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REVIEW ARTICLE

Prevention of postoperative recurrence of Crohn's disease

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KEYWORDS Crohn;	Abstract
Recurrence; Surgery; Postoperative	<i>Background:</i> Up to 75% of patients with Crohn's disease (CD) will have intestinal resection during their life. Most patients will, however, develop postoperative recurrence (endoscopic, clinical or surgical). Several medical and surgical strategies have been attempted to prevent postoperative recurrence. This review evaluates the efficacy of different drug regimens and surgical techniques in the prevention of clinical, endoscopic and surgical postoperative recurrence of CD.
	<i>Methods</i> : A literature search for randomized controlled trials on medical or surgical interven- tions was performed. The endpoints for efficacy were clinical, endoscopic and surgical recur- rence. Meta-analyses were performed in case two or more RCTs evaluated the same drug or surgical technique.
	<i>Results:</i> Mesalamine is more effective in preventing clinical recurrence than placebo $(P=0,012)$, as well as nitroimidazolic antibiotics at one year follow-up $(P<0.001)$ and thiopurines $(P=0.018)$. Nitroimidazolic antibiotics are also more effective than placebo in preventing endoscopic recurrence $(P=0.037)$, as well as thiopurines $(P=0.015)$ and infliximab $(P=0.006)$. Budenoside, probiotics, Interleukin-10 nor any of the different surgical procedures showed any significant difference compared to placebo in postoperative recurrence rates of CD. <i>Conclusion:</i> Among the different drug regimens and surgical techniques, only thiopurines and nitroimidazolic antibiotics are able to reduce postoperative clinical as well as endoscopic

Abbreviations: CD, Crohn's Disease; CDAI, Crohn's disease Activity Index; CI, Confidence Interval; IL-10, Interleukin-10; E–E, End-to-end; S–S, Side-to-side; S–E, Side-to-end; LoE, Level of Evidence; GoR, Grade of Recommendation.

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recurrence of CD. Mesalamine and infliximab also seem to be superior to placebo in preventing clinical recurrence and endoscopic recurrence, respectively. There is a paucity of trials evaluating long-term follow-up and prevention of surgical recurrence of CD.

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1. Introduction

Crohn's disease (CD) is a chronic inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) that can affect any part of the gastrointestinal tract. Most commonly it involves the terminal ileum and proximal colon. Genetic and environmental factors play a role in its etiology and pathogenesis. ^{1–3} The most common age at time of diagnosis is usually during late adolescence and early adulthood, although CD can appear at almost any age. Most patients are diagnosed before the age of 40 years. ^{4,5} Overall, the incidence of CD is approximately 5–10 per 100.000 per year with a prevalence of 50–100 per 100.000. ^{1,2,4}

The clinical course of CD is characterized by exacerbations and remissions. Eventually, recurrent inflammation can cause bowel strictures, fistulae (often perianal) or abscesses. Extraintestinal manifestations most commonly involve the skin, eyes, joints and biliary tract.^{2,4,5}

Medical management of CD is a rapidly evolving field, with many new biologicals under investigation. There are multiple medical treatments that proved to be effective in inducing clinical response and remission. The appropriate choice for medication not only depends on the activity, location and behavior of the disease, but is also influenced by the balance between drug potency and side effects; previous response to treatment and the presence of extraintestinal manifestations, or complications.^{4,6} Operative management can be effective in managing disease complications and improving quality of life.⁷ Eventually, around 75–80% of the patients will end up with a surgical resection.^{6,8–15} Surgery, however, does not eliminate the pathogenic process, as most patients develop recurrence of disease.^{8,11,13,16–18} Although a wide range of postoperative recurrence rates has been reported according to the definitions of recurrence (clinical, endoscopic or surgical recurrence), there is common agreement that recurrence rate steadily increases with time, reaching approximately 50% at 20 years after surgery.¹⁸ Clinical postoperative recurrence rates have been recorded between 17–55% at 5 years, 32%–76% at 10 years and 72% at 20 years, whereas postoperative surgical recurrence rates are 11%–32% at 5 years, 20%–44% at 10 years and 46%–55% at 20 years.¹⁴

Several studies have reported about prognostic factors for postoperative recurrence of CD. To date, only smoking is convincingly associated with a higher risk of recurrence. ^{12–15,19,20} The identification of such risk factors is very important to select patients who may benefit from pro-active preventive measures.

Several medical and surgical strategies have been attempted to prevent postoperative recurrence. Most studies, however, only evaluate clinical and/or endoscopic recurrence. Little is known about the incidence of surgical recurrence. Therefore, this review focuses on the efficacy of different medication regimes and surgical procedures in the Download English Version:

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