



UTAH SOCIETY OF
HEALTH-SYSTEM PHARMACISTS

Fall CE Series
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What's the Scoop on the Poop?

Inflammatory Bowel Disease Update

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Disclosure

- Relevant Financial Conflicts of Interest
 - CE Presenter, Sabrina Sherwood
 - None
 - CE Mentor, Kami Roake
 - None

Off-Label Use of Medications

- None



Abbreviations

- 5-ASA: Aminosalicylates
- 6-MP: 6-mercaptopurine
- AGA: American Gastroenterological Association
- Anti-IL: Anti-interleukin
- BID: Twice daily
- CBC: Complete blood cell count
- CDC: Centers for Disease Control
- CRP: C-reactive protein
- ESR: Erythrocyte sedimentation rate
- HBV: Hepatitis B Virus
- Hs-CRP: High-sensitivity C-reactive protein
- IBD: Inflammatory bowel disease
- IBS: Irritable bowel syndrome
- IL: Interleukin
- JAK: Janus kinase
- LFT: Liver function test
- OR: Odds ratio
- PFT: Pulmonary function test
- PML: Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy
- STD: Standard deviation
- TB: Tuberculosis
- TNF- α : Tumor necrosis factor alpha
- UC: Ulcerative colitis
- WBC: White blood cell



Pharmacist Learning Objectives

- Analyze expert guidelines for Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis management
- Recall the pharmacology of agents used in IBD therapy management
- Evaluate supportive evidence for IBD therapy management recommendations
- Construct a therapeutic regimen and monitoring plan for a patient with IBD



Technician Learning Objectives

- Outline the signs and symptoms of IBD
- Identify both the brand, generic, and biosimilar names for commonly used IBD medications
- Demonstrate how to assist patients in gaining accessibility to and financial assistance for IBD medications

IBD
Background

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graph LR; A[IBD Background] --> B[IBD Management Guidelines]; B --> C[Evidence Evaluation]; C --> D[Summary and Review]
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IBD
Management
Guidelines

Evidence
Evaluation

Summary
and Review

Patient Case

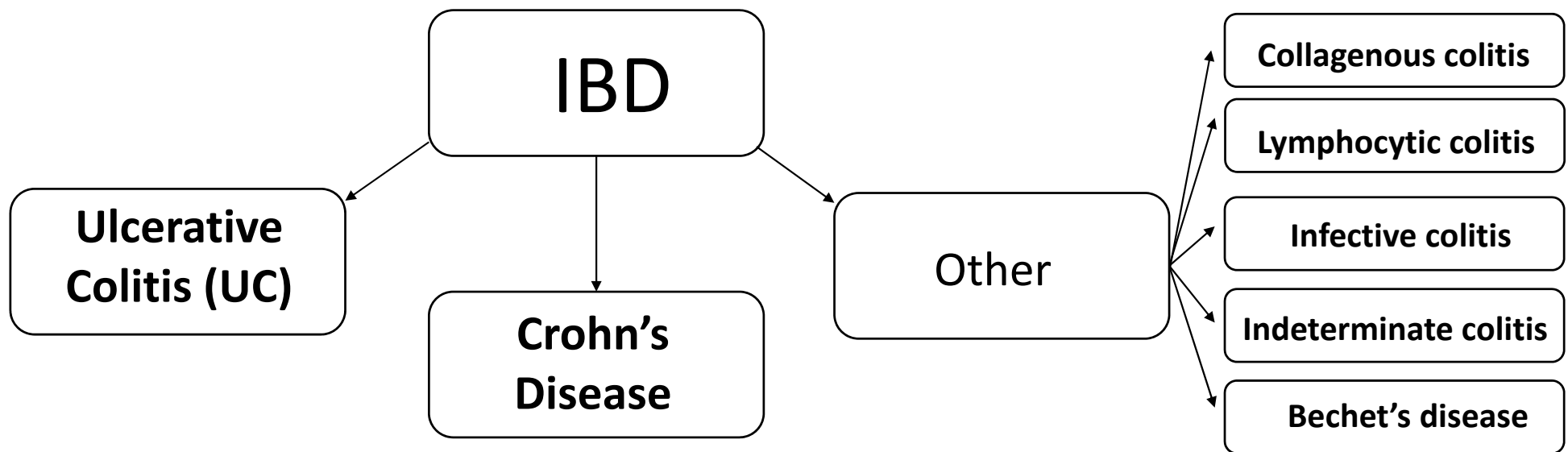
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His laboratory work is notable for the following:

Hemoglobin	Platelets	CRP	Temperature
9.0 g/dL	700 cells/mm ³	17 mmol/L	100.1° Fahrenheit

Inflammatory Bowel Disease

- Group of chronic disorders that cause inflammation or ulceration in large and small intestines



Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)	Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)
No intestinal inflammation, ulcers, or bowel damage	Associated with inflammation, ulcers, and bowel damage
Laboratory markers and intestinal pathology commonly normal	Laboratory markers and intestinal pathology abnormal with disease flare
Characterized by abdominal pain, discomfort, disturbed defecation	Commonly characterized by blood in stool, joint pain, weight loss, or dermatologic problems

Bernstein CN, Fried M, Krabshuis JH, et al. World Gastroenterology Organization Practice Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of IBD in 2010. *Inflamm Bowel Dis.* 2010 Jan;16(1):112-24.

IBD Epidemiology

- Affects 1 million people in the United States
- Prevalence
 - Ulcerative colitis
 - 238 cases per 100,000 adults
 - Crohn's disease
 - 201 cases per 100,000 adults
- Incidence is higher in higher socioeconomic classes
 - Hygiene hypothesis

IBD Epidemiology Continued

- **Sex**

- Ulcerative colitis is more common in males
- Crohn's disease is more common in females

- **Ethnicity**

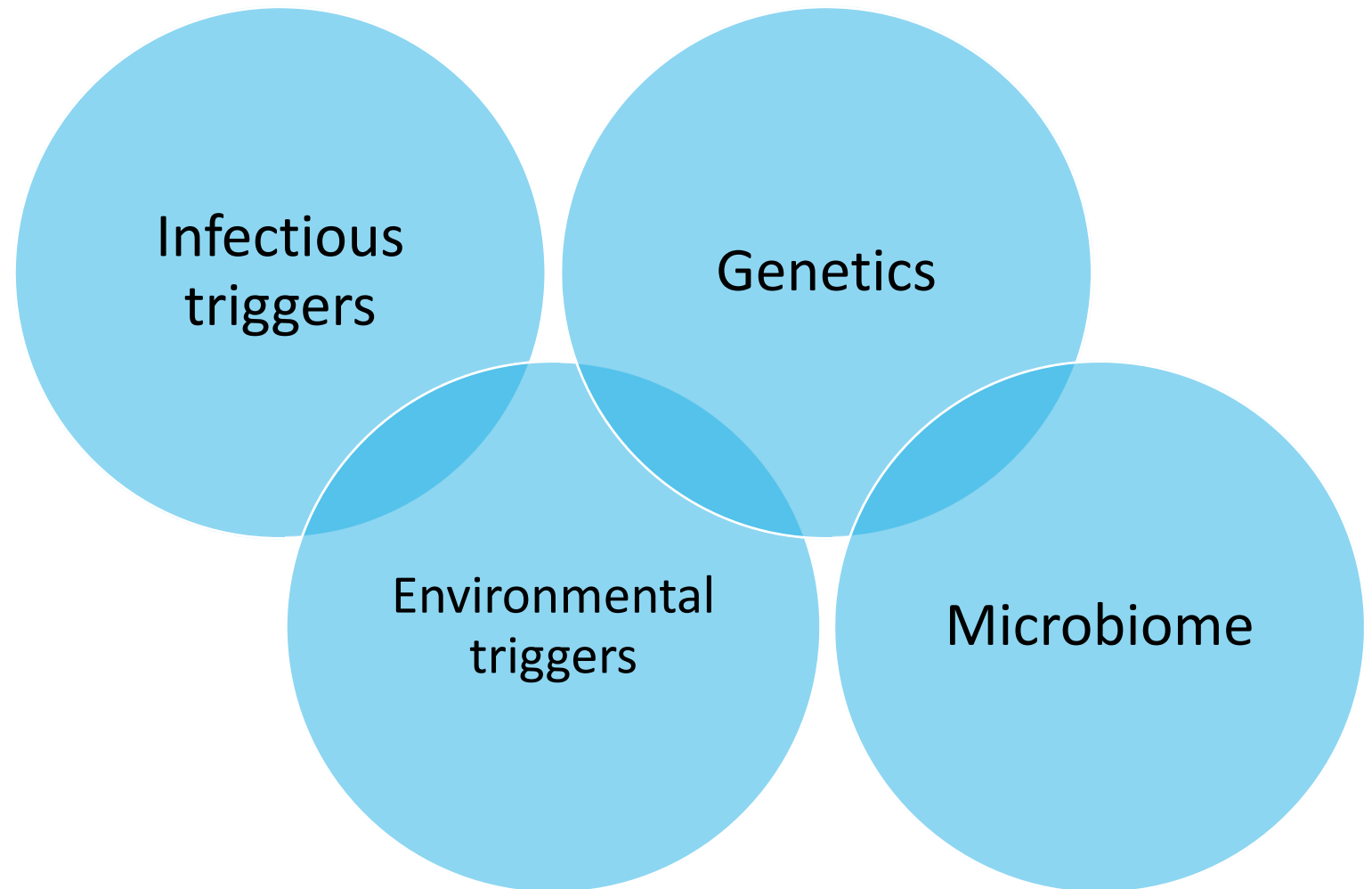
- Most common in Caucasians

- **Environmental**

- Ulcerative colitis is more common among ex-smokers and nonsmokers
- Crohn's disease is more common among smokers



Etiology



The Burden of IBD Annually



100,000 hospitalizations



> 700,000 physician visits

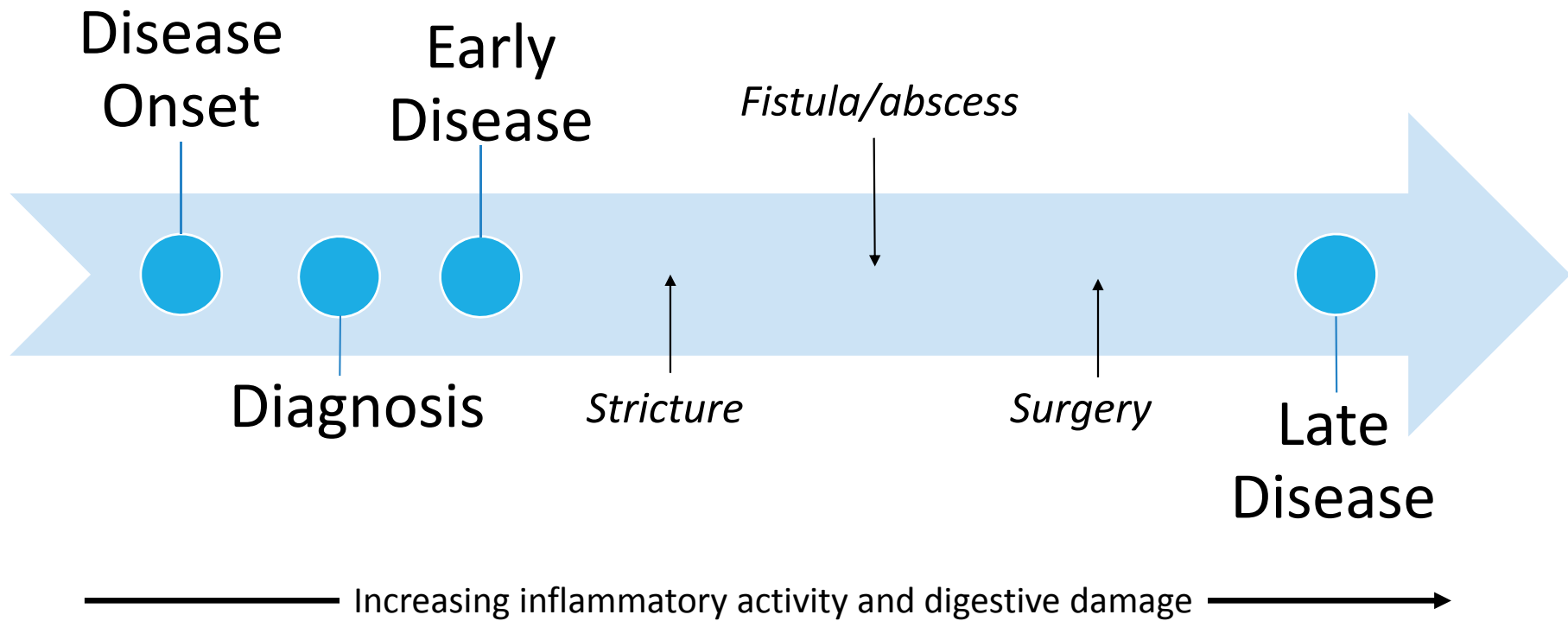


\$4,000,000,000 in direct costs

Consequences of Untreated Disease



Progression of Disease (IBD)



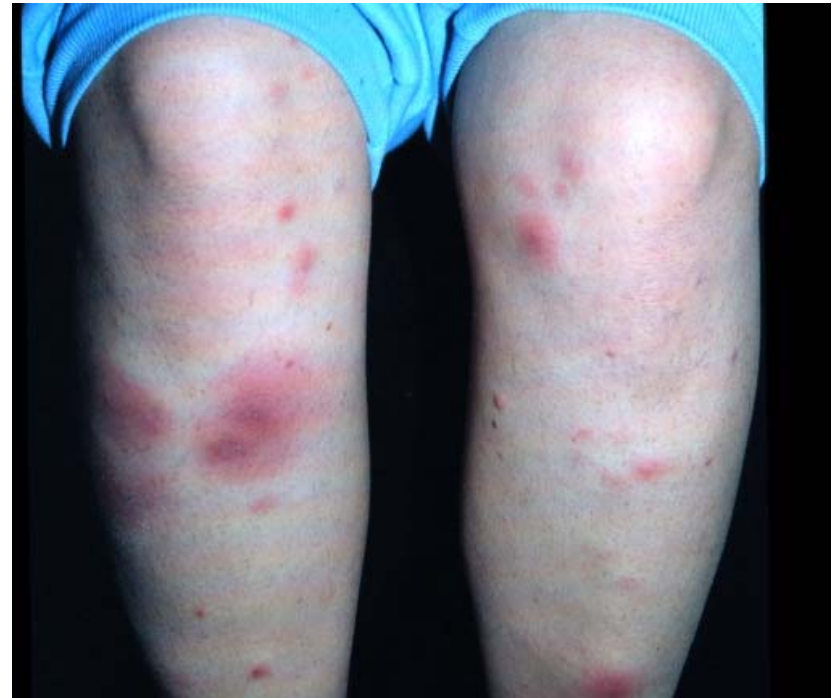
Symptoms of IBD

- Diarrhea
 - Stool may contain blood or mucus
 - Incontinence
 - Nocturnal awakenings
- Constipation
- Pain or rectal bleeding with bowel movement
- Severe bowel movement urgency
- Tenesmus



Signs and Symptoms Continued

- Fever
- Weight loss
- Loss of appetite
- Fatigue
- Extra-intestinal manifestations
 - Dermatologic disease
 - Ocular disease
 - Arthralgia



Erythema Nodosum

Laboratory Findings

Routine testing in IBD patients or those with concerning symptoms

Common findings in a disease flare

<p>Complete Blood Count</p>	<p>↑ Platelets ↑ WBC ↓ Hemoglobin</p>
<p>Inflammatory markers</p>	<p>↑ ESR ↑ CRP/hs-CRP</p>
<p>Stool examination</p>	<p>Infectious diseases negative ↑ Calprotectin</p>
<p>Indicators for malabsorption</p>	<p>↓ Albumin ↓ Vitamin D ↓ Vitamin B12</p>

Clinical Characteristics

Characteristics	Crohn's Disease	Ulcerative Colitis
Location of bowel involvement	Mouth to anus	Rectum/Colon
Inflammation pattern	Patchy	Continuous
Depth of disease	Submucosa or deeper	Superficial mucosa
Histology	Granulomas	Crypt abscesses
Stricture, fistula, perforation	Yes	No
Colorectal cancer	Uncommon	Yes

Patient Case

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His laboratory work is notable for the following:

Hemoglobin	Platelets	CRP	Temperature
9.0 g/dL	700 cells/mm ³	17 mmol/L	100.1 ^o Fahrenheit

This patient is referred to a gastroenterologist. Which clinical findings would you expect to find upon further workup?

- A. Colonoscopy will show no inflammation, pathology will be normal, markers of malabsorption will be normal
- B. Colonoscopy will show inflammation, pathology will be normal, markers of malabsorption will be normal
- C. Colonoscopy will show inflammation, pathology will show evidence of disease, fecal calprotectin will be elevated, markers of malabsorption will be low
- D. Colonoscopy will show no inflammation, infectious workup will be positive for CMV colitis

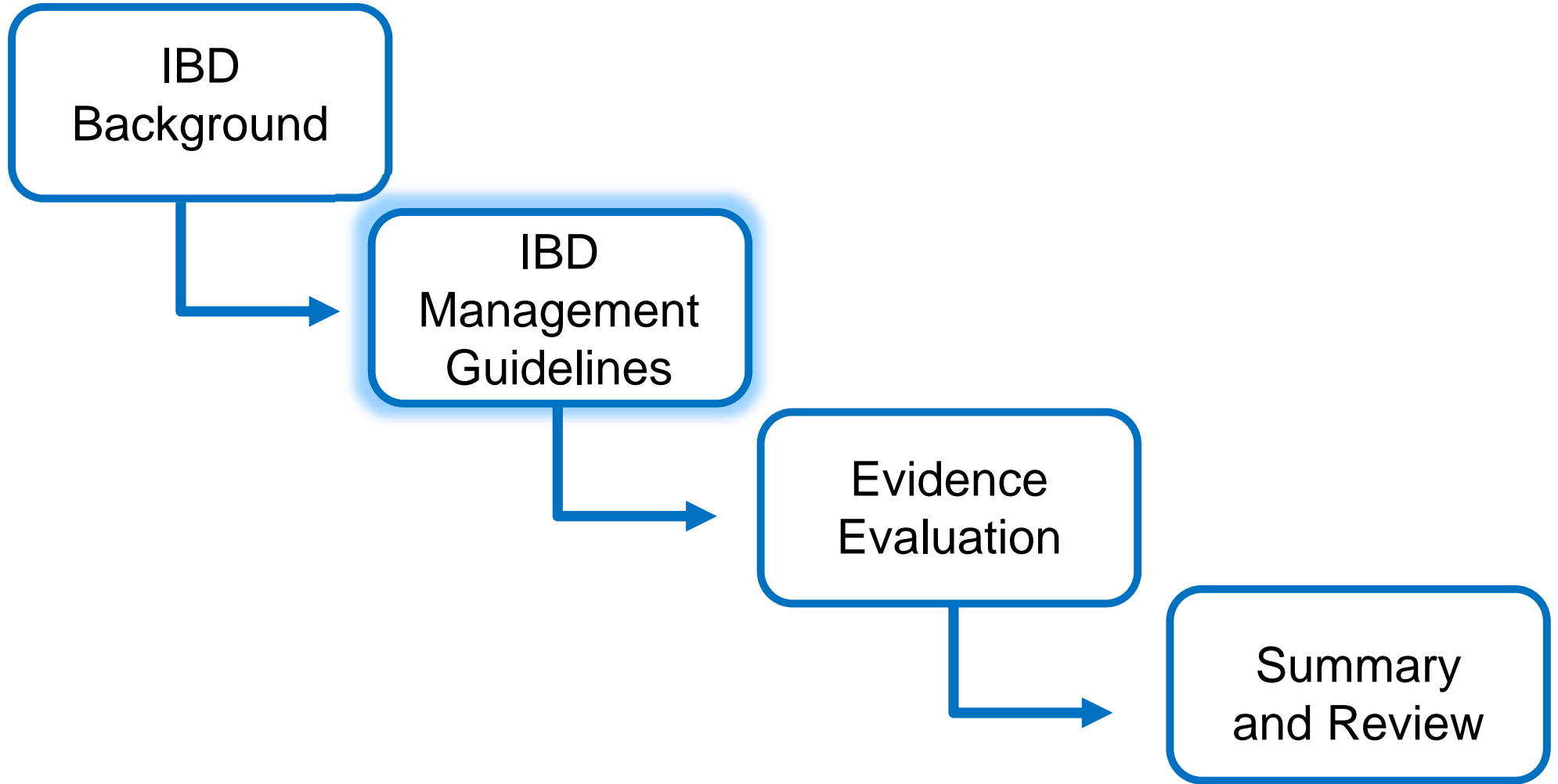
Which signs and symptoms does KS exhibit that are concerning for IBD rather than IBS?

A. Fatigue, weight gain, increased number of bowel movements

B. Erythema nodosum, blood in stool, weight loss, and arthralgia

C. Normal temperature, fatigue, increased number of bowel movements

D. Increased number of bowel movements, bowel movement urgency and fatigue



IBD Guidelines

- American College of Gastroenterology
 - Management of Crohn's Disease in Adults (2018)
 - Ulcerative Colitis in Adults (2010)
 - Preventative Care in Inflammatory Bowel Disease (2017)
- American Gastroenterological Association
 - Therapeutic Drug Monitoring 2017
- World Gastroenterology Organization Guidelines 2010



Goals of Therapy

Treat to Target

Optimize quality of life

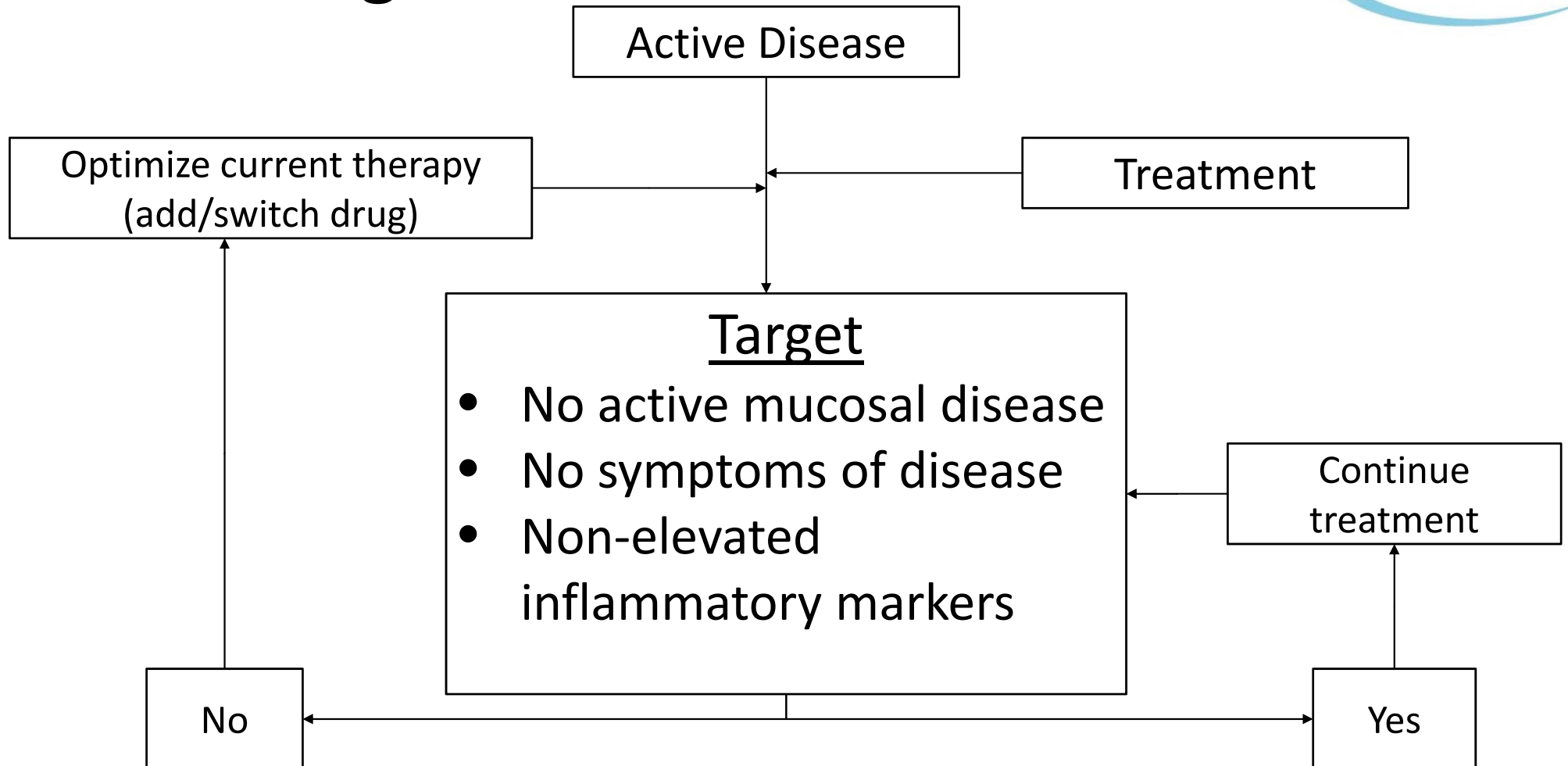
Treat acute disease & obtain mucosal healing

Maintain steroid free remissions

Prevent hospitalizations and surgery

Maintain adequate nutritional status

Treat to Target



Treat to Target



How might the goals of therapy be different for these two patients?



Considerations for Therapy Management

- Severity of disease
- Location of disease
- Comorbidities
- Medication specific considerations
 - Onset of action
 - Efficacy
 - Adverse effects
 - Formulation (Topical, Parenteral, Oral)
 - Cost



Drug Therapies

- Corticosteroids
- Aminosalicylates
- Immunomodulators
- Biologics
- Small molecule



Mild to Moderate Disease Severity

Crohn's Disease

- Aminosalicylate
 - Topical and oral (if disease involves the colon or distal ileum)
- Corticosteroids
 - Budesonide
 - Prednisone
- Antibiotics

Ulcerative Colitis

- Aminosalicylate
 - Topical and oral
- Corticosteroids
 - Budesonide or hydrocortisone enema
 - Prednisone



Moderate to Severe Disease Severity

Crohn's Disease

- Oral corticosteroid, IV corticosteroid
- Thiopurine/Methotrexate
- Biologic therapy
- Surgery

Ulcerative Colitis

- Oral corticosteroid, IV corticosteroid
- Thiopurine
- Biologic therapy
- Small molecule therapy
- Surgery



Corticosteroids



- Anti-inflammatory
- Used for induction of remission, not for maintenance
- Common adverse effects
 - Osteoporosis, infection, hyperglycemia, weight gain, etc.

Oral Formulations	Rectal Formulations (foam, enema, suppository)
Prednisone, prednisolone, dexamethasone, budesonide (Entocort, Uceris)	Suppository: Hydrocortisone Enema: Hydrocortisone Rectal foam: Hydrocortisone

Aminosalicylates (5-ASA)

- Mechanism:
 - Largely unknown
 - Free radical scavenger
 - Inhibitor of tumor necrosis factor (TNF)
- Used as both maintenance and induction therapy
- Combination therapy (topical plus oral) is more effective than topical or oral monotherapy



Aminosalicylates (5-ASA)

- Formulations:
 - Oral, suppository, and enema
- Adverse effects:
 - Headache, diarrhea, interstitial nephritis, rash, pancreatitis
- Monitoring:
 - Renal function, CBC



Aminosalicylates (5-ASA)

Mesalamine, Balsalazide, Sulfasalazine, Olsalazine



Azulfidine[®]

Apriso[®]

Asacol[®]

Asacol HD[®]

Colazal[®]

Dipentum[®]

Lialda[®]

Pentasa[®]

Rowasa[®]
Enema

Canasa[®]
Suppository

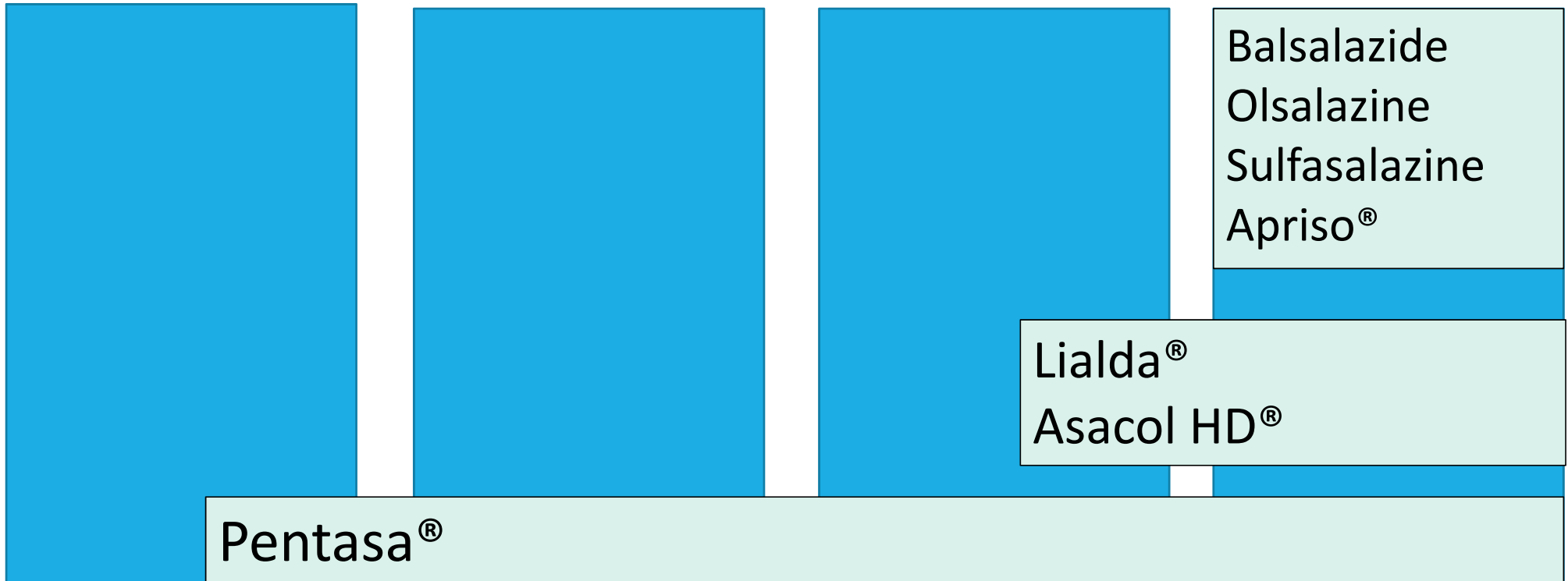
Aminosalicylates & Sites of Action

Stomach

Jejunum

Ileum

Colon



Immunomodulators

- Thiopurines
 - Azathioprine, 6-mercaptopurine (6-MP)
- Methotrexate
- Calcineurin inhibitors



Thiopurines (Azathioprine, 6-MP)

- Inhibit purine nucleotide synthesis and metabolism → suppresses T-cell activity
- Used as maintenance therapy
 - Onset 2 to 3 months
- Adverse effects:
 - Nausea, vomiting, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia, rash, arthralgia, non-melanoma skin cancer



Methotrexate (MTX)

- Anti-folate → immune modulating and anti-inflammatory activity
- Dosing: Inject 25 mg by subcutaneous route once **weekly**
- Folic acid 1-2 mg/day should be administered in conjunction



Methotrexate (MTX)

- Adverse effects:
 - Nausea, vomiting, thrombocytopenia, anorexia, headache/mind “fogginess”, stomatitis, infection, methotrexate pneumonitis
- Monitoring:
 - CBC, renal function, LFTs (baseline, monthly, then every 2 to 3 months)
 - Chest X-ray, PFTs at baseline, then as clinically indicated (consider)



Biologic Agents

Anti-TNF α agents

Infliximab (Remicade[®])

Adalimumab (Humira[®])

Certolizumab (Cimzia[®])

Golimumab (Simponi[®])

Anti-alpha 4- integrin

Natalizumab (Tysabri[®])

Vedolizumab (Entyvio[®])

Anti-IL 12, IL 23

Ustekinumab (Stelara[®])

Anti-TNF α agents – Maintenance Dosing

- Infliximab (Remicade[®])
 - Infusion dosed every 8 weeks
- Adalimumab (Humira[®])
 - Prefilled syringe and pen dosed every 2 weeks
- Certolizumab (Cimzia[®])
 - Crohn's only
 - Prefilled syringe or vial for SQ administration dosed every 2 to 4 weeks
- Golimumab (Simponi[®])
 - Ulcerative colitis only
 - Prefilled syringe, pen, and IV solution dosed every 4 weeks

Anti-TNF α agents

- Mechanism: Reduce inflammatory response due to TNF α by inducing apoptosis of TNF α containing cells
- Adverse effects:
 - Increase risk of infection (screen for TB and viral hepatitis)
 - Increase risk of heart failure and/or exacerbation
 - Antibody formation and infusion reactions (infliximab)
- Onset of action: Days to weeks



Anti-TNF α agents – Therapeutic Drug Monitoring

- Immunogenicity
 - Infliximab > adalimumab > golimumab > certolizumab
 - Prevention:
 - SONIC and COMMIT studies
 - Combine therapy with azathioprine, mercaptopurine, or methotrexate
- Proactive vs reactive therapeutic drug monitoring
 - AGA Therapeutic Drug Monitoring Guidelines (2017) currently prefers reactive monitoring



Anti-TNF α agents – Therapeutic Drug Monitoring

Drug	Suggested trough concentration mcg/mL
Infliximab	≥ 5
Adalimumab	≥ 7.5
Certolizumab	≥ 20
Golimumab	Unknown

Anti-alpha 4- integrin

- Vedolizumab (Entyvio[®])
 - Given as an infusion every 8 weeks (maintenance dosing)
 - Adverse effects
 - Nausea, arthralgia, anaphylaxis, hepatitis, tuberculosis
 - Onset of action: 3 to 6 months
 - Monitoring: HBV and TB screening prior to initiation, signs of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) or infection
- Natalizumab (Tysabri[®])
 - Used rarely due to higher risk of PML



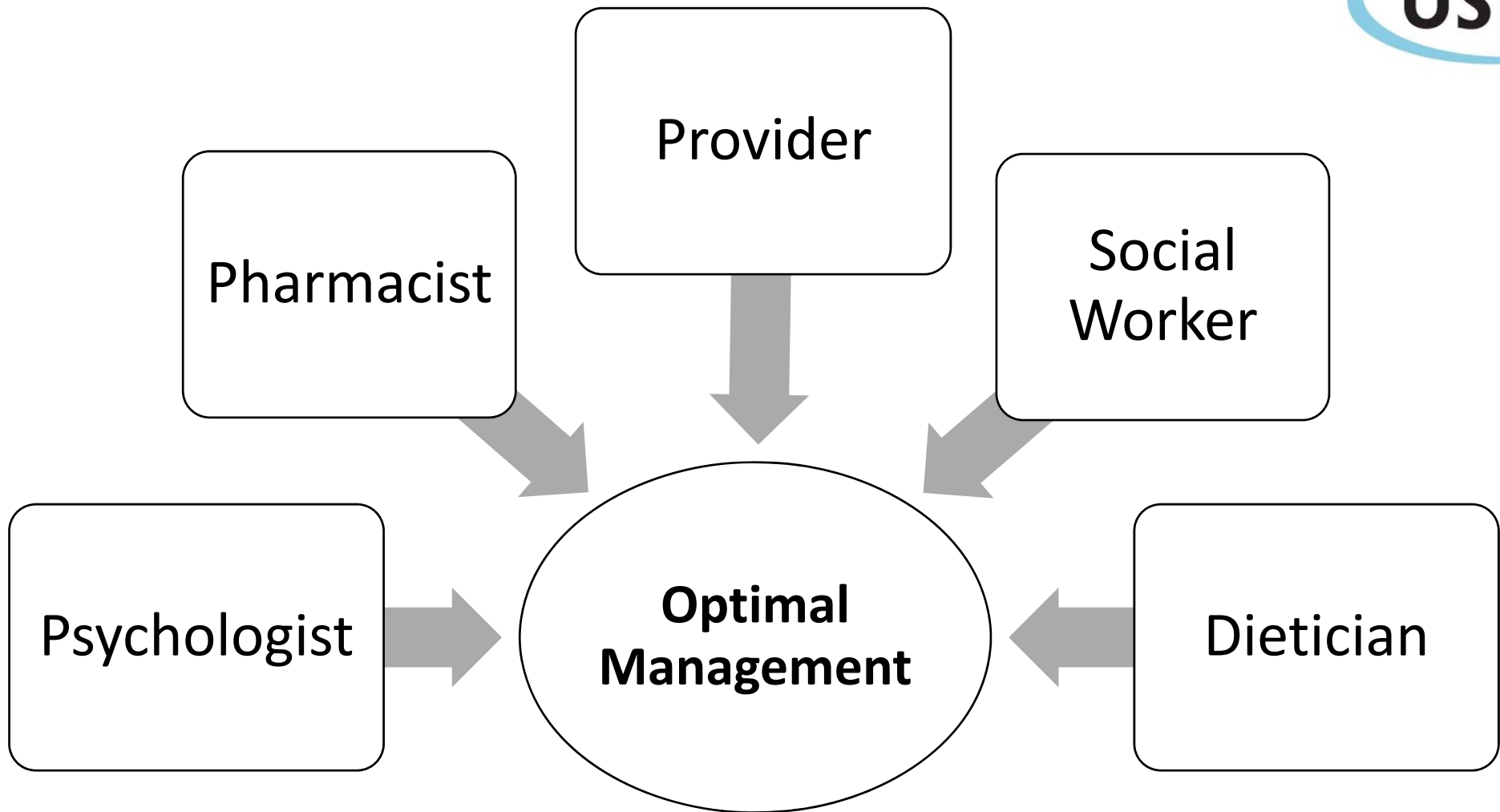
Biosimilar Agents

- Similar in molecular structure, but not an exact match with the original reference product
- Biosimilar agents are not interchangeable
- FDA approved biosimilar agents:
 - Infliximab-**dyyb** (Inflectra[®])
 - Adalimumab-**atto** (Amjevita[®])



Small molecule – Tofacitinib (Xeljanz[®])

- Mechanism: Inhibits Janus kinase (JAK) enzymes, preventing cytokine expression and immune cell activity
- Dose: 10 mg PO twice daily for ≥ 8 weeks followed by 5 or 10 mg twice daily
- Adverse effects: Infection, hypertension, rash, diarrhea, herpes zoster, lymphocytopenia, anemia, transaminitis, non-melanoma skin cancer
- Monitoring: CBC, LFTs, viral hepatitis, skin examination



Optimal Management

- Smoking cessation
 - Crohn's disease: Beneficial for disease state
 - Ulcerative colitis: Associated with disease flare, but still recommended
- Vaccination
 - Some patients eligible for vaccines given to those receiving “iatrogenic immunosuppression” per CDC recommendations
 - Give prior to immunosuppressive therapies if possible



Medication Access

- Financial
 - Patient assistance programs: www.needymeds.org
 - Copay cards from the manufacturer
 - Websites such as GoodRx.com
- Access
 - Help facilitate delivery of specialty medications
 - Help patients maintain adherence to therapies to continue eligibility for medication coverage



Which of the following therapies reduces inflammation by inhibiting the activity of TNF- α ?

- A.** Adalimumab
- B. Vedolizumab
- C. Ustekinumab
- D. Methotrexate

Patient Case

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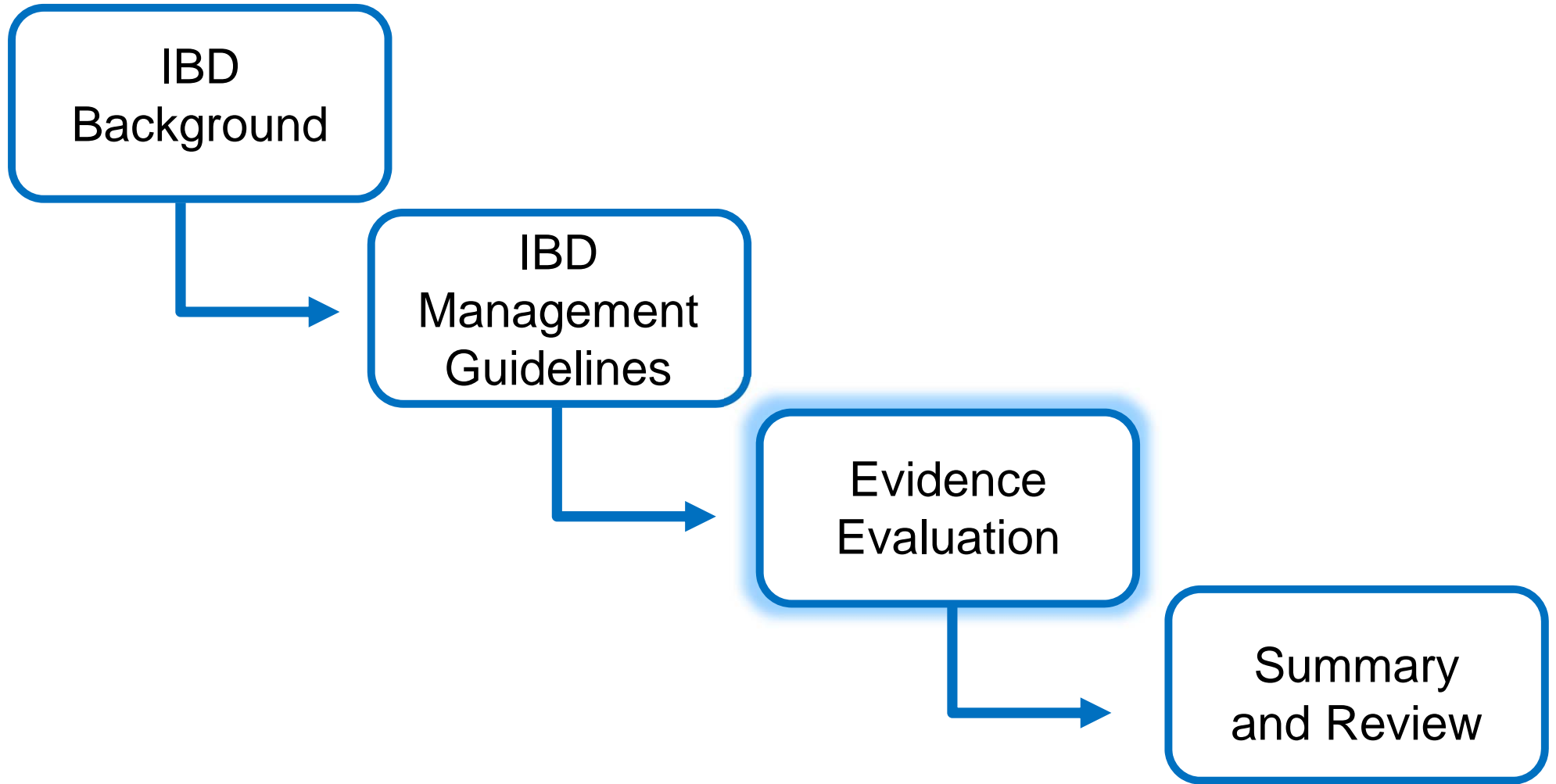
Patient Case

KS undergoes colonoscopy and the following is noted on pathology:

- Severe active colitis with marked crypt distortion affecting the left colon, right colon, and terminal ileum
- Focal, superficial acute inflammation
- Occasional crypt abscesses
- Attenuated surface epithelium suggestive of re-epithelialization of previously ulcerated areas

Which of the following therapy and monitoring plans would be appropriate for KS?

- A. Azathioprine; CBC weekly for the first month
- B. Infliximab plus oral prednisone; Rule out TB and HBV prior to initiation of infliximab
- C. Oral prednisone plus rectal hydrocortisone; Blood glucose during therapy
- D. Mesalamine (Pentasa[®]); CBC, Creatinine prior to and periodically during therapy



Tofacitinib (Xeljanz[®]) for Ulcerative Colitis

- Received FDA approval for moderate to severe ulcerative colitis on May 30, 2018
- Recommendation based on the OCTAVE studies
- First oral medication approved for use in moderate to severe active ulcerative colitis



Tofacitinib for Induction of Remission in Ulcerative Colitis: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Annals of Gastroenterology. 2018 Sep-Oct; 31(5): 572–582.



Methods

- Systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials
- Inclusion:
 - Mayo score 6 to 12
 - Endoscopic subscore ≥ 2 (moderate disease)
 - Previous therapy with mesalamine, corticosteroids, azathioprine/6-MP, or anti-TNF regimens
- Concomitant treatment allowed: Oral mesalamine and oral corticosteroids at a stable dose

Primary Outcome at 8 Weeks	Secondary Outcomes at 8 Weeks
Clinical remission: A total Mayo score of ≤ 2 points	Clinical response: A change in Mayo score from baseline ≥ 3 points & $\geq 30\%$)
	Mucosal healing
	Quality of life
	Safety endpoints

Mayo Score

- Range of score 0 to 12 (12 being most severe)
- All studies required a Mayo score of 6 to 12 on enrollment
- Clinical response defined based on a change in Mayo score from baseline of at least 3 points

Example of Mayo Score: Two Components

Stool Frequency	Rectal Bleeding
0 = Normal	0 = None
1 = 1 to 2 stools/day more than normal	1 = Visible blood with stool less than half the time
2 = 3 to 4 stools/day more than normal	2 = Visible blood with stool half of the time or more
3 = >4 stools/day more than normal	3 = Passing blood alone

Baseline Characteristics – Sandborn 2012



	Tofacitinib 10 mg BID	Placebo
Number of patients	33	48
Males	64%	48%
Age (mean)	43.2 years	42.5 years
% of anti-TNF naïve patients	70%	69%
% of patients with concomitant treatment with steroids	58%	27%
Disease severity, Mayo score (mean \pm STD)	8 \pm 1.7	8.2 \pm 1.6
% of patients with extensive colitis/pancolitis at baseline	42%	43%

Baseline Characteristics – OCTAVE 1



	Tofacitinib 10 mg BID	Placebo
Number of patients	476	122
Males	58%	63%
Age (mean)	41.3 years	41.8 years
% of anti-TNF naïve patients	53.4%	53.3%
% of patients with concomitant treatment with steroids	45%	47.5%
Disease severity, Mayo score (mean \pm STD)	9.0 \pm 1.4	9.1 \pm 1.4
% of patients with extensive colitis/pancolitis at baseline	53.1%	54.1%

Baseline Characteristics – OCTAVE 2



	Tofacitinib 10 mg BID	Placebo
Number of patients	429	112
Males	60%	49%
Age (mean)	41.1 years	40.4 years
% of anti-TNF naïve patients	54.5%	58%
% of patients with concomitant treatment with steroids	46.2%	49.1%
Disease severity, Mayo score (median)	6	6.2
% of patients with extensive colitis/pancolitis at baseline	49.3%	50.5%

Results



Primary Outcome

Tofacitinib > placebo in inducing **clinical remission**

- (OR 3.84, 95% CI 2.29-6.44, I² 41%)

Select Secondary Outcomes

Tofacitinib > placebo in achieving **clinical response**

- (OR 2.95, 95% CI 2.21-3.95, I² 0%)

Tofacitinib > placebo in achieving **mucosal healing**

- (OR 2.70, 95% CI 1.81-4.03, I² 0%)

Results Continued

- No significant differences in the safety profile (incidence of serious adverse events) between tofacitinib and placebo
- Study withdrawal due to adverse events similar between tofacitinib and placebo (OR 0.93, 95% CI 0.68-1.28, I² 0%)
 - Most common reason for discontinuation of therapy was worsening of ulcerative colitis



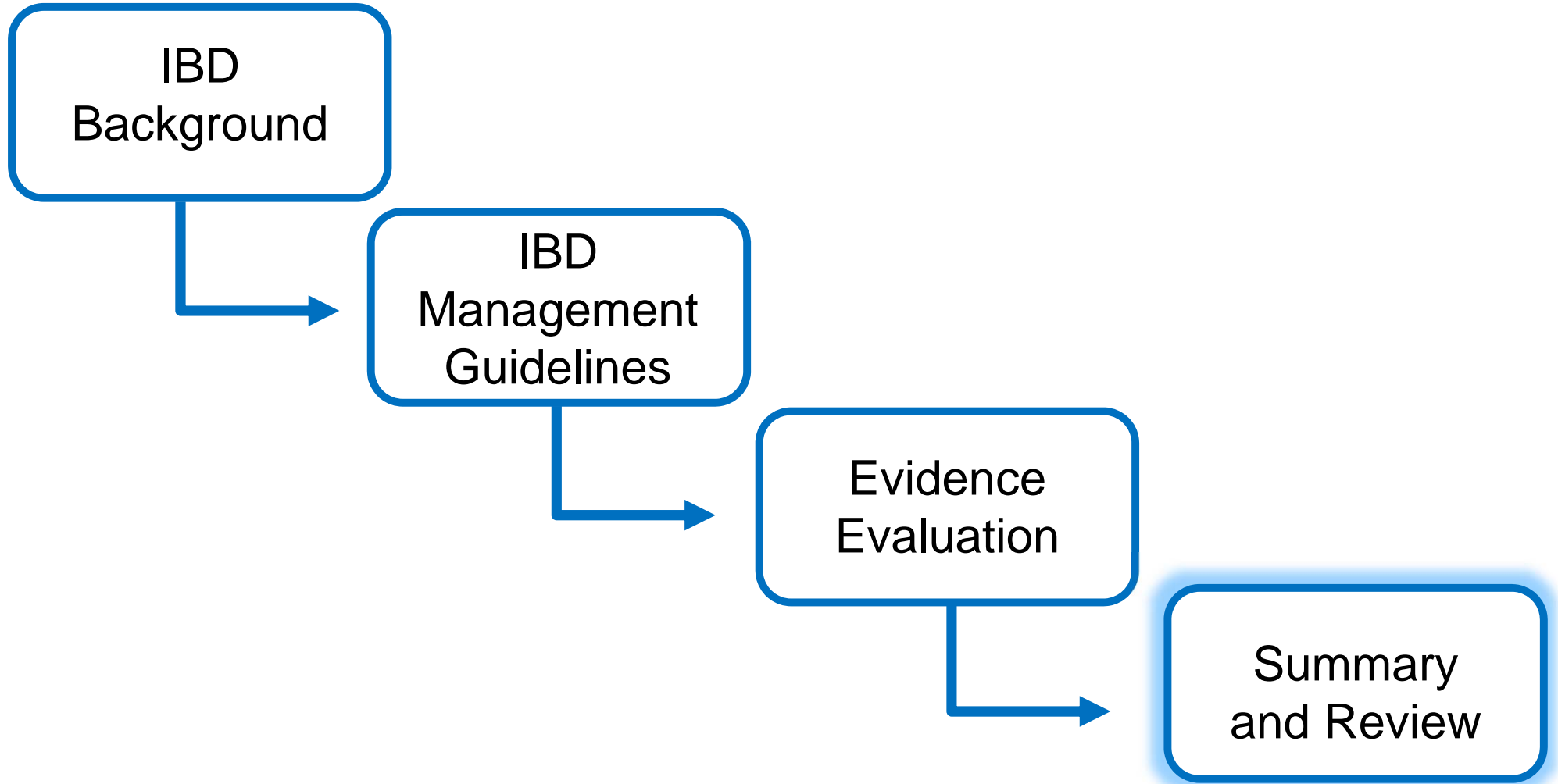
Conclusion

- Tofacitinib is the first orally administered therapy indicated for the treatment of moderate to severe active ulcerative colitis
- Data from 3 randomized controlled trials support the efficacy and safety of tofacitinib
- Consider short term treatment with tofacitinib in patients with moderate to severe active ulcerative colitis



The systematic review and meta-analysis completed by Paschos and colleagues in 2018 enrolled patients with the following characteristics:

- A. Crohn's disease, moderate to severe disease, with no history of TNF- α use
- B. Ulcerative colitis, mild to moderate disease, with no history of corticosteroid use
- C. Ulcerative colitis, moderate to severe disease, with Mayo scores of less than 6 at baseline
- D.** Ulcerative colitis, moderate to severe disease, with history of mesalamine, corticosteroids, azathioprine/6-MP, or anti-TNF regimens



Key Takeaways

- Multiple clinical guidelines are available for pharmacists to utilize when optimizing therapy for patients with IBD
- Pharmacologic agents used in the treatment of IBD often require close monitoring to ensure safe and effective therapy
- Pharmacists should work with the care team to create a patient specific “treat to target” plan in an effort to improve outcomes
- Both pharmacists and pharmacy technicians have a major role in ensuring accessibility and affordability of IBD therapies

What's the Scoop on the Poop?

Inflammatory Bowel Disease Update

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The World Gastroenterology Organization Practice Guidelines recommend which combination of therapies to prevent immunogenicity?

- A. Tofacitinib plus methotrexate
- B. Aminosalicylates plus oral corticosteroids
- C. Infliximab plus azathioprine
- D. Adalimumab plus topical corticosteroids

Which of the following is true?

- A. Infliximab-dyyb (Remicade[®]) is the biosimilar to infliximab (Inflectra[®])
- B. Vedolizumab's brand name is Simponi[®]
- C. Ustekinumab's brand name is Tysabri[®]
- D.** Adalimumab-atto (Amjevita[®]) is the biosimilar to adalimumab (Humira[®])



A patient with IBD comes up to the pharmacy counter stating he is no longer able to afford his adalimumab (Humira[®]) due to losing his insurance coverage. He makes ~\$30,000 per year. What is one suggestion you could make to help him overcome this financial barrier?

- A.** Connect the patient with a patient assistance program (if you have one). If not, ask the patient to follow up with his provider to apply for the Humira[®] patient assistance program found on www.needymeds.org.
- B. Suggest that the patient receive adalimumab infusions via IV rather than injections
- C. Give him a copay card to use for his next adalimumab refill
- D. Suggest that the patient quit taking adalimumab since he is in remission

Patient Education Resources

- Crohn's Foundation:
<http://www.crohnscolitisfoundation.org/>
- Mechanisms of Medicine: <http://www.youandibd.com>
- University of Michigan IBD School:
<http://www.med.umich.edu/ibd/school/index.html>