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Prospective Study

Genetic polymorphisms predict response to anti-TNF treatment in Crohn's disease

Reviewer remarks and responses:

Reviewer 00057983 remarks:

1. The INTRODUCTION part should be abbreviated.

The introduction has been shortened by 133 words.

2. Since Crohn's disease is a transmural chronic inflammatory disease of alimentary tract, please explain why the doctors do not use colonoscopic imaging and even biopsy result to evaluate the effectiveness after treatment.

We have added to the discussion: The clinical allocation into groups was performed by experienced clinicians (SG,WGD), who deal with this population on a daily basis. The assessment was made on the basis of the patient history, physical exam, patient follow up , lab-work and endoscopy/pathology when clinically indicated. This study assessed *non-response* (no improvement whatsoever) vs *ever-response*. Since this was not a formal clinical trial and since only a quarter of patients had colonic disease, colonoscopy was not performed at defined intervals, but at the discretion of the treating physician. This could be a source of bias, but we believe that clinical assessments based on the above criteria are valid.

Editor remarks:

1. Postcode – **has been added as requested.**
2. Format of results - **changed all through the article (i.e. $P = 0.049$, OR = 2.88, 95%CI: 1.01-8.22) - no change in the numbers.**
3. Add clinical trial registration statement – N/A No intervention was performed, this does not therefore fulfill the requirements of a clinical trial.

4. Add informed consent statement – **added** “All participants signed an informed consent statement as specified by the University of Louisville Institutional Review Board – Human Subjects Protection Program Office – No 97.0361”
5. Figure 1 – **provided in PPT format.**
6. Audio core tip – **attached.**