

TRANSMURAL CROSS-SECTIONAL FINDINGS AND BOWEL DAMAGE ASSESSMENT IN PRECLINICAL CROHN'S DISEASE: A CASE-CONTROL STUDY

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Poster

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Asymptomatic patients with preclinical Crohn's disease detected during colorectal cancer screening show similar MRI findings and bowel damage to patients with new-onset symptomatic disease.

KEY POINTS

- In 19 preclinical CD patients compared to 19 matched symptomatic controls, the Lémann Index showed no significant difference overall ($p=0.95$), though preclinical cases had higher colonic/rectum scores ($p=0.014$)
- The most frequent MRI findings in preclinical CD were contrast enhancement and wall thickening (79% each), oedema (42%), lymphadenopathy (68%), and increased vascularity (42%)
- Among patients with strictures, symptomatic controls showed higher rates of prestenotic dilation (100% vs 0%, $p=0.01$) than preclinical cases
- Preclinical CD patients who subsequently developed symptoms showed no difference in Lémann Index compared to those who remained asymptomatic (median 1.0 vs 1.1, $p=0.71$)
- The authors recommend close monitoring of asymptomatic patients with incidental CD findings based on the similar degree of bowel damage observed

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