

# BEST OF DDW 2019: IBD



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# Disclosures

Abbvie/Takeda/Pfizer/Janssen/Gilead/Promethus

-Research Support/Advisory Board/Fellowship Support/Educational Grants

# Vedolizumab Shows Superior Efficacy Versus Adalimumab: Results of VARSITY—The First Head-to-Head Study of Biologic Therapy for Moderate-to-Severe Ulcerative Colitis

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\*Denotes equal contributions; †Note: Brihad Abhyankar was an employee of Takeda at the time of this research.

Digestive Disease Week® 2019

May 19, 2019

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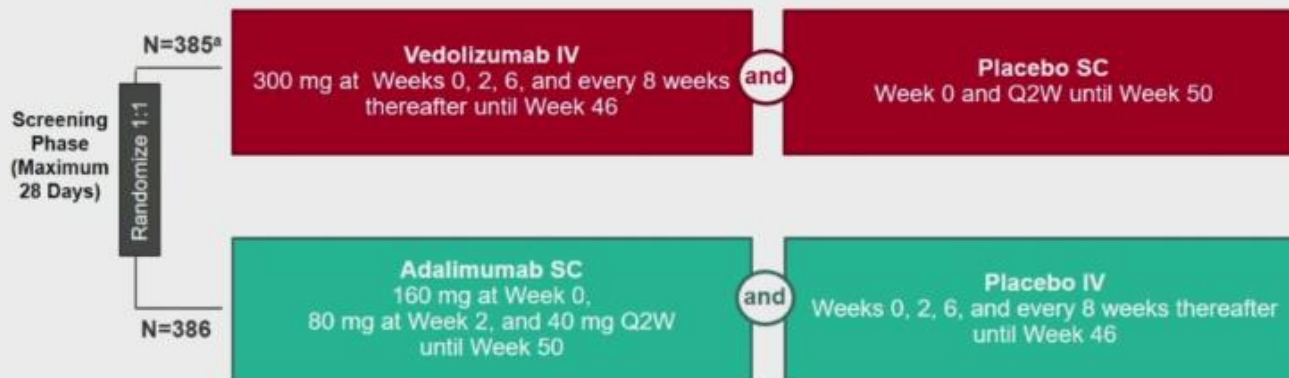


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# Study Design

## Phase 3b randomized, double-blind, double-dummy, multicenter, active-controlled study

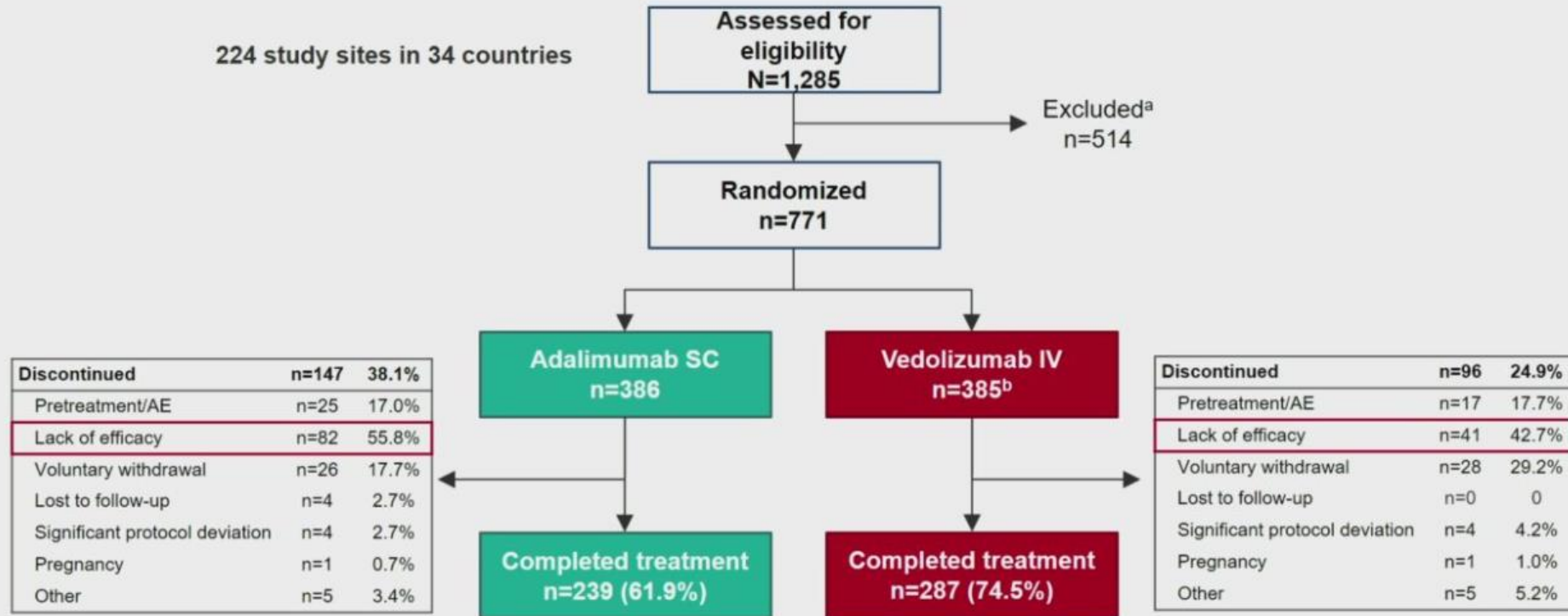


Randomization stratification factors were concomitant use of oral corticosteroids and previous exposure/failure of TNFi therapy or naïve to TNFi therapy.

<sup>IV</sup> intravenous; Q2W, every 2 weeks; RBS, rectal bleeding score; SC, subcutaneous; TNFi, tumor necrosis factor inhibitor.  
Slide 4 includes 2 patients who were randomized but did not receive a dose of vedolizumab.

# Patient Disposition

224 study sites in 34 countries



AE, adverse event; IV, intravenous; SC, subcutaneous.

<sup>a</sup>Most common reasons for exclusion were not meeting entrance criteria (81.3%), voluntary withdrawal (6.8%), and pretreatment/AE (3.7%).

<sup>b</sup>Includes 2 patients who were randomized but did not receive a dose of vedolizumab.

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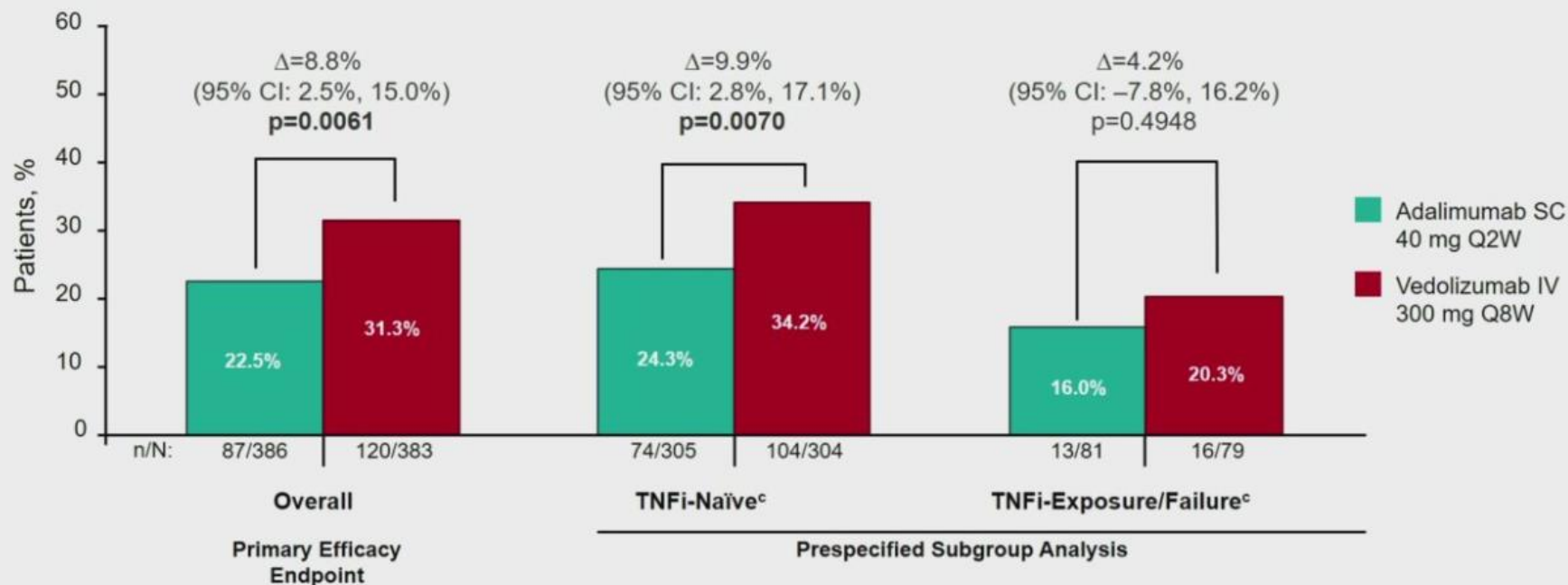
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# Primary Efficacy Endpoint: Overall Clinical Remission<sup>a</sup> at Week 52<sup>b</sup>



CI, confidence interval; IV, intravenous; Q2W, every 2 weeks; Q8W, every 8 weeks; SC, subcutaneous; TNFi, tumor necrosis factor inhibitor.

<sup>a</sup>Clinical remission was defined as a complete Mayo score of  $\leq 2$  points and no individual subscore  $> 1$  point.

<sup>b</sup>Full analysis set includes all randomized patients who received at least 1 dose of study drug.

<sup>c</sup>TNFi subgroup analysis was prespecified and produced nominal p values.

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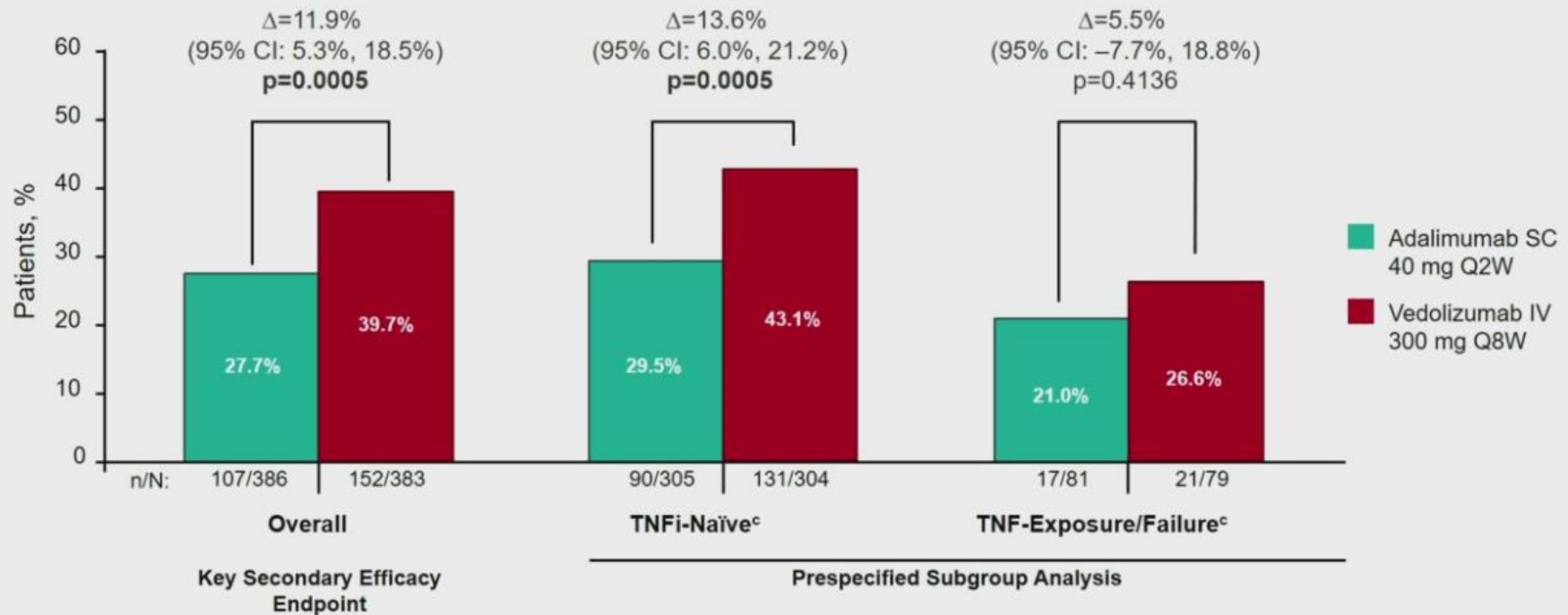
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# Key Secondary Efficacy Endpoint: Overall Endoscopic Improvement (Mucosal Healing)<sup>a</sup> at Week 52<sup>b</sup>



CI, confidence interval; IV, intravenous; Q2W, every 2 weeks; Q8W, every 8 weeks; SC, subcutaneous; TNFi, tumor necrosis factor inhibitor.

<sup>a</sup>Endoscopic improvement was defined as a Mayo endoscopic subscore of  $\leq 1$  point.

<sup>b</sup>Full analysis set includes all randomized patients who received at least 1 dose of study drug.

<sup>c</sup>TNFi subgroup analysis was prespecified and produced nominal p values.

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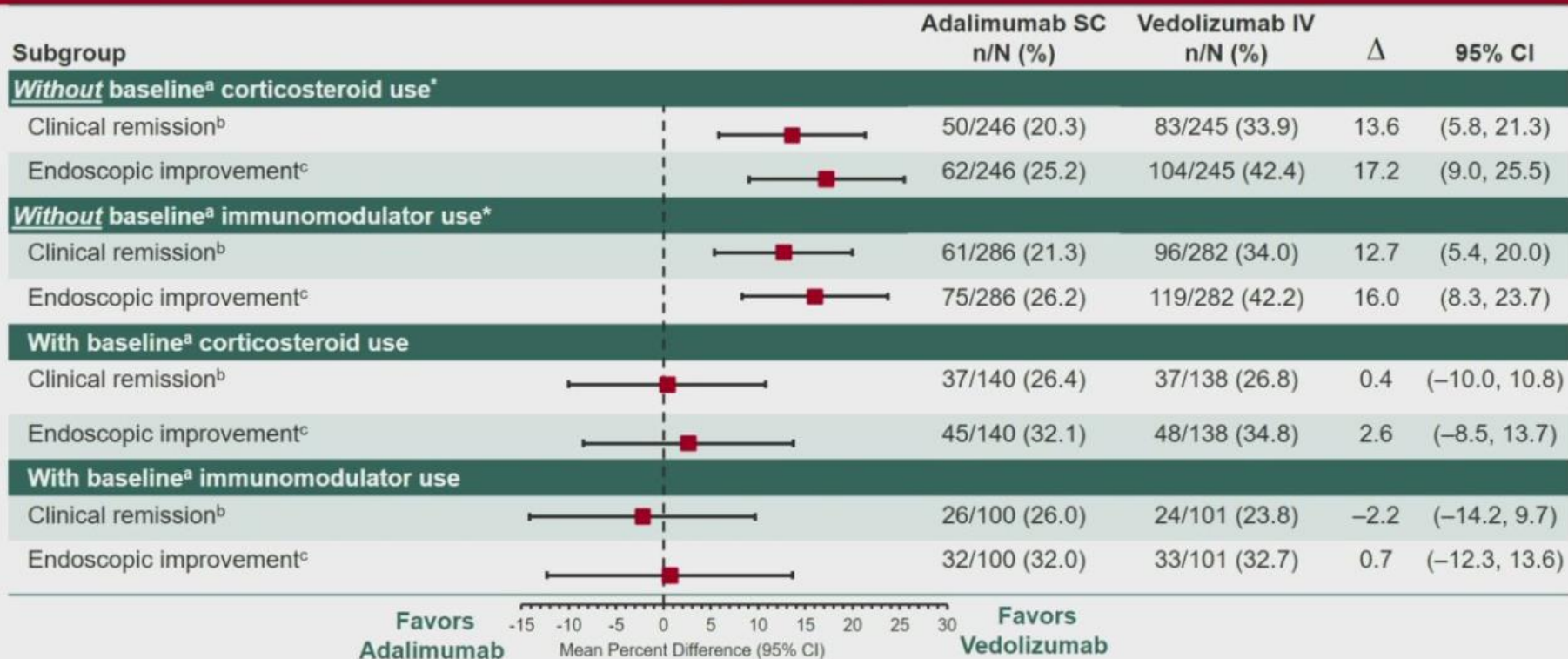
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# Efficacy Outcomes at Week 52 by Baseline Use of Corticosteroids or Immunomodulators



\*Post hoc analyses.

CI, confidence interval; IV, intravenous; SC, subcutaneous.

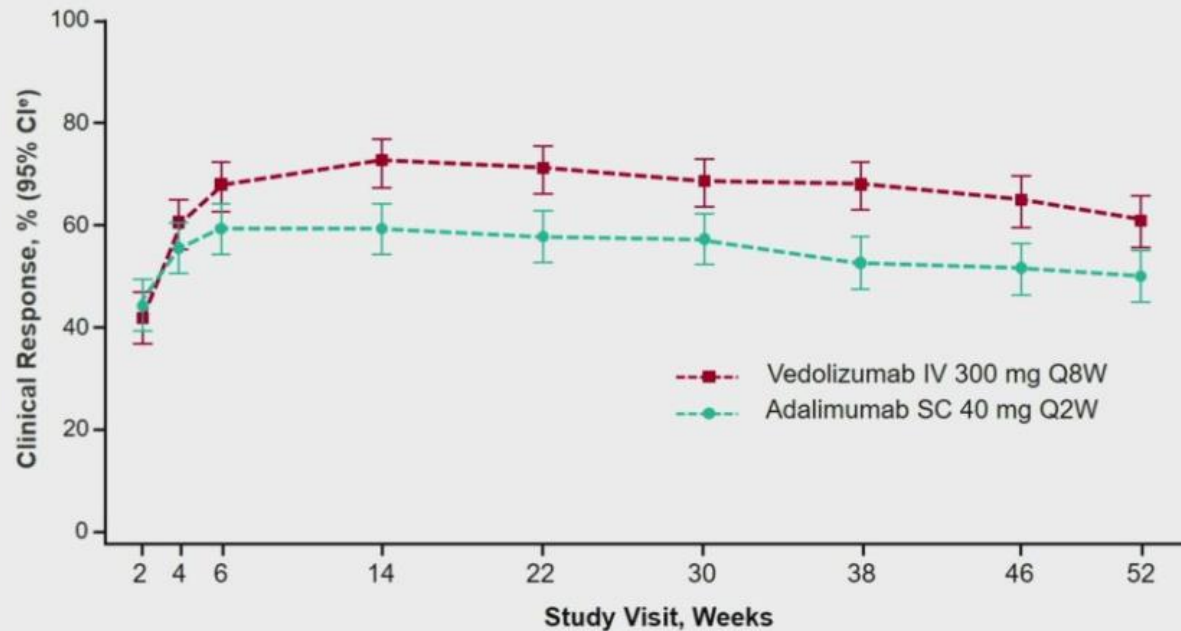
<sup>a</sup>Baseline corticosteroids recorded by interactive web response system, and baseline immunomodulators by electronic case report forms.

Slide 14: complete Mayo score of  $\leq 2$  points and no individual subscore  $> 1$  point.

<sup>b</sup>Mayo score endoscopic subscore of  $\leq 1$  point.



# Clinical Response<sup>a,b</sup> by Visit Based on Change in Partial Mayo Score From Baseline<sup>c,d</sup>



CI, confidence interval; IV, intravenous; Q2W, every 2 weeks; Q8W, every 8 weeks; RBS, rectal bleeding score; SC, subcutaneous.

<sup>a</sup>Clinical response based on partial Mayo score is defined as a reduction in partial Mayo score of  $\geq 2$  points and  $\geq 25\%$  from Baseline, with an accompanying decrease in RBS of  $\geq 1$  point or absolute RBS of  $\leq 1$  point.

<sup>b</sup>Patients with missing clinical response status were considered nonresponders.

<sup>c</sup>Full analysis set includes all randomized patients who received at least 1 dose of study drug.

<sup>d</sup>Prespecified analysis.

<sup>e</sup>The 95% CI of the percentage is based on the Clopper-Pearson method.

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# Conclusions

- Vedolizumab showed superior clinical and endoscopic efficacy over adalimumab in the treatment of moderately to severely active UC
- Treatment effects were most pronounced in the TNFi-naïve subpopulation (subgroup analysis)
- Corticosteroid-free remission rates were numerically higher with adalimumab than with vedolizumab (p=NS)
- Regardless of concomitant CS or immunomodulator use at Baseline, vedolizumab demonstrated a consistent advantage over adalimumab; the two drugs seemed to perform equally well in the presence of these concomitant medications
- Histologic efficacy at Week 52 favored vedolizumab over adalimumab
- Improvements in clinical response with vedolizumab versus adalimumab emerged between Weeks 6 and 14
- Both drugs were generally safe and well tolerated, consistent with known profiles
- These results provide the most direct evidence to date on the comparative efficacy of biologics to support clinical decision making in the management of moderately to severely active UC

Slide 20 corticosteroid; UC, ulcerative colitis; TNFi, tumor necrosis factor inhibitor.

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# Vagus Nerve Stimulation Reduces Disease Activity and Modulates Serum and Autonomic Biomarkers in Biologic-Refractory Crohn's Disease

**Geert D'Haens**, Amsterdam, Netherlands; **Zeljko Cabrijan**, Osijek, Croatia; **Michael Eberhardson**, Stockholm, Sweden; **Remco van den Bergh**, Amsterdam, Netherlands, **Mark Lowenberg**, Amsterdam, Netherlands, **Silvio Danese**, Milan, Italy; **Gionata Fiorino**, Milan, Italy; **Rik Schuerman**, Amsterdam, Netherlands; **Yaakov Levine**, Valencia, CA; **David Chernoff**, Valencia, CA.

Slide 1 Inflammatory Bowel Disease Week 2019

This study was sponsored by SetPoint Medical



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# THE INFLAMMATORY REFLEX IN THE GUT

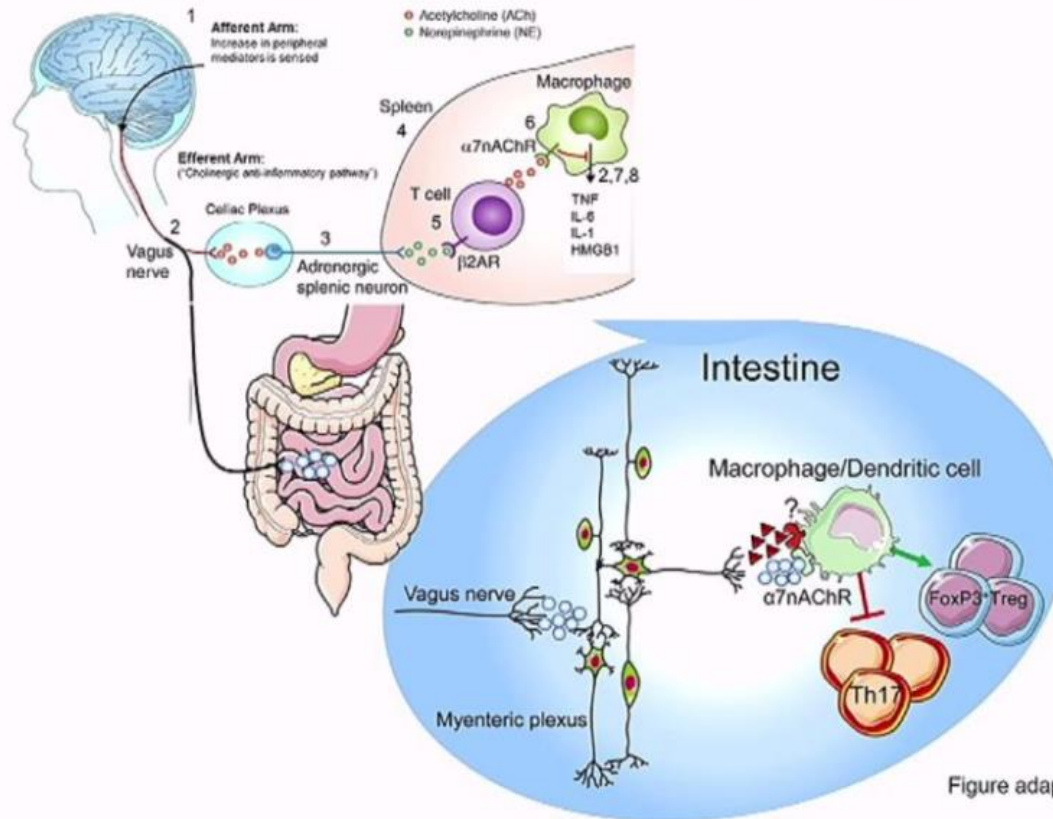


Figure adapted from *Gut* 2013;62:1214-1222

*Gut* 2013;63(6):938

*Neurogastroenterol Motil* 2012;24(2):191

Slide 4  
*J Immunol* 2011;187:2677

*Am J Physiol* 2007;293(3):G560

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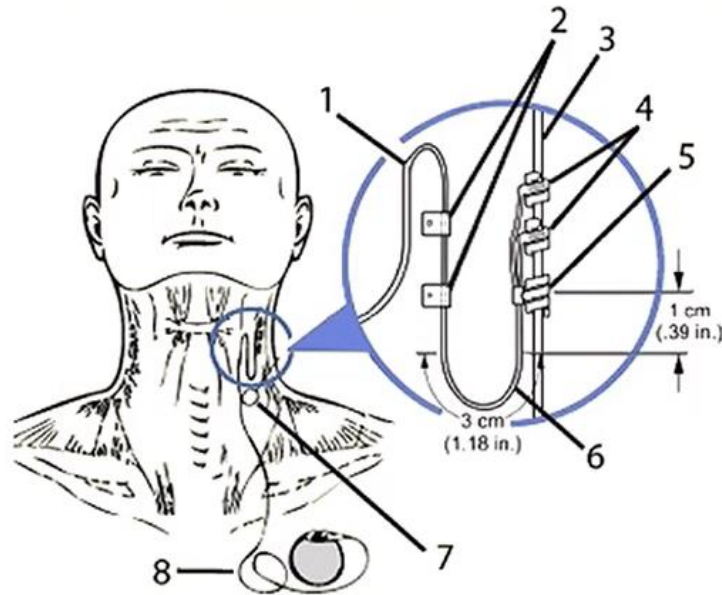


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## CLINICAL EPILEPSY DEVICE WAS USED FOR PROOF-OF-CONCEPT STUDY



- 1 Lead
- 2 Tie-Downs
- 3 Vagus Nerve
- 4 Helical Electrodes
- 5 Anchor Tether
- 6 Strain Relief Bend
- 7 Strain Relief Loop
- 8 Coiled Extra Lead

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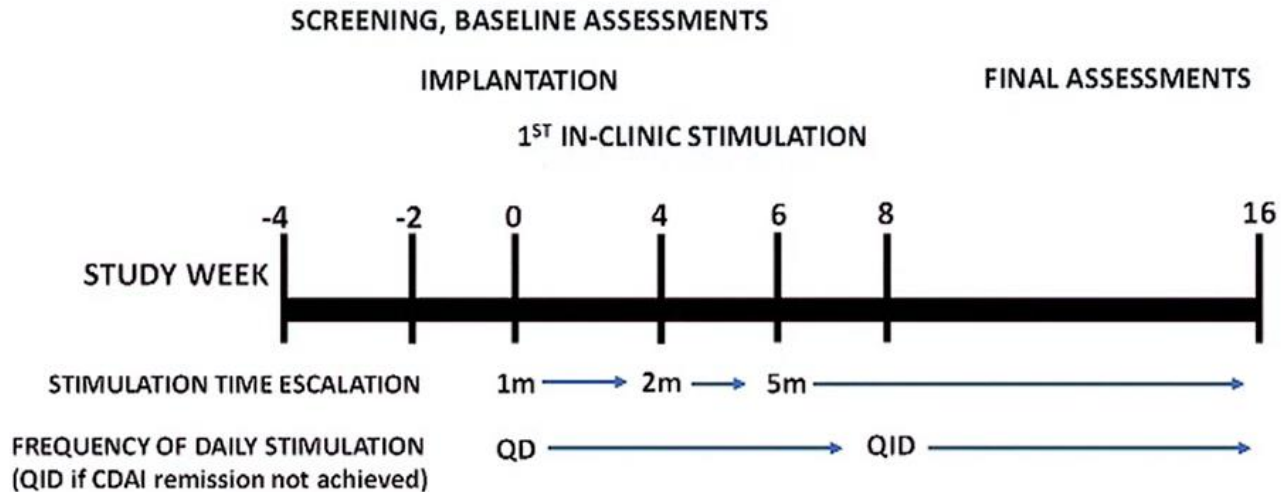


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# STUDY DESIGN: SINGLE-ARM OPEN LABEL TWO COHORTS



## Subject Cohorts

- I. **VNS Monotherapy, n=8**: 8 week washout of TNF alpha inhibitors, vedolizumab or natalizumab
- II. **Adjunctive Therapy, n=8**: Subjects remain on biologic to which they have insufficient response

- 4 centers: Amsterdam, Stockholm, Zagreb, Milan
- Standard disease endpoints: CDAI, SES-CD, biomarkers



## MAJOR INCLUSION / EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- **Major Inclusion Criteria**

- M/F subjects age 18-75
- Moderately-to-severely active Crohn's disease
  - CDAI: 220-450, SES-CD ulcer score  $\geq 2$  in at least 1 segment
- Fecal Calprotectin  $\geq 200\mu\text{g/g}$
- Inadequate response and/or intolerance to one or more TNF inhibitors

- **Major Exclusion Criteria**

- Celiac disease, ulcerative colitis, pelvic fistulae, bowel surgery within 4 months, extensive colonic resection
- Use of prohibited medications without washout
  - TNF inhibitors; Glucocorticoids  $>10$  mg prednisone (or equivalent) QD
  - Azathioprine, 6-mercaptopurine, methotrexate **allowed** on stable dose
- History of vagotomy, recurrent vaso-vagal syncope
- Previously implanted active electrical device (e.g. cardiac pacemaker)

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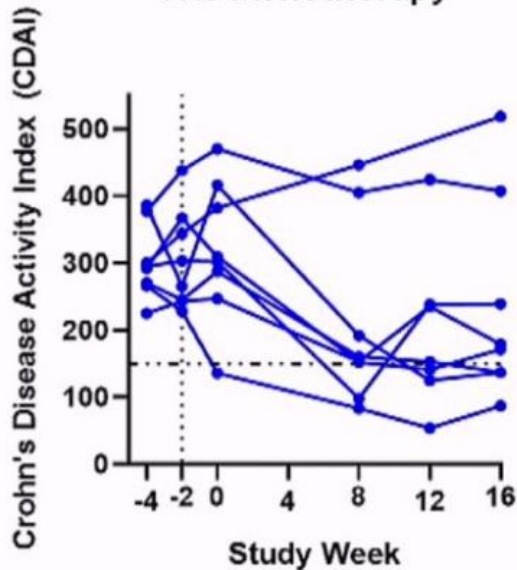
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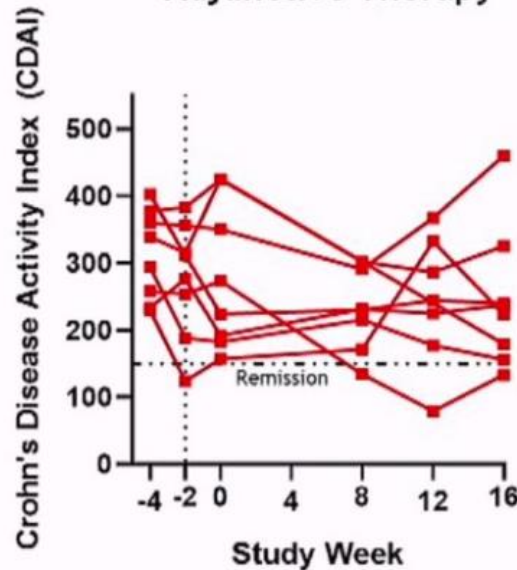
# CDAI OVER TIME



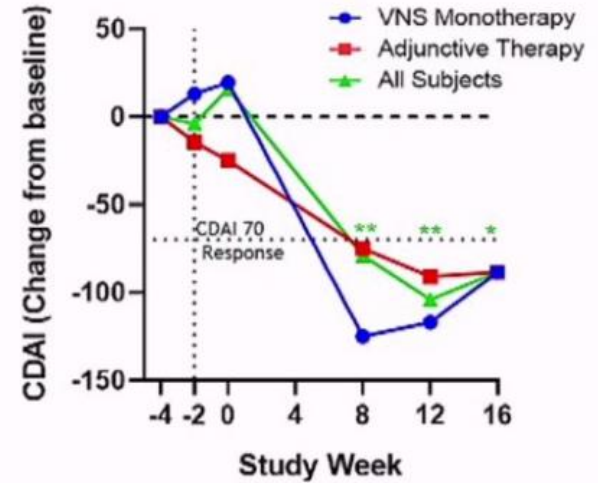
### VNS Monotherapy



### Adjunctive Therapy



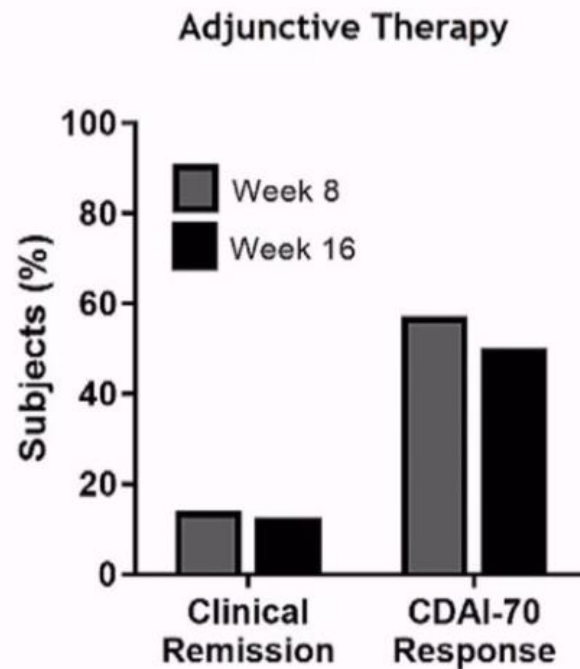
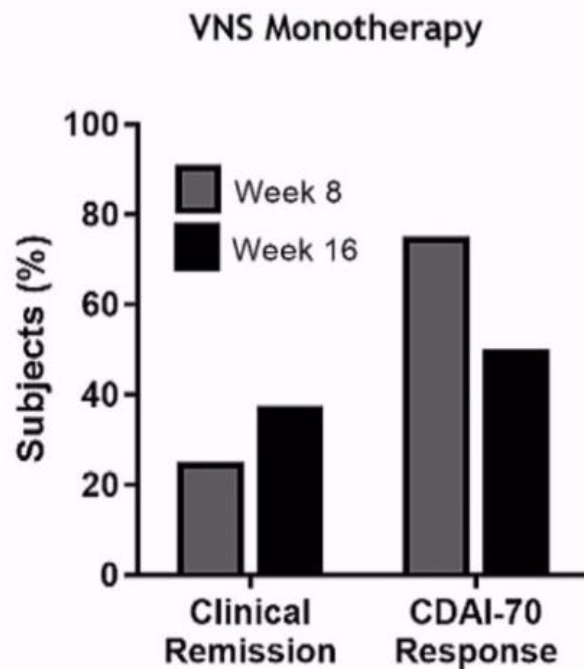
### Median Change in CDAI



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# CDAI RESPONSE/REMISSION

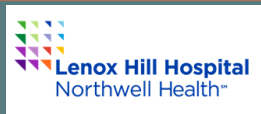


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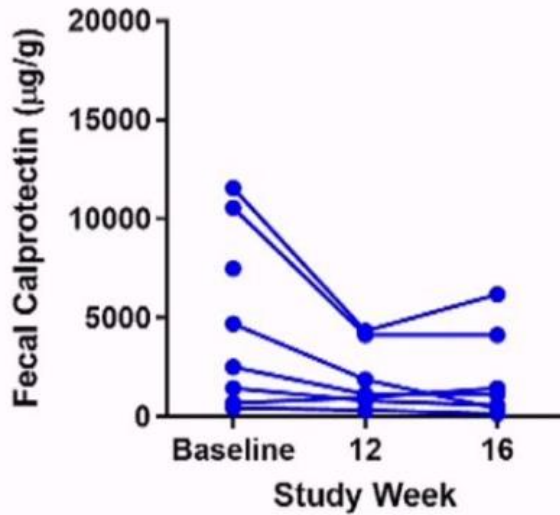
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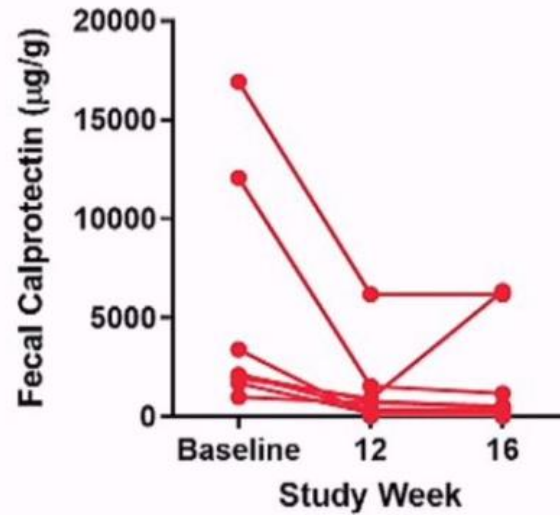
# FECAL CALPROTECTIN



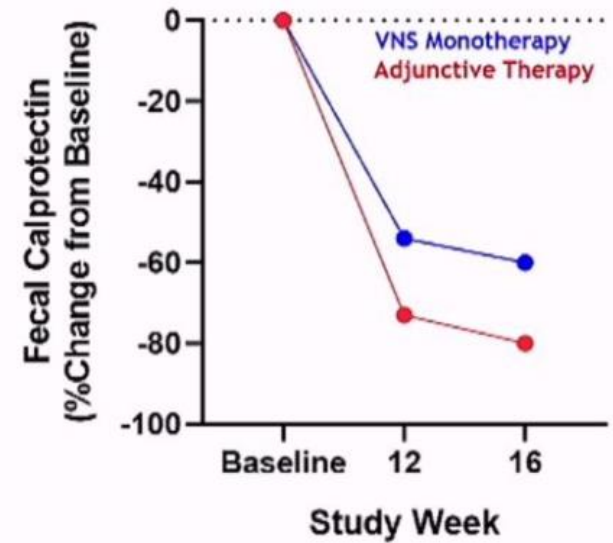
VNS Monotherapy



Adjunctive Therapy



Median % Change in Calpro

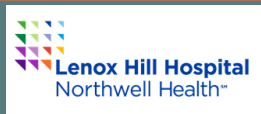


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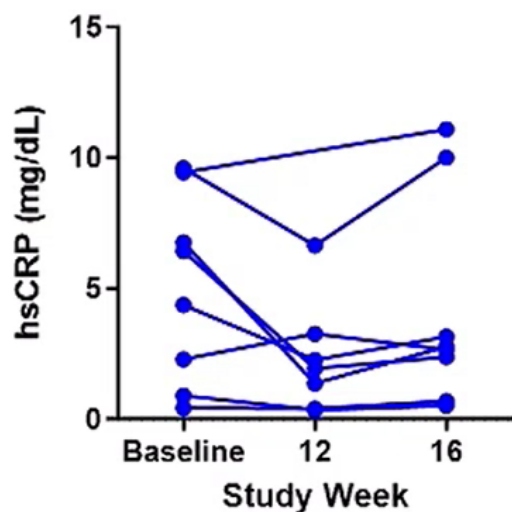


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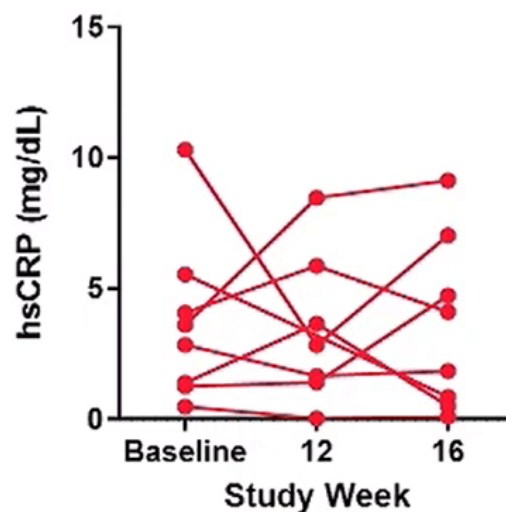


# SERUM C-REACTIVE PROTEIN

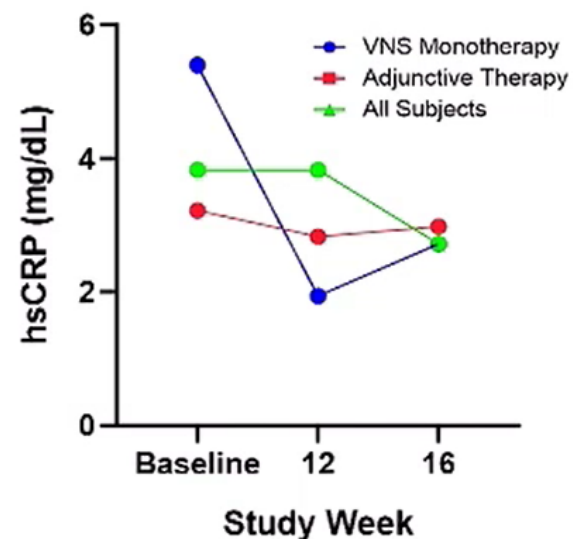
VNS Monotherapy



Adjunctive Therapy



Median hsCRP



# SAFETY



Serious Adverse Events	SAEs in Subjects	Early Terminations	Disease Related	Implantation Related
VNS Monotherapy	8 in 5/9	1	7	1
Adjunctive Therapy	4 in 3/8	2	4	0

## Disease Related

Crohn's Disease  
Gastroenteritis  
Ileus  
Dehydration  
Prerenal failure  
Inflammation  
Cachexia

## Implantation Related

Postoperative surgical wound infection  
(This patient had device removed before therapy was initiated)

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# CONCLUSIONS



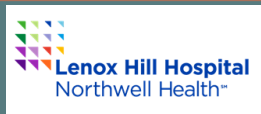
- The inflammatory reflex maintains immunologic homeostasis and can be driven non-pharmacologically with electrical vagus nerve stimulation (VNS).
- 16 weeks of VNS in 16 patients with extremely refractory Crohn's disease led to:
  - ✓ CDAI-70 response > 50%
  - ✓ CDAI remission in 3/8 VNS monotherapy patients and 1/8 adjunctive therapy patients
- Centrally read SES-CDs showed >25% reductions in 5/15 patients, with 1/15 in endoscopic remission; longer treatment may result in more complete healing.
- Improvements were observed in biomarkers of disease activity:
  - ✓ Fecal calprotectin levels reduced in 14/16 patients, median reduction -63%
  - ✓ Serum CRP (not elevated at baseline in many patients) declined on average
  - ✓ Reductions in circulating proinflammatory cytokines
- Improvements in patient reported outcome (QoL) metrics (IBDQ, SHS).
- Improvements in autonomic tone as assessed by heart rate variability.
- SAEs occurred in a number of patients, all related to severe Crohn's disease and one patient had surgical infection

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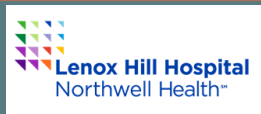
# LONG-TERM MULTIDONOR FECAL MICROBIOTA TRANSFER (FMT) BY ORAL CAPSULES FOR ACTIVE ULCERATIVE COLITIS

Microbiome as Therapy in IBD and CDI

50th Digestive Disease Week  
San Diego, 21st of May 2019



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# Fecal Microbiota Transfer (FMT) for Treatment of Ulcerative Colitis

## Meta Analysis:

4 RCT  
n=277

## Clinical Remission

FMT 28% vs. Placebo 9%  
(OR: 3.67 95%CI: 1.82- 7.39;  $P < .01$ )

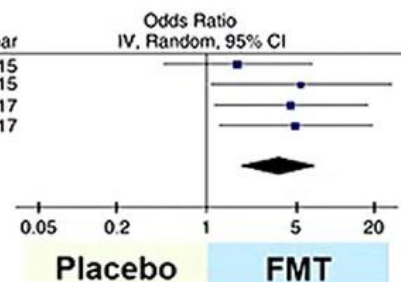
## Endoscopic Remission

FMT 14% vs. Placebo 5%  
(OR: 2.69 95%CI: 1.07-6.74;  $P = .04$ )

## Clinical Remission

Study or Subgroup	Donor transplant		Placebo		Weight	Odds Ratio IV, Random, 95% CI	Year
	Events	Total	Events	Total			
Rossen 2015	7	23	5	25	28.2%	1.75 (0.47, 6.57)	2015
Moayyedi 2015	9	38	2	37	19.0%	5.43 (1.09, 27.15)	2015
Paramsothy 2017	11	41	3	40	26.5%	4.52 (1.16, 17.70)	2017
Costello 2017	12	38	3	35	26.4%	4.92 (1.25, 19.31)	2017
<b>Total (95% CI)</b>		140		137	100.0%	<b>3.67 (1.82, 7.39)</b>	
Total events	39		13				

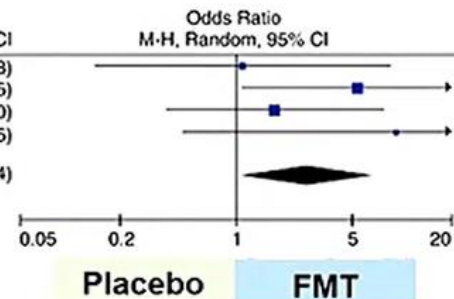
Heterogeneity:  $\tau^2 = 0.00$ ;  $\chi^2 = 1.70$ ,  $df = 3$  ( $P = .64$ );  $I^2 = 0\%$   
Test for overall effect:  $Z = 3.63$  ( $P = .0003$ )



## Endoscopic Remission

Study or Subgroup	Donor FMT		Placebo		Weight	Odds Ratio M-H, Random, 95% CI
	Events	Total	Events	Total		
Rossen 2015	2	23	2	25	20.2%	1.10 (0.14, 8.48)
Moayyedi 2015	9	38	2	37	32.7%	5.43 (1.09, 27.15)
Paramsothy 2017	5	41	3	40	37.5%	1.71 (0.38, 7.70)
Costello 2017	4	38	0	35	9.7%	9.26 (0.48, 178.55)
<b>Total (95% CI)</b>		140		137	100.0%	<b>2.69 (1.07, 6.74)</b>
Total events	20		7			

Heterogeneity:  $\tau^2 = 0.00$ ;  $\chi^2 = 2.54$ ,  $df = 3$  ( $P = .47$ );  $I^2 = 0\%$   
Test for overall effect:  $Z = 2.11$  ( $P = .04$ )



Costello SP et al. Aliment Pharmacol Ther 2017;46

## Fecal Microbiota Transfer (FMT) – Intensity

Disease	CDI	UC	UC	UC
Author	van Nodd et al. 2012	Rossen et al. 2015	Moayyedi et al. 2015	Paramsothy et al. 2017
Trial	RCT	RCT	RCT	RCT
Donor	1	1	1	3-7
FMT Intensity	1x enema	2x nasoduodenal tube	6x enemas	40x (1 colonoscopy, 39 enemas)
Remission FMT vs. control	81% vs. 23%	30% vs. 20 % ns	24% vs. 5%	44% vs. 20% *steroid free

Van Nood E et al. N Engl J Med 2013;368  
 Rossen NG et al. Gastroenterology 2015;149  
 Moayyedi P et al. Gastroenterology 2015;149  
 Paramsothy et al. Lancet 2017;389

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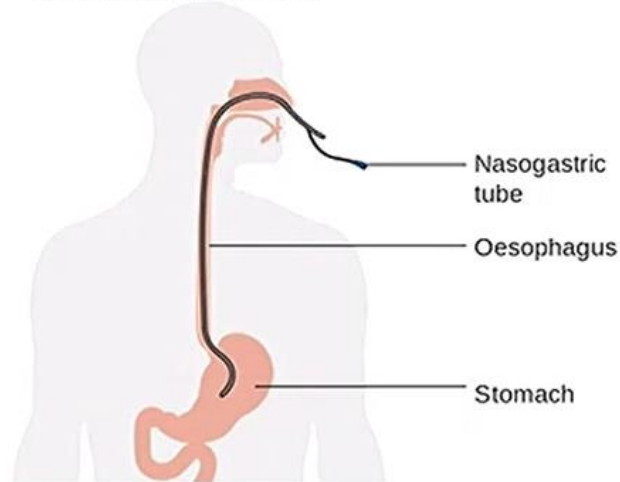


## Mode of Application

Enema



Nasogastric/  
-duodenal tube



Oral intake - Capsule



Health care utilization, potential complications, costs

Picture: creative commons + <https://www.fpv.org.au>

## FMT Capsule Preparation

Fresh  
donated  
stool  
(75-100g)



### Homogenization + Filtration



200ml 0.9% sodium chloride  
w/ 10% glycerol



### Double encapsulation



acid-resistant hypromellose  
capsules  
(DRcaps Capsugel, Cambridge, MA)

## Eligibility Criteria

Inclusion	Exclusion
Active UC despite treatment with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- corticosteroids (&lt;30 mg prednisone/day),</li> <li>- immunosuppressive and/or</li> <li>- TNF or integrin antibody treatment agents</li> </ul>	Pregnancy
Active UC (Mayo $\geq$ 4)	Unable to give written consent
Endoscopic Subscore $\geq$ 1	

## Treatment Protocol - Diagnostic Assessment

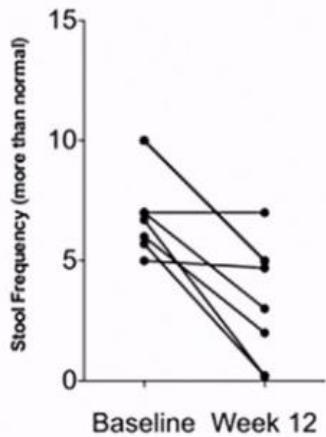


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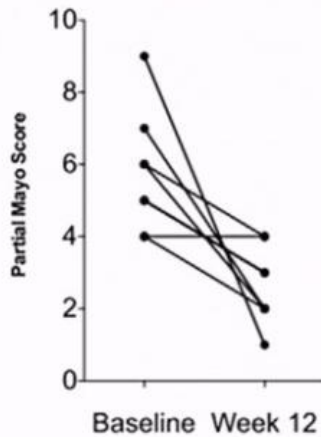
Number of patients enrolled	10
<i>Demographics</i>	
Male	8 (80%)
Mean age	37 ±7
<i>Disease location</i>	
Pancolitis	6 (60%)
Left-sided colitis	2 (20%)
Proctosigmoiditis	2 (20%)
<i>Therapy</i>	
Concomitant corticosteroids	8 (80%)
Biologic experienced	7 (70%)

# Clinical Outcomes

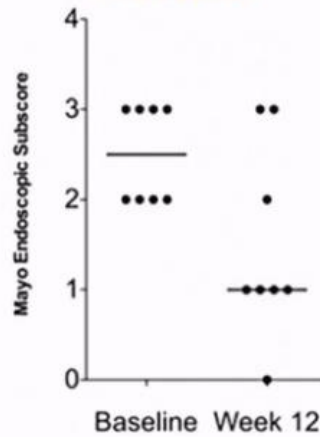
Stool Frequency



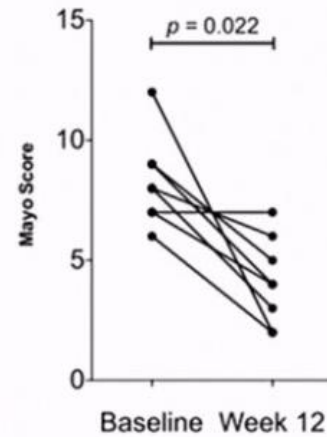
Partial Mayo Score



Mayo Endoscopic Subscore



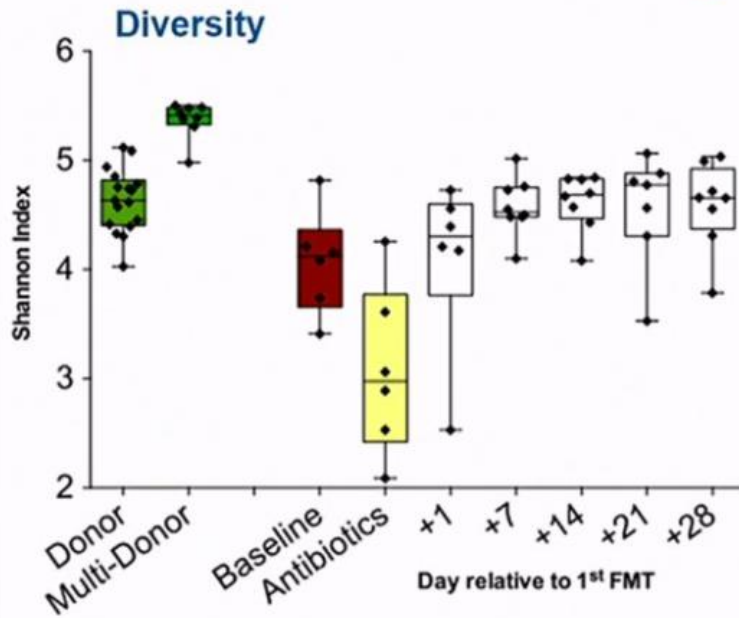
Mayo Score



**Serious Adverse Events:** 2 – worsening of colitis, discontinuation within 5 days of study  
**Adverse Events:** minor bloating/flatulence within first week

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## Fecal Microbiota Diversity and Community Structure



- Lower diversity of UC patients at BL
- Antibiotics decreased diversity
- Capsule FMT increased diversity

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- **First study to evaluate clinical and microbial impact of capsule based long-term FMT**
- **Capsule stability sufficient to facilitate intestinal release**
- **Safe and effective to rapidly modulate microbial diversity**
- **Engraftment of multidonor community structure with Prevotellaceae becoming dominant members**
- **Beneficial clinical response with significant reduction of Mayo Score**
- **Limitations: single-center, small sample size, no control group**

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Thank You