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Summary

PREVALENCE OF SURGERY IN PATIENTS WITH CROHN'S DISEASE IN AUSTRIA – A NATIONWIDE RETROSPECTIVE STUDY FROM 2011 THROUGH 2019

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A retrospective analysis of Austrian health insurance data from 2011 through 2019 found that population-adjusted intestinal surgery rates for Crohn's disease remained stable while perianal fistula surgery rates increased significantly by 48.8%.

KEY POINTS

- During 2011-2019, 4,812 intestinal operations and 4,802 perianal fistula operations were performed in CD patients covered by Austrian health insurance funds representing 98% of the population.
- When adjusted for population growth, intestinal surgery rates remained essentially stable with only a 1.9% increase, but perianal fistula surgery rates increased significantly by 48.8%.
- The prevalence of perianal fistula operations rose from 5.04 per 100,000 in 2011 to 7.51 per 100,000 in 2019.
- The authors conclude that despite novel therapies, intestinal surgery needs remained stable while perianal fistula surgery needs increased, though they note the unknown prevalence of CD in Austria limits interpretation.
- This real-world data analysis may interest gastroenterologists and health services researchers evaluating surgical trends in inflammatory bowel disease management.

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