

the 1990s, the incidence of *S. flexneri* has increased in the United Kingdom [10].

There is a paucity of data on the epidemiology of *S. flexneri* in the United Kingdom. The only published study of *S. flexneri* in the United Kingdom was by Smith *et al.* [11], who reported the isolation of 10 *S. flexneri* strains from 1980 to 1989. The isolates were obtained from patients with acute colitis, and the authors concluded that *S. flexneri* was an important cause of acute colitis in the United Kingdom.

There is also a paucity of data on the epidemiology of *S. flexneri* in the United States. The only published study of *S. flexneri* in the United States was by Smith *et al.* [12], who reported the isolation of 10 *S. flexneri* strains from 1980 to 1989. The isolates were obtained from patients with acute colitis, and the authors concluded that *S. flexneri* was an important cause of acute colitis in the United States.

The purpose of this study was to determine the prevalence of *S. flexneri* in the United Kingdom and the United States, and to determine the risk factors for *S. flexneri* infection. The study was conducted in two phases: a cross-sectional study and a case-control study.

The cross-sectional study was conducted in two hospitals in the United Kingdom and two hospitals in the United States. The case-control study was conducted in the United Kingdom.

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