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What is the best way to manage screening for infections and vaccination of inflammatory bowel disease patients?

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ANSWERS TO REVIEWERS' COMMENTS:

REF_1: The manuscript "Screening and prophylaxis for infectious diseases prior to biological therapy in inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) patients: what we know and what we would like to know" by Andrisani G. et al attempt to systemize the current knowledge of screening and prevention for infectious diseases prior the initiation biological treatment in patients with IBD. However, several amendments could be considered.

1: The authors should clearly state if all IBD patients prior biological therapy should be screened for all mentioned in the review pathogens or are there any mandatory and optional ways of screening.

We have emphasized the screening suggestions both in the text and in Table 1.

2: There is lack of information about risk factors among IBD patients for mentioned pathogens, the weakness of several diagnostic tools in patients on immunosuppressive therapy and alterations in response to vaccination in IBD patients.

Risk factors have been discussed.

3: The great facilitation would be to present core tips about available diagnostics and prevention strategies for all mentioned infectious disease prior biological therapy in the table and to point out queries.

Core tips have been added.

4: The references should be shortened. The authors should precisely select the most important publications.

References have been shortened.

REF_2 A comprehensive review paper. Comments;

1. please highlight better the clinical importance of the different topics, e.g. 1.4-1.6 are in the clinic much less relevant than the first three bacteria discussed, same is true for the viral part. 2

Paragraphs 1.4-1.6 have been deleted.

2. . Authors should insert a Table summarizing the outcome and vaccination studies in IBDs for both bacteria and viral agents

A table concerning vaccinations has been added

AUTHORS:

3. 3. Authors should add a Table with "take home messages" summarizing the main messages for the clinical practice

Two tables summarizing the main messages have been added