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Summary

PROPHYLAXIS OF POST-OPERATIVE RELAPSE IN PATIENTS WITH CROHN'S DISEASE; INDICATIONS AND PRACTICE

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A prospective study of 216 Crohn's disease patients undergoing intestinal resection found that post-operative prophylaxis did not significantly reduce relapse rates in either high-risk or low-risk patients, questioning current risk stratification and treatment approaches.

KEY POINTS

- Only 61% of high-risk patients received post-operative prophylaxis as recommended, while 66% of low-risk patients received prophylaxis despite low risk, indicating poor adherence to guidelines.
- In high-risk patients, relapse occurred in 67% receiving prophylaxis versus 53% not receiving it, with no statistically significant difference (p=0.218).
- In low-risk patients, relapse occurred in 66% receiving prophylaxis versus 47% not receiving it, also without statistically significant difference (p=0.067).
- The authors conclude these findings question both the predictive capacity of current risk stratification systems and the efficacy of currently used medications for post-operative prophylaxis in Crohn's disease.
- This study would be relevant to gastroenterologists managing post-operative Crohn's disease patients and those developing treatment guidelines.

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