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TRANSMURAL HEALING IN CROHN'S DISEASE: BEYOND MURAL FINDINGS.

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To the Editor,

We read with great interest the article by Castiglione et al (1) reporting the rate of transmural

healing (TH) in Crohn's disease (CD) patients on maintenance treatment with anti-TNF agents.

After two years of biologic treatment, transmural healing (TH) was achieved in about 25% of

patients. Diagnostic criteria for TH were a bowel wall thickening (BWT) ≤3mm using bowel

sonography and a BWT\le 3mm without signs of hypervascularization using magnetic resonance

enterography. It should be noted that this study focused on mural findings rather than on

mesenteric signs of inflammation.

Herein, we report an interim analysis of our prospective tertiary center study aiming to evaluate

the correlation between endoscopic disease activity, fecal markers and Computed Tomography

Enterography (CTE) findings of inflammatory activity at diagnosis and one year after initiation

of immunosuppressive therapy. Consecutive patients with newly diagnosed CD were evaluated

by endoscopy, CTE and fecal calprotectin at diagnosis and 12 months after beginning

immunosuppression. Endoscopic severity was assessed using the simplified endoscopic score

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