

Scientific research process

1- What did this study explore?

This study explored the consensual definitions of anoperineal lesions of Crohn's disease (APLOC) and interobserver agreement on the diagnosis of these lesions between experts.

2- How did the authors perform all experiments?

A formal consensus method with a two-round vote was used by eight proctologists from the Société Nationale Française de Colo Proctologie (SNFCP) research group and one academic dermatologist. The interobserver diagnosis agreement of these lesions was then assessed using photos of APLOC and a standardised questionnaire.

3- How did the authors process all experimental data?

Quantitative and qualitative data were expressed as averages and proportions. Statistical analysis was performed with IBM SPSS Statistic for Windows® Version 20.0. The interobserver agreement on the diagnosis of ulceration, anal skin tag, fistula, anoperineal scar and perianal skin lesions was measured using Fleiss's kappa coefficient with 95% confidence intervals. The interpretation of Fleiss's kappa values was performed according to the Landis and Koch scale^[9] The interobserver agreement for other items was estimated using descriptive statistics, and the threshold of 80% was arbitrarily chosen to define the agreement.

4- How did the authors deal with the pre-study hypothesis?

Terms used in literature to evaluate visible APLOC do not include precise definitions or reference to definitions. Most of the expert's reports from photos agreed with the main diagnosis but their verbatim reporting contained substantial variation. The authors established the missing consensual definitions and showed that experts have substantial interobserver agreement when using them to diagnose and describe fistulae, ulcerations, activity of external openings and erythema from photos.



5 What are the novel findings of this study?

We established the missing consensual definitions and showed that experts have substantial interobserver agreement when using them to diagnose and describe ulcerations, fistulae, activity of external openings and erythema from photos.

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