

Asthma tied to later inflammatory bowel disease

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(HealthDay)—Asthma is associated with subsequent development of

inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), according to a study published in the September issue of *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*.

M. Ellen Kuenzig, Ph.D., from University of Calgary in Canada, and colleagues used health administrative data to examine the association between a diagnosis of asthma and Crohn's disease (3,087 patients) or [ulcerative colitis](#) (2,377 patients) compared to a diagnosis of asthma among persons without IBD (402,800 patients).

The researchers found that a diagnosis of asthma was associated with increased odds of incident Crohn's disease (adjusted odds ratio [OR], 1.45; 95 percent confidence interval [CI], 1.31 to 1.60). Age at diagnosis did not change the effect for Crohn's disease ($P > 0.42$). However, age at diagnosis did modify the effect for ulcerative colitis ($P = 0.0103$), with an adjusted OR of 1.49 (95 percent CI, 1.08 to 2.07) for individuals diagnosed at ≤ 16 years and an adjusted OR of 1.57 (95 percent CI, 1.31 to 1.89) among individuals diagnosed at >40 years. Among individuals diagnosed between ages 17 and 40 years, there was no association between asthma and ulcerative colitis (adjusted OR, 1.05; 95 percent CI, 0.86 to 1.26).

"In a population-based case-control study, we associated [asthma](#) with Crohn's disease, and with early- and late-onset ulcerative colitis," the authors write.

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