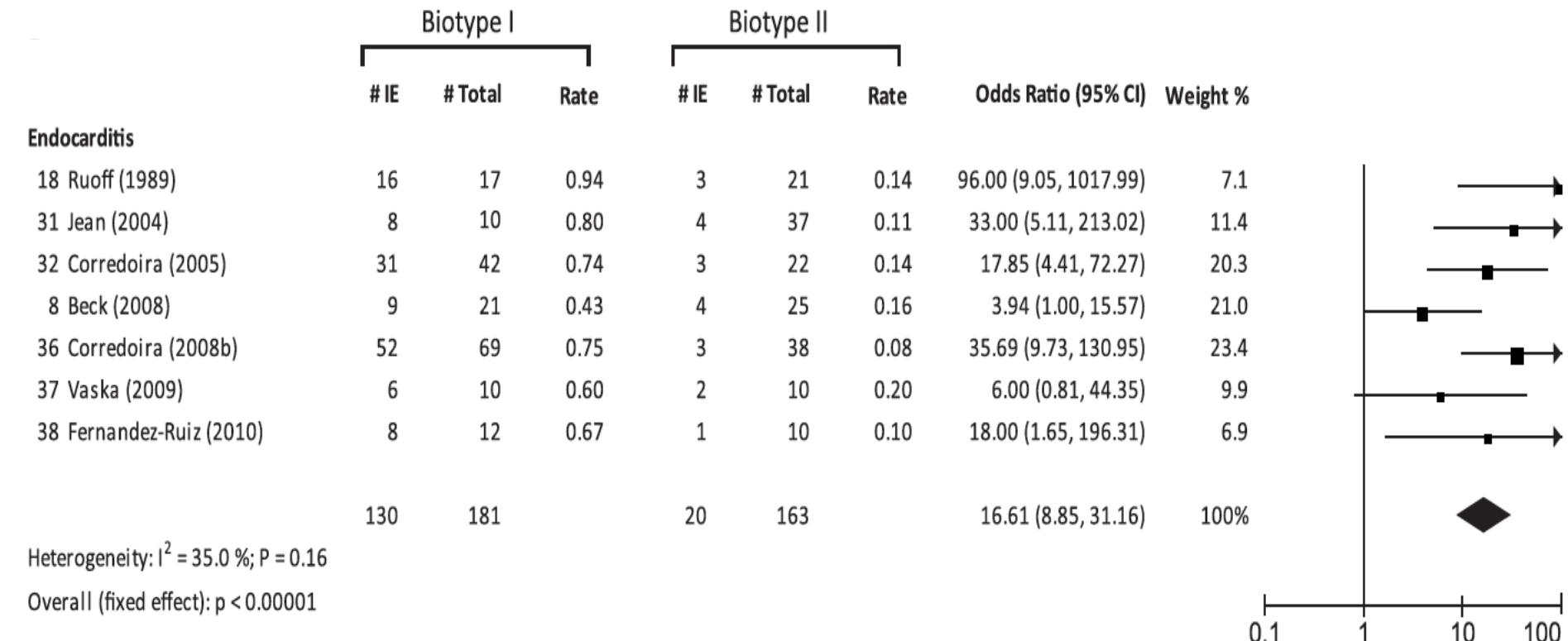
# Clinical evidence: SGG IE and CRN



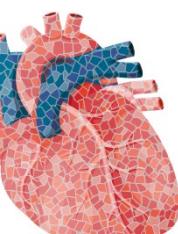
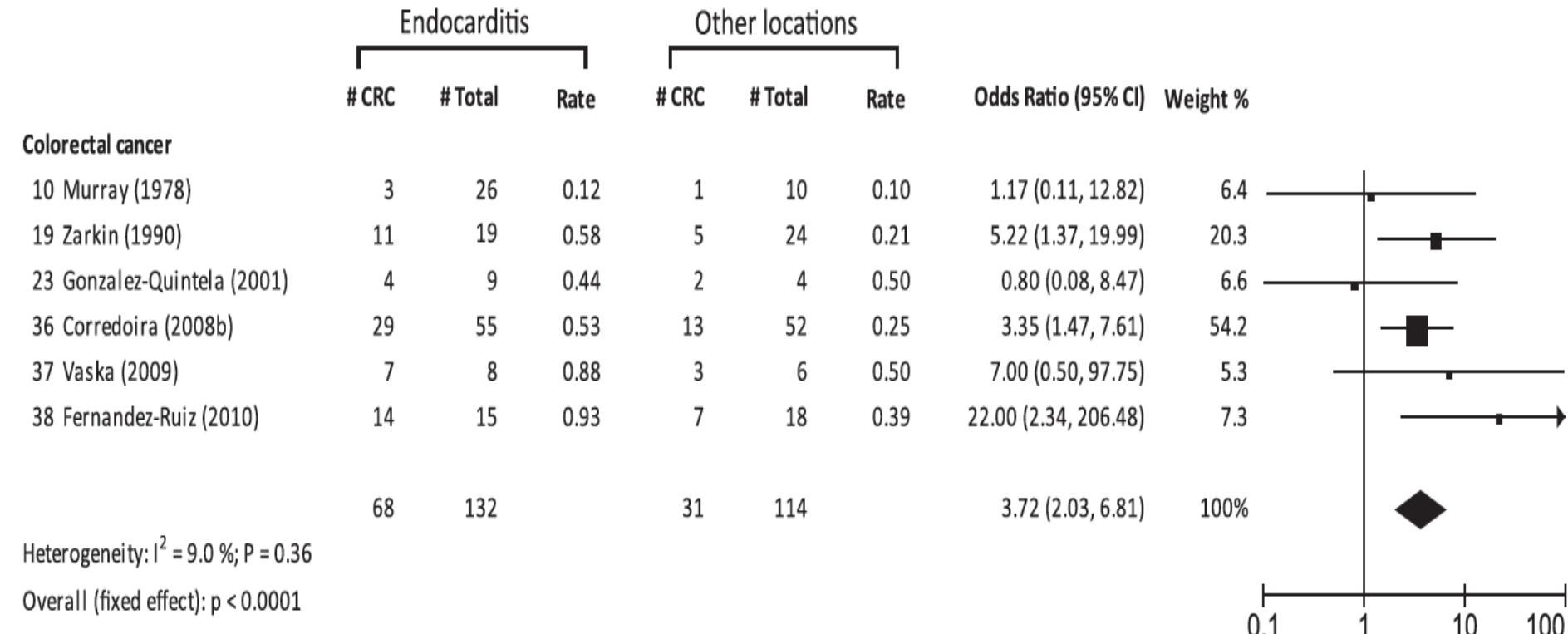
# Clinical evidence: SGG IE and CRN



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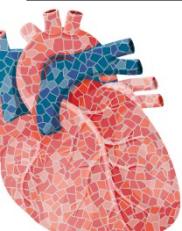


# Clinical evidence: SGG IE and CRN



# Clinical evidence: SGG bacteremia and CRN

	<i>S. gallolyticus</i> subsp. <i>gallolyticus</i> Bacteremia (n = 98) <sup>a</sup>	Control Group (n = 196)	OR (95% CI)	P Value
Age, mean ± SD	66.2 ± 11.7	66.3 ± 11.9		NS
Sex, % male	89 (91%)	178 (91%)	1.0 (.4–2.3)	NS
Born in Spain	98 (100%)	192 (98%)	4.6 (.2–86.4)	NS
Symptoms <sup>b</sup>	11 (11%)	143 (73%)	0.05 (.02–.1)	.0001
Colorectal neoplasia <sup>c</sup>	69 (70%)	62 (32%)	5.1 (3.0–8.6)	.0001
Nonadvanced adenoma	18 (19%)	23 (12%)	1.7 (.9–3.3)	NS
Advanced adenoma	39 (40%)	31 (16%)	3.5 (2.0–6.1)	.0001
Invasive carcinoma	12 (12.5%)	9 (5%)	2.9 (1.2–6.9)	.03
Benign colorectal pathology <sup>c</sup>	44 (45%)	107 (55%)	0.7 (.4–1.1)	NS
Diverticular disease	35 (36%)	63 (32%)	1.2 (.7–1.9)	NS
Internal hemorrhoids	14 (14%)	37 (19%)	0.7 (.4–1.4)	NS
Hyperplastic polyps	10 (10%)	15 (8%)	1.4 (.6–3.2)	NS
Angiodysplasia	4 (4%)	5 (3%)	1.7 (.5–6.0)	NS
Lipoma	2 (2%)	1 (0.5%)	3.4 (.4–25.9)	NS
Leiomyoma	2 (2%)	1 (0.5%)	3.4 (.4–25.9)	NS
Melanosis coli	2 (2%)	0	10.2 (.5–214.2)	NS
Rectal fistula	1 (1%)	0	6.0 (.2–149.8)	NS
Ischemic colitis	1 (1%)	6 (3%)	0.5 (.1–2.7)	NS
Noncolorectal cancer	5 (5%)	12 (6%)	0.9 (.3–2.4)	NS



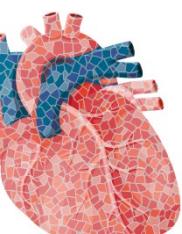
# What about *E. faecalis* IE?

## Enterococcal Endocarditis

An Analysis of 38 Patients Observed at the  
New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center

While in the majority of cases enterococcal endocarditis is associated with organic heart disease, the infection may be engrafted on normal heart valves. This aspect of enterococcal endocarditis will be commented on later.

Enterococcal endocarditis may complicate urologic instrumentation<sup>29, 30</sup> such as cystoscopy, urethral dilatation or transurethral resection. This infection has been associated with or complicated carcinoma of the sigmoid colon,<sup>28</sup> so-called Blalock-Taussig operation,<sup>31</sup> abortion<sup>32</sup> and normal pregnancy.<sup>33</sup> Periapical dental abscesses have also been implicated.<sup>34</sup>



# Enterococcal IE in ICE cohort

	Enterococci <i>n</i> = 500 30.9%	Oral streptococci <i>n</i> = 823 51.0%	Group D streptococci <i>n</i> = 293 18.1%	<i>p</i> value
Age (years), mean [SD]	65.5 (15.3)	54.6 (18.4)	65.2 (12.4)	<0.0001
Male sex, <i>N</i> (%)	361 (72.6)	584 (71.0)	218 (74.7)	0.46
History of IE, <i>N</i> (%)	62 (12.5)	86 (10.5)	21 (7.2)	0.07
Admission delay > 1 month, <i>N</i> (%)	172 (36.8)	350 (44.9)	142 (51.4)	<0.0001
Haemodialysis, <i>N</i> (%)	41 (8.4)	11 (1.4)	6 (2.1)	<0.0001
Diabetes, <i>N</i> (%)	110 (22.4)	90 (11.1)	56 (19.3)	<0.0001
Cancer, <i>N</i> (%)	55 (11.2)	67 (8.3)	34 (11.7)	0.11
Charlson index, mean [SD]	1.7 (1.8)	1.0 (1.5)	1.3 (1.5)	<0.0001
Place of acquisition, <i>N</i> (%)				<0.0001
Community	352 (70.4)	758 (92.1)	280 (95.6)	
Healthcare, nosocomial	65 (13.0)	12 (1.5)	3 (1.0)	
Healthcare, non-nosocomial			4 (1.4)	
Multiple, unknown, missing			6 (2.0)	
Intracardiac device, <i>N</i> (%)			1 (7.2)	<0.0001
Type of IE, <i>N</i> (%)				<0.0001
Native valve	324 (66.4)	641 (80.9)	216 (75.8)	
Prosthetic valve	142 (29.1)	130 (16.4)	62 (21.8)	
Other	22 (4.5)	21 (2.7)	7 (2.5)	
Location of vegetation, <i>N</i> (%)				0.18
Left-sided only	380 (80.3)	643 (83.0)	241 (87.6)	
Right-sided only	26 (5.5)	27 (3.5)	6 (2.2)	
Left + right	11 (2.3)	14 (1.8)	4 (1.5)	
Elsewhere	16 (3.4)	18 (2.3)	4 (1.5)	
No vegetation	40 (8.5)	73 (9.4)	20 (7.3)	
Missing information	27 (5.4)	48 (5.8)	18 (6.1)	
Stroke, <i>N</i> (%)	78 (16.0)	118 (14.7)	38 (13.3)	0.59
Embolic event, <i>N</i> (%)	94 (19.3)	147 (18.3)	70 (24.4)	0.08
Heart failure, <i>N</i> (%)	94 (18.8)	139 (16.9)	56 (19.1)	0.90
Intracardiac abscess, <i>N</i> (%)	57 (11.8)	110 (13.6)	33 (11.5)	0.51
Paravalvular complications in prosthetic valve IE, <i>N</i> (%)	53 (10.8)	41 (5.1)	15 (5.2)	0.0002
Valve surgery within 60 days, <i>N</i> (%)	209 (42.1)	380 (46.5)	137 (47.2)	0.22
One-year mortality, <i>N</i> (%)	144 (28.9)	120 (14.6)	52 (17.8)	<0.0001

No information on the source of infection

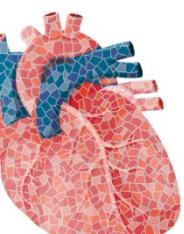


# Enterococcal IE in GAMES cohort

	Median time of symptoms duration (months)
Source	
Oral	1.8 (0-18)
Respiratory	6.7 (0-18)
Genitourinary	1.2 (0-3.2)
Gastrointestinal	5.2 (0-19.3)
Vascular	3.2 (0-19.3)
Cutaneous	7.9 (0-19.3)
Other	6.3 (0-19.3)
Unknown	51.6 (0-51.6)

- Overall: either retrospective data or sources of infection not systematically studied / large differences across sites
- Loose definition of gastrointestinal source: most times refers to biliary tract

Source	Median time of symptoms duration (months)	p Value
Oral	1.8	0.549
Respiratory	6.7	<0.001
Genitourinary	1.2	0.096
Gastrointestinal	5.2	<0.001
Vascular	3.2	<0.001
Cutaneous	7.9	<0.001
Other	6.3	0.031
Unknown	51.6	0.734



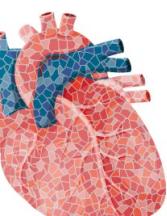
# First comparison of SGG vs. EF IE

## First admission

	<i>S. bovis</i> N=109	<i>Enterococcus</i> spp. N=36	p-value
Endocarditis			
Spondylodiscitis	15 (13.8 %)	6 (16.7 %)	ns
Arthritis	5 (4.6 %)	3 (8.3 %)	ns
Colon tumour	70 (64.2 %)	9 (25 %)	0.0000
Duke's criteria endocarditis			
- Definitive	102 (93.6 %)	30 (83.3 %)	ns
- Possible	7 (6.4 %)	6 (16.7 %)	ns
Antibiotic treatment			
- β-lactamic	54 (49.5 %)	0	0.0000
- Double β-lactamic	0	19 (52.8 %)	0.0000
- β-lactamic + aminoglycoside	54 (49.5 %)	12 (33.3 %)	ns
- Others	1 (0.9 %)	5 (13.9 %)	0.0007
Early cardiac surgery	16 (14.7 %)	4 (11.1 %)	ns
Early mortality	14 (12.8 %)	8 (22.2 %)	ns

## Follow-up

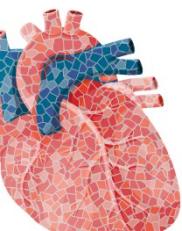
	<i>S. bovis</i>	<i>Enterococcus</i> spp.	p-value
Number of cases	95	28	
Follow-up (months)	71.2±59.5	47.8±46.6	ns
Range (months)	(2–216)	(3–192)	
Relapses	0	3 (10.7 %)	0.015
Recurrences	8 (8.4 %)	3 (10.7 %)	ns
Cardiac surgery			
In the first year	10 (10.5 %)	2 (7.1 %)	ns
After the first year	12 (10.5 %)	3 (10.7 %)	ns
Mortality			
First 6 months	10 (10.5 %)	2 (7.1 %)	ns
6–12 months	2 (2.1 %)	1 (3.6 %)	ns
1–2 years	9 (9.4 %)	3 (10.7 %)	ns
>2 years	26 (27.3 %)	6 (21.4 %)	ns
Colorectal neoplasia	43 (45.2 %)	6 (21.4 %)	0.01



# Geographical variation?

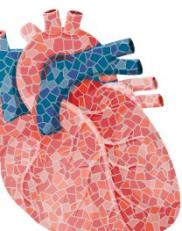
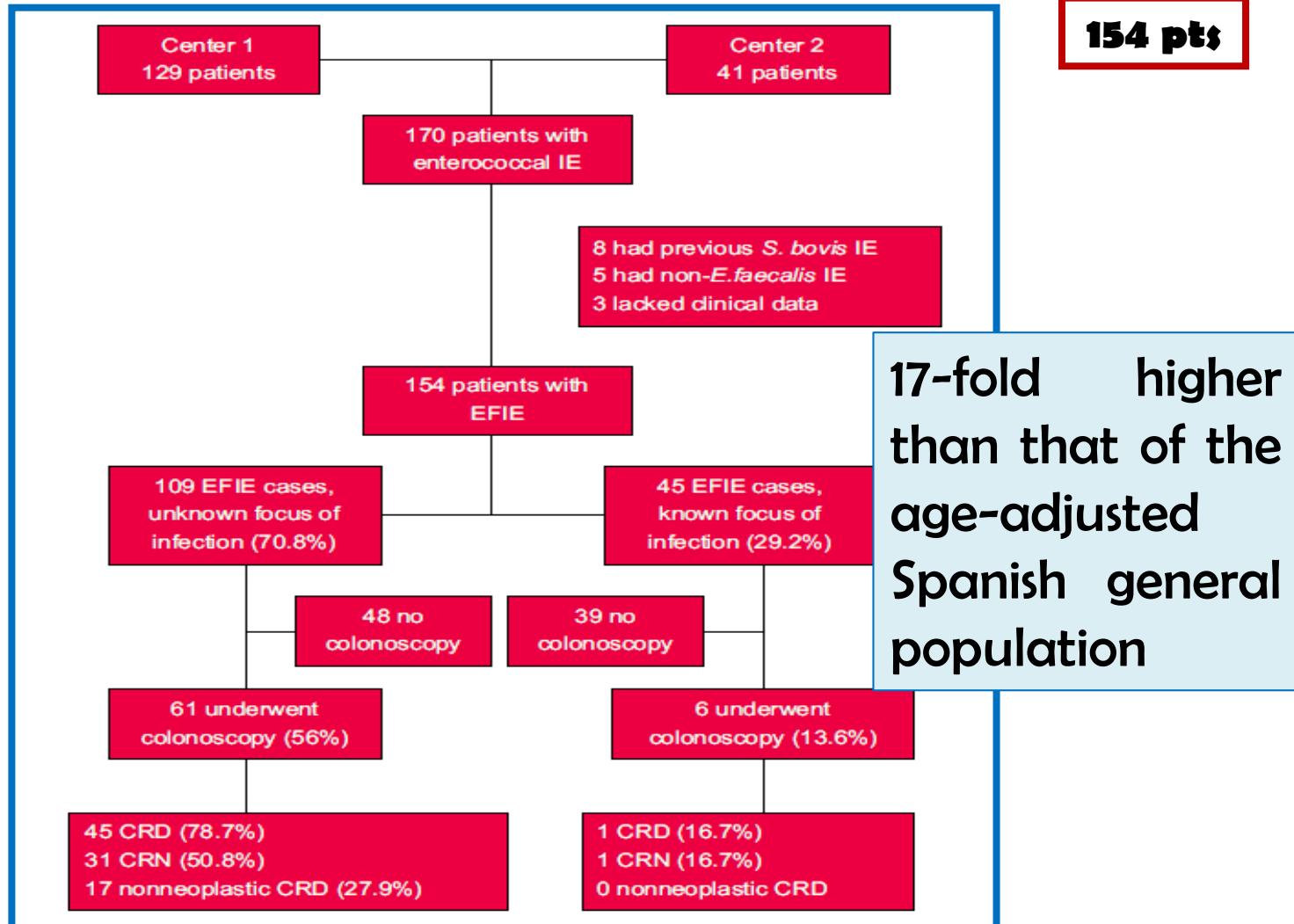
**EFIE with available colonoscopy= 58**

A total of 44 patients (76%) received a new diagnosis of colonic disease, including colorectal adenoma in 20 patients (34%) and colorectal cancer in 5 (9%) (1 patient received a diagnosis dur-



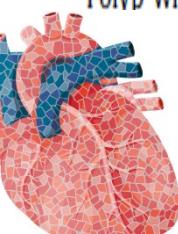
# Clinical evidence: EFIE and CRN

**1979-2015**

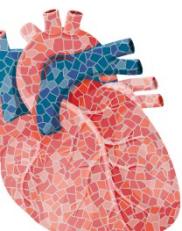
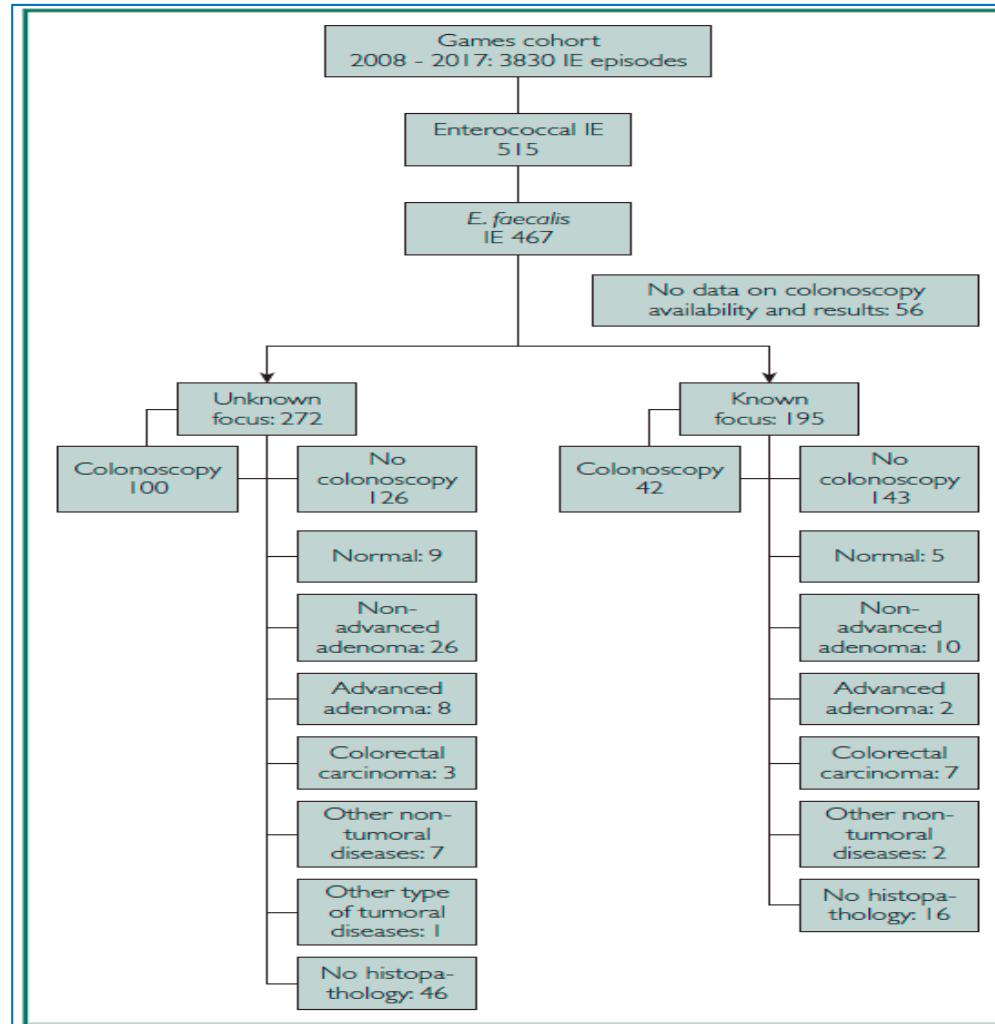


# Clinical evidence: EFIE and CRN

	All EFIE N=103	Unknown source n=63	Known source excluding colorectal disease <sup>a</sup> n=32
Colonoscopy performed	78/103 (76)	45/63 (71)	25/32 (78)
Endoscopic findings being potential portal of entry <sup>b</sup>	47/78 (60)	29/45 (64)	11/25 (44)
Colorectal neoplasms	39/47 (83)	26/29 (90)	9/11 (82)
Nonadvanced colorectal adenoma	19	12	6
Advanced colorectal adenoma	18	13	3
Colorectal carcinoma <sup>c</sup>	2	1	0
Nonneoplastic colorectal disease	8/47 (17)	3/29 (10)	2/11 (18)
Colorectal ulcer <sup>d</sup>	3	1	1
Mucosal inflammation	2	1	0
Bleeding vascular lesion	2	0	1
Polyp without histopathological report <sup>e</sup>	1	1	0



# Clinical evidence: EFIE and CRN



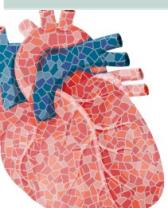
# Clinical evidence: EFIE and CRN

	No colonoscopy (N=269)	Colonoscopy (N=142)	P
Source			
Urinary	54 (20.1)	22 (15.5)	.287
Vascular	46 (17.1)	14 (9.9)	.048
Biliary	36 (13.4)	0	<.001
Respiratory	0	1 (0.7)	.345
Cutaneous	3 (1.1)	3 (2.1)	.420
Other	18 (6.7)	7 (4.9)	.477
Unknown	112 (41.6)	95 (66.9)	<.001
Treatment characteristics			
Antibiotics properly indicated	259 (96.3)	138 (97.2)	.633
Median length of antibiotic treatment, days (IQR)	42 (28-45)	42 (31-46)	.139
Antibiotic treatment			
Double beta-lactam combination <sup>c</sup>	180 (66.9)	103 (72.5)	.290
Beta-lactam + aminoglycoside	54 (20.1)	27 (19)	.899
Other	35 (13)	12 (8.5)	.223
Cardiac surgery			
Indicated	174 (64.9)	81 (57)	.144
Operated	109 (40.5)	60 (42.3)	.734
Outcomes			
In-hospital mortality	78 (29)	20 (14.1)	.001
Mortality at 1 year	96 (35.7)	31 (21.8)	.005
Recurrences at 1 year	5 (1.8)	8 (5.6)	.074



# Clinical evidence: EFIE and CRN

	Known focus (n=42)	Unknown focus (n=100)	P	Overall (N=142)
Median age, years (IQR)	69 (65-78)	71 (65-78)	.545	70 (65-78)
Male (%)	27 (64.3)	68 (68)	.815	95 (66.9)
Diagnosis of colorectal disease (n, %)	33 (78.6)	67 (67)	.167	100 (70.4)
During admission	6 (18.2)	22 (32.8)	.544	28 (28)
Before IE admission	12 (36.4)	10 (14.9)		22 (22)
During follow-up	15 (45.4)	35 (52.2)		50 (50)
Results of index colonoscopy			.088	
Normal	9 (21.4)	32 (32)		41 (28.9)
Findings suggestive of non-neoplastic disease	15 (35.7)	22 (22)		37 (26)
Findings suggestive of CRN	12 (28.6)	39 (39)		51 (35.9)
Findings highly suspicious of CRN	6 (14.3)	6 (6)		12 (8.5)
Not conclusive due to bad preparation	0	1 (1)		1 (0.7)
Histopathology findings			.139	
Not performed	16 (38)	46 (46)		62 (43.7)
Benign polyps	5 (11.9)	9 (9)		14 (9.9)
Nonadvanced adenoma	10 (23.8)	26 (26)		36 (25.3)
Advanced adenoma	2 (4.8)	8 (8)		10 (7)
Colorectal carcinoma <sup>c</sup>	7 (16.7)	3 (3)		10 (7)
Other type of colorectal cancer	0	1 (1)		1 (0.7)
Other non-neoplastic disease	2 (4.8)	7 (7)		9 (6.3)



# Recent comparison of SGG vs. EF IE

	<i>Enterococcus</i> IE (n = 85)	<i>S. gallolyticus</i> IE (n = 81)	p value
Underwent colonoscopy (any time)			0.203
Yes	42 (49.4)	48 (59.2)	
No	43 (50.6)	33 (40.8)	
Timing of colonoscopy			<0.001
<i>During the acute phase of IE</i>	18 (42.9)	37 (75)	
<i>After IE</i>	13 (30.9)	10 (18.7)	
<i>Before IE</i>	11 (26.2)	1 (6.3)	
Endoscopy-proven intestinal disease*	30 (71.4)	40 (83.3)	0.174
Non-neoplastic disease**	15 (35.7)	22 (45.8)	
- <i>Unspecific Colitis, Ulcerative colitis</i>	2 (4.7)	1 (2.1)	
- <i>Diverticulosis/Diverticulitis</i>	7 (16.6)	11 (22.9)	
- <i>Non-neoplastic polyposis</i>	6 (14.3)	10 (20.8)	
Colorectal neoplasia**	22 (52.4)	27 (56.2)	
- <i>Adenoma</i>	15 (35.7)	20 (41.6)	
- <i>Adenocarcinoma</i>	7 (16.6)	7 (14.6)	
No intestinal disease (negative colonoscopy)	12 (28.6)	8 (16.6)	



# SGG and EF in relapsing IE

First IE Episode					Second IE Episode				
Patients	Date (M/Y)	Age/sex, comorbidities	Type of IE, microorganism, complications	Colonos-copy *	Date (M/Y)	Type of IE, micro-organism, complications	Colonoscopy	Follow-up, status	Comments
Case 1	8/2002	68/M, DM, CKD.	NVF Ao	Not performed (due	PVE Ao	Tubular adenomas	8/2015 deceased		2007, 2009, 2010, and 2013 advanced adenomas
Case 2	6/2004	67/M, IHD, COPD							
Case 3	7/2008	73/M Renal and prostate cancer							4/2017 <i>S. sanguis</i> IE; 2013, 2017, and 2020 advanced adenomas
Case 4	4/2004	71/M DM, IHD, renal carcinoma.							8/2008 SGG IE; 3/2009 <i>S. salivarius</i> IE
Case 5	6/2016	83/M DM, acute myeloid leukemia, COPD, CKD.							2002 EF IE T013 tubulovillous adenoma
Case 6	1/2011	80/F DM, PCM.							
Case 7	10/2011	65/M Liver cirrhosis, IHD, PCM.							Four SGG IE episodes in total (2011, 2012, 2013, 2015); 9/2014 Gastric cancer
Case 8	2/2005	53/M DM, COPD.							4/2012 Multiple polyps, not biopsied; 2/2013 Tubular adenomas (3); 1/2020 Tubular adenomas (7)
Case 9	8/2007	57/M CHD.							2003 <i>S. mitis</i> IE 6/2020 normal colonoscopy
Case 10	3/2011	79/F DM, IHD, CKD.	PVE M SGG	Normal	10/2013	PVE M EF	Not performed (volvuli in sigma)	1/2014 deceased during IE episode (heart failure)	



## Gaps in potential underlying mechanisms of SGG-EF coupling

- Aging population in Western societies; CRN in younger patients growing; changes in diet; metabolic syndrome
- Role of SGG in early phases of tumor development (“non-oncogenic” strains, approx. 30%) → second or subsequent CRN?
- EF as a “passenger” re SGG (“driver”)?
- If EF in the bloodstream, increased risk of leaked gut mucosa through prior SGG or EF/SGG damage?
- Genomic and proteomic studies on clinical samples needed for EF at early stages, alone and in combination with SGG if overgrowth or associated BSI found
- Sequential gut microbiota changes
- Host-immune responses



## Further hypotheses for EFIE and CRN

- Patients with EFIE have higher rates of CRN than individuals from the general population of the same age and sex, as well as **distinct microbiome profiles**, both in patients with known and unknown source of infection
- *E. faecalis* strains associated to EFIE and CRN have also a **distinct genotypic repertoire**, potentially related to antimicrobial resistance profiles
- These features might also apply to *E. faecalis* bacteremia
- **Systematically performing a colonoscopy** in patients with EF BSI (older than 50 y or younger with history of familiar poliposis/CRC) might be indicated



# Enterocolonus GAMES Project

**Multicenter (25+), prospective, matched, interventional cohort**

**Length of follow-up: 1 year**

**Group 1: *E. faecalis* bacteremia/IE with a suspected focus other than colonic (N≈124)**

**Group 2: *E. faecalis* bacteremia/IE of unknown/potentially colonic origin (N≈124)**

**Group 3: healthy subjects undergoing a CRC screening colonoscopy (N≈124)**

**Tests performed:**

**Group 1: colonoscopy, feces sample for microbiome studies, whole genome analysis & resistance profile studies on *E. faecalis* strains, RT-PCR 16S in colon biopsies.**

**Group 2: same than Group 1 plus follow-up colonoscopy at 1-year.**

**Group 3: colonoscopy and feces sample**



# How to manage enterococcal bacteraemia?

## Enterococcal bacteraemia should be suspected if

a patient presents a clinical picture of sepsis or worsening general clinical condition in association with - advanced age and/or hospitalization and/or immunosuppression

- Nosocomial infection under broad-spectrum antibiotics
- Prior enterococcal infections or colonization
- Comorbidities, in particular related to urogenital and intra-abdominal organs, and neoplasms (both solid and haematological)
- Recent surgery, mainly urinary or gastro-intestinal tract procedures (including hepato-biliary structures)
- Intravascular devices and/or indwelling urinary catheters

## The initial work-up should include

- Physical examination to identify potential sources of bacteraemia (catheter-related phlebitis, murmurs, indwelling urinary catheters, biliary tract, surgical wounds, etc.) or related complications such as emboli, abscesses or osteomyelitis
- Blood cultures obtained before initiating antibiotic treatment (at least 2 sets; 3 sets separated by 30–60 min each in case IE is suspected<sup>a</sup>)
- If available, use rapid identification methods for blood samples (e.g. MALDI-TOF)
- Perform antibiotic susceptibility tests tailored according to the enterococcal species and the local epidemiology. Usually, at least the following should be included: ampicillin, gentamicin, vancomycin, linezolid and daptomycin<sup>b</sup>
- Other cultures: catheter tips, urine, biliary fluid, peritoneal liquid, abscesses, deep surgical wound swab
- Potential additional studies: genitourinary and hepatobiliary ultrasound, abdominal CT scan, muscle-skeletal MRI, colonoscopy, <sup>18</sup>FDG-PET scan



## “Expert opinion” on colonoscopy

- SGG BSI (both IE and bacteremia) during first episode and follow-up (yearly; age?)
- EF IE during first episode (irrespective of the “known” source, if any; if feasible/sensible)
- EF IE: age and follow-up need further data
- EF bacteremia needs further data



# Future perspectives

- Elucidating the role of the colon as a source/"paraphenomenon" of EF-BSI
- SGG and EF might not act alone
- *E. faecalis* bacteremia yet to be thoroughly investigated
- Relevance of prospective designs and external validity
- Further data on epidemiological/geographical variability needed (aging, diet, cows' density...)
- Clinical relevance: indication of colonoscopy, interpretation of potential CRN risk





**Thanks for your attention!**

