

ADHERENCE TO AZATHIOPRINE AND MERCAPTOPURINE IN PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE

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Poster

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A primary care records study of 1159 IBD patients in the BNSSG region found 28% non-adherence to azathioprine or mercaptopurine based on pharmacy refill data.

KEY POINTS

- 324 of 1159 patients (28%) were non-adherent based on prescription refill data suggesting inadequate medication supply
- The study included patients from 78 GP surgeries representing 98% of the BNSSG Integrated Care Board, with 59% having Crohn's disease and 31% on combination therapy with a Biologic
- Non-adherence in this cohort appears comparable to or slightly better than the 50% average reported for chronic diseases generally, though pharmacy refill data may overestimate actual adherence
- The authors note that a substantial proportion of patients not adhering to treatment is likely associated with poorer outcomes
- This material is relevant for clinicians managing IBD patients on thiopurine therapy and those interested in medication adherence patterns in real-world primary care settings

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