

RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL COMPARING ENDOSCOPIC BALLOON DILATION VERSUS ENDOSCOPIC STRICTUROTOMY FOR SHORT STRICTURES (< 3 CM) RELATED TO CROHN'S DISEASE (THE BEST-CD TRIAL) (NCT05521867)

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Presentation

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In this single-center randomized controlled trial of 69 Crohn's disease patients with short strictures, endoscopic stricturotomy significantly reduced clinical recurrence at one year compared to endoscopic balloon dilation (23.5% vs. 48.6%, OR 0.343, $p=0.026$) with similar safety profiles.

KEY POINTS

- Endoscopic stricturotomy demonstrated significantly lower re-intervention rates compared to balloon dilation (8.8% vs. 25.7%, OR 0.337, $p=0.025$) and fewer stricture-related hospitalizations (8.8% vs. 25.7%, OR 0.276, $p=0.023$).
- Technical success was similar between groups (94.1% for stricturotomy vs. 91.4% for balloon dilation), and adverse event rates did not differ significantly (14.7% vs. 25.7%, $p=0.45$).
- Surgery rates were numerically lower with stricturotomy (5.9% vs. 11.4%) but the difference was not statistically significant ($p=0.581$).
- Balloon dilation and longer stricture length were independent predictors of both clinical recurrence and re-intervention on multivariate analysis.
- The trial enrolled adults aged 18–65 with symptomatic fibrotic or mixed short strictures (<3 cm) accessible by standard endoscopy, including both de novo and anastomotic types.
- This is an interim analysis of the first randomized trial directly comparing these two techniques for short Crohn's disease strictures; the authors conclude stricturotomy may be a superior first-line endoscopic strategy in selected patients.

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