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Summary

CHARACTERISTICS OF LEISHMANIA INFECTION IN PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE

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UEG Week Vienna 2024 Poster

IBD

October 13, 2024

A multicenter Spanish study of 73 IBD patients who developed Leishmania infection found that 97% were on anti-TNF therapy, with predominantly cutaneous manifestations (85%) but visceral involvement in 12%.

KEY POINTS

- Among 73 IBD patients (68.5% Crohn's disease, 31.5% ulcerative colitis) who developed Leishmania infection, 94.5% were on immunosuppressive or biologic treatment in the prior 6 months, with 97% receiving anti-TNF agents.
- Cutaneous involvement occurred in 85% of cases, visceral involvement in 12%, with upper limbs (35.6%) and lower limbs (30.1%) the most common sites of skin lesions.
- Treatment included systemic amphotericin (60.3%) and pentavalent antimonials (35.4%), with resolution at one month in 45.2% and at one year in 95.3%; recurrence occurred in 11%.
- Following Leishmania infection, IBD treatment was stopped temporarily in 38.4% and definitively in 27.4%, with switches to ustekinumab (36.8%), vedolizumab (15.8%), or anti-TNF (10.6%).
- This material is most relevant for gastroenterologists managing IBD patients in Mediterranean or other Leishmania-endemic regions.

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