

# LOCAL INJECTION OF INFLIXIMAB FOR THE TREATMENT OF PERIANAL FISTULAS IN CROHN'S DISEASE

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## BACKGROUND

- Perianal fistulization is a serious complication that affects up to 30% of patients with Crohn's disease (CD).
- It has been suggested that intrafistula injection of infliximab could have some potential healing benefit becoming an adjuvant therapy or an alternative when intravenous infusion is contraindicated.



## PURPOSE

We describe...

- Preparation
- Posology
- Effectiveness
- Tolerance



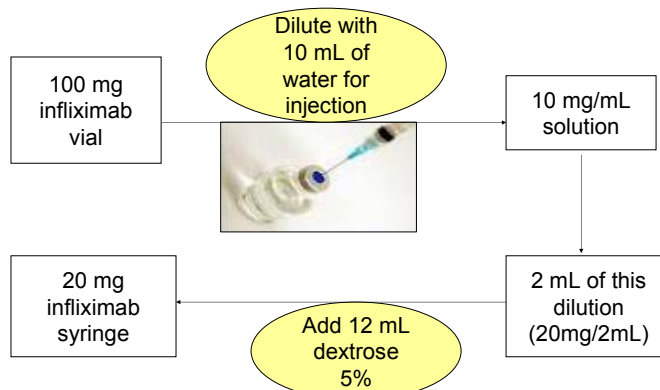
## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Our patients:

- 27 year-old woman and 30 years-old man diagnosed with CD with luminal disease control with certolizumab and adalimumab, respectively.
- Both with multiple perianal draining fistulas without abscesses.
- Both previously treated with infliximab. One experienced infusion reaction and the other one relapsed.
- The gastroenterology physician requested our service for the preparation of infliximab syringes to inject into each patient's fistula of the patients.

## RESULTS

- **Preparation:** In the pharmacy service, under aseptic conditions



- **Posology:**

- One syringe per fistula: at the internal and external orifices and along the tract.
- Scheduled at weeks 0, 4, 8, 12, 16 and 20.
- Under general anaesthesia
- Once informed consent was signed.

- **Effectiveness:**

- Assessed before the injection of the next dose.
- Remission: complete cessation of fistula drainage
- Response: > 50% reduction of the draining orifices.
- Results: after the third dose (week 8) both patients had achieved response, one without remission.

- **Tolerance:**

No adverse effects were reported.



## CONCLUSIONS

- Although cases reported are very scarce, local infliximab injections may help in fistula healing and have good tolerance even for patients not suitable for intravenous infusion.

Conflict of interest: None

