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Summary

ACUTE SEVERE ULCERATIVE COLITIS: ULCERATIVE COLITIS VERSUS CROHN'S DISEASE

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A 10-year retrospective study of 71 patients found that severe acute ulcerative colitis in Crohn's disease showed better first-line corticosteroid response than in ulcerative colitis, but overall complications and surgical rates were similar between both inflammatory bowel disease types.

KEY POINTS

- Patients with Crohn's disease had significantly better response to first-line corticosteroid treatment (p=0.02) and required second-line therapy less often (p=0.017) compared to ulcerative colitis patients.
- Crohn's disease patients developed severe acute ulcerative colitis at a younger mean age (30.84 vs 37.33 years, p=0.02) and had higher mean CRP levels at diagnosis (121 vs 74.49 mg/l, p=0.004).
- Surgical treatment was required in 26.7% of patients overall with no difference between disease types (p=0.53), and surgery was significantly associated with early disease occurrence, second-line treatment need, and persistent bloody stools at follow-up.
- Complication rates including colectasia, perforation, digestive bleeding, and postoperative complications showed no significant differences between ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease groups.
- This study is relevant for gastroenterologists managing severe acute presentations of colonic inflammatory bowel disease.

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