

## **Bacteria and Ulcers: What is the connection?**



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Learn all about ulcers: <http://www.digestivedisorders.org.uk/leaflets/ulcers.html>

- What forms an ulcer?
- What is the bacterium called that is thought to be a factor in ulcers?
- How does smoking affect ulcer growth?
- What are three ways to avoid ulcers?

**For many years it was thought that stress caused ulcers. It was such a part of medical thinking that even today ulcers are explained away with stress.**

Read this article about how Barry Marshall fought against common beliefs:  
<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/doubleissue/heroes/marshall.htm>

- What exactly did Barry Marshall do to prove that it was the bacteria and not the stress?
- What year did the NIH finally agree with Barry Marshall?
- What is the standard treatment now for stomach ulcers?

**Go to the Helicobacter Foundation to learn more about the bacteria:**

<http://www.helico.com/>

- How do most researchers believe that the bacterium is transmitted to new people?
- What are some defenses that the *H. pylori* has against our stomach acid and immune system?

**Click on the Diagnosis Tab**

- What are three ways to test for *H. pylori*?

**Click on the Diseases Tab**

- What other diseases are associated with this bacteria other than ulcers?