

Mistakes in opportunistic infections and vaccinations in IBD and how to avoid them

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Mistakes In Articles

IBD

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This material discusses errors to avoid when managing the risk of opportunistic infections in inflammatory bowel disease patients treated with immunosuppressive agents, based on updated 2021 ECCO guidelines and clinical experience.

KEY POINTS

- The use of new immunosuppressive agents, including biologic agents and small molecules, has revolutionised therapeutic management of inflammatory bowel disease but may expose patients to opportunistic infections that can be challenging to recognise.
- Opportunistic infections are important due to their association with morbidity or mortality and the challenges regarding effective treatment.
- New evidence on opportunistic infections and vaccination strategies for immunosuppressed IBD patients led to updated European Crohn's and Colitis Organization guidelines in 2021.
- The discussion is based on available evidence and clinical experience to help clinicians avoid errors in managing infection risk.

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