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Summary

Improving patient outcomes through clinical trial innovations

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UEG Week Barcelona 2026 | Presentation

IBD

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The speaker presented methods to improve efficiency of IBD clinical trials using Bayesian statistics, focusing on perianal fistulizing Crohn's disease as a model for areas with unmet need and limited placebo-controlled trial data.

KEY POINTS

- The speaker reported conducting the first Bayesian prior elicitation exercise in IBD, establishing priors for all licensed mechanisms of action in Crohn's disease with focus on fistula remission rate at one year as the outcome measure.
- High levels of confidence were identified around the efficacy of upadacitinib in perianal fistulizing Crohn's disease, which the speaker stated is worthy of a dedicated clinical trial.
- The speaker received funding from the IBD group to collaborate with Professor Powell and Professor Jerath to develop a Bayesian framework for an upcoming upadacitinib trial in perianal Crohn's disease.
- The speaker stated that per-hospital, per-patient recruitment in IBD trials is at an all-time low and that trial costs are becoming exponentially higher, creating challenges for traditional trial designs.
- All data from the prior elicitation work has been made freely available for use by any group designing perianal Crohn's disease trials, according to the speaker.
- The speaker advocated for master protocol platform trials and improved training for clinical trialists as ways to accelerate translation and deliver more efficient IBD trials in the future.

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