

ANTI-TNF AGENTS AND VEDOLIZUMAB HAVE SIMILAR SAFETY AS FIRST-LINE BIOLOGIC TREATMENT OF ELDERLY PATIENTS WITH ULCERATIVE COLITIS

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A single-center retrospective study of 62 ulcerative colitis patients aged 60 years or older found similar safety profiles and treatment persistence between anti-TNF agents and vedolizumab as first-line biologic therapy over 52 weeks.

KEY POINTS

- At 52 weeks, 6 of 62 patients experienced adverse events: 4 infections (1 severe pneumonia with anti-TNF, 2 CMV infections with vedolizumab, 1 fatal sepsis in a vedolizumab-treated patient with metastatic disease), 1 anaphylaxis with infliximab, and 1 skin rash with vedolizumab
- No de-novo or recurrent malignancies were observed during the 52-week follow-up period
- Median treatment persistence was similar between anti-TNF (32.00 weeks) and vedolizumab (45.07 weeks) with no statistically significant difference ($p=0.324$)
- Hospitalization rates were comparable between anti-TNF and vedolizumab groups (39.4% vs 17.2%, $p=0.230$)
- The authors concluded that both therapies appear equally safe in elderly UC patients and suggest that other factors may guide therapy selection, noting that larger prospective studies are needed

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