

STUDY OF ACTIVE SWITCHING FROM TOFACITINIB TO USTEKINUMAB IN PATIENTS WITH ULCERATIVE COLITIS

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A four-patient case series reports successful maintenance of ulcerative colitis remission after active switching from tofacitinib to ustekinumab, motivated by malignancy or pregnancy planning.

KEY POINTS

- All four patients who actively switched from tofacitinib to ustekinumab maintained remission over a median 14-month follow-up period (range 4-23 months), with no relapses or ustekinumab-related adverse events.
- Three patients switched due to malignant disease and one due to desire to become pregnant; tofacitinib had been used for approximately 2 years in second- to fifth-line settings before the switch.
- All patients were maintained on 5-aminosalicylic acid therapy alone after the switch, with no azathioprine use.
- The rationale for switching relates to tofacitinib's contraindication in pregnancy and association with higher rates of herpes zoster and malignancy compared with biologics, plus overlapping cytokine suppression between tofacitinib and ustekinumab via the JAK pathway.
- This small case series may inform gastroenterologists managing ulcerative colitis patients who require tofacitinib discontinuation for safety or reproductive reasons.

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