**STATISTICAL REVIEW**

This is a retrospective cohort and descriptive study, of greater than 20 year duration, which was undertaken to assess the frequency and extent to which histological inflammation is present in the absence of gross endoscopic findings amongst patients with long-standing ulcerative colitis and whether this observation is more prevalent amongst patients who later develop colon cancer or high grade dysplasia. We report the observed prevalence of histological inflammation and its associated 95% CI in the total cohort and the two groups; the group which later developed colon cancer/dysplasia and the group which did not.

These important observations result from a study the strength of which is its long standing duration and the relative limited variation associated with a single practice. Obviously, its retrospective nature places the usual number of anticipated limitations so that the conclusions must be viewed with caution and taken to generate a hypothesis. Due to the long standing duration required to develop such a study, a prospectively controlled examination of this question in order to confirm these observations is not feasible.