

# INFECTIVE ENTERITIS

## IS Campylobacter

### INFECTIVE ENTERITIS Campylobacter

Infection with *Campylobacter jejuni* (a Gram-negative rod with a distinctive spiral shape) is the most common form of bacterial gastroenteritis in the UK, typically acquired from eating infected poultry. It causes diarrhoea and abdominal pain and may mimic an acute abdomen. Severe cases may resemble ulcerative colitis, with rectal bleeding and colorectal ulceration, causing diagnostic difficulty. The organism is fastidious in culture and may take several days to isolate in the laboratory. - Toxic dilatation and even disintegrative colitis have rarely been reported to occur. Treatment is generally supportive as the condition usually resolves without antibiotics. It is a notifiable disease.

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