Biologic Treatment of Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease: A Decade of JPNG Contributions

This collection of articles from JPNG represent seminal work on the application, safety, and efficacy of the 2 leading anti-TNF agents, infliximab and adalimumab, to assist readers in considering treatment options and further advances in the care of pediatric patients with chronic IBD.

Drug development in children and adolescents occasionally is hindered by a hesitance to expose young patients to experimental and untested therapies. A case in point is the application of biologic agents in the management of pediatric patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). The degree of acceptance of antitumor necrosis factor (TNF) agents after their introduction as a novel treatment option has ranged from initial enthusiasm to caution resulting from fear of complications such as hepatosplenic T-cell lymphoma (HSTCL) to approval as part of standard management. In fact, as we gather additional experience and evidence, a trend toward the use of biologic agents as a first-line treatment has emerged.

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