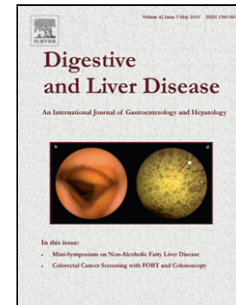


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## AZATHIOPRINE FOR REFRACTORY ULCERATIVE PROCTITIS: A RETROSPECTIVE MULTICENTER STUDY

**Short title:** azathioprine for refractory ulcerative proctitis

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### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Efficacy of azathioprine (AZA) in refractory ulcerative proctitis (UP) is unknown.

**Methods:** All patients treated with AZA for refractory UP in three referral centers between 2002 and 2012 were included. "Treatment success" in the long-term was defined as the absence of colectomy during follow-up, no need for anti-TNF during follow-up, no ongoing systemic steroids use, no adverse event leading to AZA withdrawal, and clinically quiescent disease at last follow-up.

**Results:** Of the 1279 adult patients with ulcerative colitis, 25 patients were treated with AZA for refractory UP (median disease duration 4.9 years). Of these, 4 had no short-term clinical assessment. Of the remaining 21, 4 were primary non responders to AZA, 7 discontinued AZA for adverse events and 10 showed clinical improvement. At the long-term assessment at last follow up after a median of 46 months,

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