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Summary

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND THERAPEUTIC MANAGEMENT OF INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE USING DATA FROM THE FRENCH NATIONAL HEALTH DATA SYSTEM 2014- 2021 – THE EPITHERA STUDY

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A French national database study of 274,694 IBD patients between 2014 and 2021 found increasing prevalence, slightly decreasing incidence, and evolving treatment patterns with greater use of advanced therapies and class-switching in second-line management.

KEY POINTS

- IBD prevalence in France increased from 2014 to 2021: Crohn disease rose from 193.5 to 234.4 per 100,000 person-years and ulcerative colitis from 173.1 to 229.2 per 100,000 person-years, while incidence slightly decreased for both conditions.
- Among Crohn disease patients with at least one year of follow-up, 42.3% of prevalent and 50.8% of incident patients were exposed to at least one biologic, with 96.9% receiving anti-TNF as first-line therapy.
- Among ulcerative colitis patients with at least one year of follow-up, 20.3% of prevalent and 23.5% of incident patients were exposed to at least one biologic, with 94.0% receiving anti-TNF as first-line therapy.
- Second-line treatment after anti-TNF switch showed a marked shift away from anti-TNF agents (from 92.8% to 36.2% in Crohn disease, from 93.8% to 30.0% in ulcerative colitis between 2014 and 2020) toward anti-integrins and anti-interleukins.
- This real-world evidence from French national health databases may inform clinicians and policymakers about contemporary IBD epidemiology and treatment utilization patterns in a developed healthcare system.

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