



Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Infection

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

The connection between inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and infections was established soon after the classification of both Crohn's disease (CD) and ulcerative colitis (UC). It is now clear that infections play an important role in pathogenesis, clinical course, and disease exacerbations during IBD. Moreover, the disease itself predisposes patients to various infections, and the infection risk rises even higher during therapy, as the most commonly used medications induce immunomodulation and inhibition. Hence, various drugs have been shown to expose patients to specific infectious agents (e.g., tuberculosis, herpes zoster). Furthermore, immunomodulation affects response to vaccinations, thus further increasing patients' exposure to infections. As a consequence, national and international guidelines support screening tests, pretreatment vaccinations, and prophylactic therapy for specific cases. Gathering new information on any of these subjects may lead to a better understanding of the mechanism and risk factors and may help in risk stratification and the development of new therapeutic and prophylactic approaches





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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