

**Title:**

Comparison of participants who consented to endoscopy and those who did not as part of community-driven research on *H. pylori* infection.

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**Abstract:**

In recent years, the health committee of the Aboriginal hamlet of Aklavik, Northwest Territories identified *H.pylori* infection as a priority concern and advocated for research to find solutions. The resulting Aklavik *H.pylori* Project is the start of community-driven research on *H.pylori* infection in northern Canada. This report compares characteristics of participants who underwent endoscopy as part of this research with those who did not.

From November 2007- February 2008, participants were interviewed using a structured questionnaire to collect self-reported clinical history data, including family history of *H pylori* infection or stomach cancer, and specific types of gastric discomfort. During this time, participants were offered testing for *H.pylori* by urea breath test (UBT) and/or evaluation by endoscopy. Endoscopy was offered in February 2008 and some Aklavik residents who did not participate by then had a UBT and interview later. This abstract presents a preliminary comparison of the selected characteristics among participants who did and did not undergo endoscopy. Multivariable logistic regression, to be added later, will include demographic and other factors to estimate their effects on an individual's decision to undergo endoscopy as part of community-driven research.

344 participants completed questionnaires, 321 had UBT, and 200 underwent endoscopy. Preliminary analysis does not show striking differences (see table), although those undergoing endoscopy were somewhat more likely to have relevant family history, prior testing and take heartburn medication.