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### Dense Colon Scarring After Infliximab for Acute Severe Ulcerative Colitis

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# Dense Colon Scarring After Infliximab for Acute Severe Ulcerative Colitis

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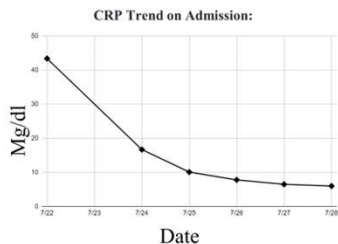
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## Introduction

- **Ulcerative colitis:**
  - is a condition characterized by chronic mucosal inflammation of the rectum, colon, and cecum
  - Can lead to symptoms of bloody diarrhea and abdominal pain.<sup>1</sup>
- **Infliximab is a monoclonal antibody targeting tumor necrosis factor alpha that is used in the management of ulcerative colitis.**<sup>3</sup>
  - Studies have demonstrated its effectiveness in individuals experiencing moderate to severe ulcerative colitis or in those who have not responded to intravenous steroids.<sup>3</sup>
- **We present a case where a patient had dense colonic scarring one year post infliximab treatment for acute severe ulcerative colitis.**

## Case Presentation

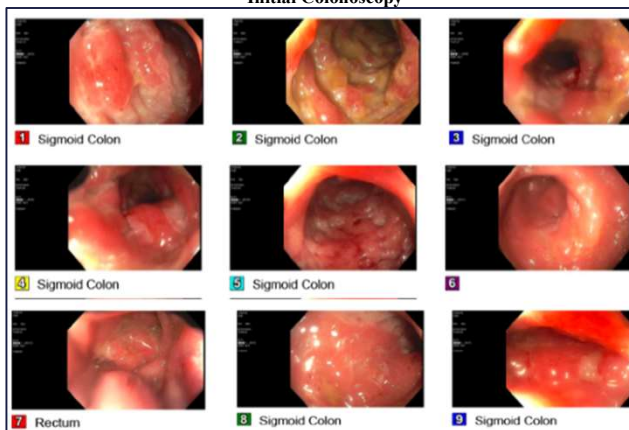
- **Demographics:** Early 60s Female
- **Presentation:** 3 months of LLQ abdominal pain, bloody diarrhea & vomiting. Patient had a fever of 100.6F and an elevated CRP of 43.4 mg/dl.
- **Imaging:** CT and MRI both showed an inflamed colon.
- **Colonoscopy:** Mayo score of 3 & left side colitis, punched-out appearance. Patient was high risk for colectomy.
- **Initial Therapy:** IV methylprednisolone 20 mcg Q8 with no improvement. She was started on infliximab 5 mg/kg and tapered off of steroids. She improved on infliximab and was safely discharged.



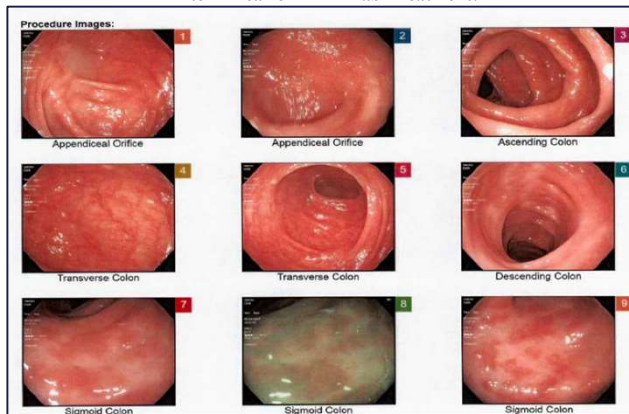
- Patient had a colonoscopy 1 year later that revealed no active ulcerative colitis and a Mayo score of 0. **Patient had scarring where ulcerations were on previous colonoscopy.**

## Colonoscopy

### Initial Colonoscopy



### After 1 Year of Infliximab Treatment:



## Discussion

### Novel Aspects

- **This patient had severe acute ulcerative colitis and was at high risk for early colectomy.**
  - Predictors of early colectomy include: **young age at diagnosis (<40), extensive disease, severe endoscopic activity (presence of large/deep ulcers), extensive disease, early need for steroids and elevated inflammatory markers.**<sup>1</sup>
  - This patient had **multiple risk factors and a Mayo score of 3.**
  - In the Accent I study, patients who were treated with infliximab had fewer hospitalizations and surgeries.<sup>2</sup>
- **Colonoscopy one year later revealed dense scarring of the previous ulcerations.**
  - Although infliximab has been established as an effective therapy modality in patients with IBD, its effects on scarring post treatment are less studied.
  - Mucosal healing has been associated with improved outcomes after infliximab treatment.<sup>3</sup>
  - Multiple years of infliximab maintenance therapy have been shown to have promising results and tolerated well by patients.<sup>4</sup>
- **Further research is ongoing on how to prevent fibrosis in inflammatory bowel disease.**

## References

1. Dassopoulos T, Cohen RD, Scherl EJ, et al. Ulcerative colitis care pathway. *Gastroenterology* 2015;149:238–245.
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4. Reinisch W, Sandborn WJ, Rutgeerts P, Feagan BG, Rachmilewitz D, Hanauer SB, ... Sands BE. Long-term infliximab maintenance therapy for ulcerative colitis: the ACT-1 and -2 extension studies. *Inflamm Bowel Dis*. 2012;18(2):201-211.