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Summary

IL-13RA2 EXPRESSION AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH FIBROSIS MARKERS IN ANTI-TNF-REFRACTORY CROHN'S DISEASE

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IL-13 receptor alpha 2 is selectively overexpressed in inflamed ileum of anti-TNF-refractory Crohn's disease patients and correlates strongly with fibrotic markers, suggesting a potential role in intestinal fibrosis.

KEY POINTS

- In surgical samples from 27 anti-TNF-refractory Crohn's disease patients, IL-13Rα2 was significantly overexpressed in inflamed ileal tissue compared to healthy ileum ($p<0.05$), with no significant difference observed in colonic tissue.
- IL-13Rα2 expression strongly correlated with the fibrotic markers ACTA2 ($r=0.84$, $p=0.001$) and fibronectin FN1 ($r=0.99$, $p<0.0001$) in ileal tissue, but did not correlate with pro-inflammatory markers IL1B or TNF.
- In apical-out human intestinal organoids, pro-inflammatory and pro-fibrotic stimulation with TNFα, IL-1β and TGF-β reduced villin expression, induced collagen and fibronectin, and upregulated both IL-13 receptor subtypes.
- Immunohistochemistry demonstrated IL-13Rα2 staining in epithelial cells, immune cells and subepithelial myofibroblasts in Crohn's ileum.
- This research may be most relevant to clinicians managing fibrostenotic Crohn's disease and investigators studying mechanisms of anti-TNF resistance and intestinal fibrosis.

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