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The role of bowel bacteria, especially *Klebsiella* in the causation of Crohn's disease

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Antibodies to *Klebsiella* bacteria have been measured in 6 different gastro-enterology centres in the U.K.: Birmingham, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Royal Free Hospital-London, University College Hospital-London and King's College Hospital-London. Elevated levels of antibodies to *Klebsiella* bacteria were found in all these 6 different centres when compared to local controls. It is suggested that Crohn's disease is caused by *Klebsiella* bacteria in HLA-B27 negative individuals. Auto-antibodies to collagens I, III and IV are responsible for the pathological lesions in the gut. A multi-centre study involving anti-*Klebsiella* therapy should be evaluated in the treatment of Crohn's disease.

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