

ECCO Guidelines on the Prevention, Diagnosis, and Management of Infections in Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Henit Yanai

Standards and Guidelines

IBD

July 8, 2026

The 2026 ECCO guideline update addresses infection prevention and management in inflammatory bowel disease in the context of expanding therapeutic options including newer small molecules and advanced biologics.

KEY POINTS

- The update is warranted by the rapid expansion of the IBD therapeutic armamentarium, specifically the introduction of newer small molecules, advanced biologics, and evolving vaccination strategies since the 2021 guideline
- While older treatments including prolonged corticosteroids, purine analogues, and anti-TNF/ thiopurine combination therapy carried substantial immunosuppressive burden, new agents have distinct infection risk profiles requiring updated evidence-based guidance
- The guideline integrates recent data on risk stratification, viral, bacterial, mycobacterial, and vaccine-preventable infections, emphasising a preventative strategy tailored to contemporary IBD treatment
- Opportunistic infections can result in significant morbidity or mortality in immunocompromised IBD patients, making structured evidence-based approaches to infection prevention, diagnosis, and management indispensable for clinicians

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