Adult outpatients with moderate to severe luminal Crohn’s disease

**Moderate to luminal Crohn’s disease** defined as:
- CDAI score of 220 or higher
- High risk of adverse disease-related complications including surgery, hospitalization, and disability based on a combination of structural damage, inflammatory burden, and impact of quality of life

Suggest using biologic agents (with or without immunomodulators) **EARLY**, rather than delaying their use until after failure of mesalamine and/or corticosteroids

(Conditional recommendation, low quality of evidence)

**For Induction and maintenance of remission:**
- Recommends any of the following over no treatment:
  - infliximab, adalimumab, certolizumab pegol (Strong recommendation, moderate quality of evidence for ifx/ada and low quality for certolizumab pegol)
  - vedolizumab (Conditional recommendation, low quality of evidence for induction, moderate quality of evidence for maintenance)
  - ustekinumab (Strong recommendation, moderate quality of evidence)

(Conditional recommendation, low quality of evidence for induction, moderate quality of evidence for maintenance)

Suggest AGAINST the use of natalizumab over no treatment

(Strong recommendation, moderate quality of evidence)

Suggest using infliximab, adalimumab or ustekinumab rather than certolizumab pegol for induction of remission

(Strong recommendation, moderate quality of evidence)

Suggest using vedolizumab rather than certolizumab pegol for induction of remission

(Conditional recommendation, low quality of evidence)

Biologic-naïve patients; first-line therapy

Prior failure of infliximab, particularly primary non-response

- Suggest using ustekinumab for induction of remission
  (Strong recommendation, moderate quality of evidence)

- Suggest using vedolizumab for induction of remission
  (Conditional recommendation, low quality of evidence)

Prior failure of infliximab, particularly secondary non-response

- Suggest using ustekinumab for induction of remission
  (Strong recommendation, moderate quality of evidence)

- Suggest using vedolizumab for induction of remission
  (Conditional recommendation, low quality of evidence)

Comment: if adalimumab was the first line drug utilized there is indirect evidence to suggest using infliximab as a second line agent

**Corticosteroids and Mesalamine**

Suggests the use of corticosteroids over no treatment for induction of remission

(Conditional recommendation, moderate quality of evidence)

Recommends AGAINST the use of corticosteroids over no treatment for maintenance of remission

(Strong recommendation, moderate quality of evidence)

Recommends AGAINST use of 5-ASA or sulfasalazine for induction or maintenance of remission

(Strong recommendation, moderate quality of evidence)

**Thiopurines and Methotrexate**

Suggest AGAINST using thiopurine monotherapy for inducing remission in patients with active disease

(Conditional recommendation, very low quality of evidence)

Suggest using thiopurine monotherapy, rather than no treatment, for maintaining remission in patients with quiescent disease

(Conditional recommendation, moderate quality of evidence)

Suggest using subcutaneous or intramuscular methotrexate over no treatment for inducing and maintaining remission

(Conditional recommendation, low quality of evidence)

Suggest AGAINST using oral methotrexate monotherapy for inducing or maintaining remission

(Conditional recommendation, low quality of evidence)

Recommends using biologic monotherapy rather than thiopurine monotherapy for inducing remission in patients with active disease

(Strong recommendation, moderate quality of evidence)
Figure 2. Clinical decision support tool for pharmacological management of adult outpatients with fistulizing Crohn’s disease.

Adult outpatients with fistulizing Crohn’s disease

Adult outpatients with active perianal disease without perianal abscess

Biologic therapy

Antibiotics

For Induction and maintenance of remission:
Recommends infliximab for induction and maintenance of remission
(Strong recommendation, moderate quality of evidence)
Suggests the use of adalimumab, ustekinumab or vedolizumab
(Conditional recommendation, low quality of evidence)
Comment: evidence suggest certolizumab pegol may not be effective for induction of fistula remission

Suggests AGAINST the use of antibiotics alone over no treatment
(Conditional recommendation, low quality of evidence)

Recommends the use of biologic agents in combination with an antibiotic over a biologic drug alone for the induction of fistula remission
(Strong recommendation, moderate quality of evidence)

Figure 1: Comment: Given evidence of harm in post marketing data from progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) and the availability of other drugs, the AGA suggests against the use of natalizumab. Patients who are JC virus antibody negative who put a high value on the potential benefits and lower value on PML risk and who will adhere to ongoing monitoring for JC virus positivity, may consider using natalizumab