

# European guidelines on microscopic colitis: United European Gastroenterology (UEG) and European Microscopic Colitis Group (EMCG) statements and recommendations

United European Gastroenterology  
Journal

0(0) 1–28

© Author(s) 2020



Article reuse guidelines:

[sagepub.com/journals-permissions](https://sagepub.com/journals-permissions)

DOI: 10.1177/2050640620951905

[journals.sagepub.com/home/ueg](https://journals.sagepub.com/home/ueg)



Stephan Miehke<sup>1,2</sup>, Danila Guagnozzi<sup>3,4,5,6</sup>, Yamile Zabana<sup>6,7</sup>,  
Gian E Tontini<sup>8</sup>, Anne-Marie Kanstrup Fiehn<sup>9</sup>, Signe Wildt<sup>10,11</sup>,  
Johan Bohr<sup>12</sup>, Ole Bonderup<sup>13</sup>, Gerd Bouma<sup>14</sup>, Mauro D'Amato<sup>15</sup>,  
Peter Johan Heiberg Engel<sup>16</sup>, Fernando Fernandez-Banares<sup>6,7</sup>,  
Gilles Macaigne<sup>17</sup>, Henrik Hjortswang<sup>18,19</sup>,  
Elisabeth Hultgren-Hörnquist<sup>20</sup>, Anastasios Koulaouzidis<sup>21</sup>,  
Jouzas Kupcinskas<sup>22</sup>, Stefania Landolfi<sup>23</sup> , Giovanni Latella<sup>24</sup>,  
Alfredo Lucendo<sup>25</sup> , Ivan Lyutakov<sup>26</sup> , Ahmed Madisch<sup>27</sup>,  
Fernando Magro<sup>28</sup>, Wojciech Marlicz<sup>29</sup> , Emese Mihaly<sup>30</sup>,  
Lars Kristian Munck<sup>10,11</sup>, Ann-Elisabeth Ostvik<sup>31,32</sup>,  
Árpád V Patai<sup>33,34</sup> , Plamen Penchev<sup>26</sup>,  
Karolina Skonieczna-Żydecka<sup>35</sup>, Bas Verhaegh<sup>36</sup> and  
Andreas Münch<sup>18,19</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Center for Digestive Diseases, Internal Medicine Center Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany

<sup>2</sup>Center for Esophageal Disorders, University Hospital Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany

<sup>3</sup>Neuro-Immuno-Gastroenterology Group, Digestive Physiology and Pathophysiology Unit, Vall d'Hebron Research Institute (VHIR), Barcelona, Spain

<sup>4</sup>Digestive System Department, Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, Barcelona, Spain

<sup>5</sup>Faculty of Medicine, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Bellaterra, Spain

<sup>6</sup>Centro de Investigación Biomédica en Red de Enfermedades Hepáticas y Digestivas (CIBERehd), Barcelona, Spain

<sup>7</sup>Department of Gastroenterology, Hospital Universitari Mutua de Terrassa, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

<sup>8</sup>Department of Pathophysiology and Organ Transplantation, University of Milan and Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Unit, Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, Milan, Italy

<sup>9</sup>Department of Pathology, Copenhagen University Hospital, Rigshospitalet, Denmark

<sup>10</sup>Department of Gastroenterology, Zealand University Hospital, Koege, Denmark

<sup>11</sup>Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

<sup>12</sup>Department of Medicine, Örebro University Hospital, Örebro University, Örebro, Sweden

<sup>13</sup>Diagnostik Center, Hospitalenhed Midt, Regionshospitalet Silkeborg, Silkeborg, Denmark

<sup>14</sup>Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

<sup>15</sup>School of Biological Sciences, Monash University, Clayton, Australia

<sup>16</sup>Department of Pathology, Zealand University Hospital, Roskilde, Denmark

<sup>17</sup>Hepatogastroenterology Unit, Centre Hospitalier de Marne-la-Vallee, Jossigny, France

<sup>18</sup>Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology in Linköping, Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden

<sup>19</sup>Department of Health, Medicine, and Caring Sciences, Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden

<sup>20</sup>School of Medical Sciences, Örebro University, Örebro, Sweden

<sup>21</sup>The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Endoscopy Unit, Edinburgh, UK

<sup>22</sup>Department of Gastroenterology and Institute for Digestive

Research, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Kaunas, Lithuania

<sup>23</sup>Department of Pathology, Hospital Universitari Vall d'Hebron, CIBERONC, Barcelona, Spain

<sup>24</sup>Department of Life, Health and Environmental Sciences, University of L'Aquila, L'Aquila, Italy

<sup>25</sup>Department of Gastroenterology, Hospital General de Tomelloso, Tomelloso, Spain

<sup>26</sup>Department of Gastroenterology, Medical University of Sofia, University Hospital Tsaritsa Yoanna – ISUL, Sofia, Bulgaria

<sup>27</sup>Department of Gastroenterology, CRH Clinic Siloah, Hannover, Germany

<sup>28</sup>Department of Pharmacology, Hospital de Sao Joao, Porto, Portugal

<sup>29</sup>Department of Gastroenterology, Pomeranian Medical University, Szczecin, Poland

<sup>30</sup>Department of Internal Medicine, Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary

<sup>31</sup>Department of Clinical and Molecular Medicine, NTNU: Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway

<sup>32</sup>Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, St Olav's University Hospital, Trondheim, Norway

## Abstract

**Introduction:** Microscopic colitis is a chronic inflammatory bowel disease characterised by normal or almost normal endoscopic appearance of the colon, chronic watery, non-bloody diarrhoea and distinct histological abnormalities, which identify three histological subtypes, the collagenous colitis, the lymphocytic colitis and the incomplete microscopic colitis. With ongoing uncertainties and new developments in the clinical management of microscopic colitis, there is a need for evidence-based guidelines to improve the medical care of patients suffering from this disorder.

**Methods:** Guidelines were developed by members from the European Microscopic Colitis Group and United European Gastroenterology in accordance with the Appraisal of Guidelines for Research and Evaluation II instrument. Following a systematic literature review, the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation methodology was used to assess the certainty of the evidence. Statements and recommendations were developed by working groups consisting of gastroenterologists, pathologists and basic scientists, and voted upon using the Delphi method.

**Results:** These guidelines provide information on epidemiology and risk factors of microscopic colitis, as well as evidence-based statements and recommendations on diagnostic criteria and treatment options, including oral budesonide, bile acid binders, immunomodulators and biologics. Recommendations on the clinical management of microscopic colitis are provided based on evidence, expert opinion and best clinical practice.

**Conclusion:** These guidelines may support clinicians worldwide to improve the clinical management of patients with microscopic colitis.

## Keywords

Microscopic colitis, inflammatory bowel disease, diarrhoea, budesonide

Received: 28 May 2020; accepted: 27 July 2020

## Introduction

Microscopic colitis (MC) is an increasingly recognised inflammatory bowel disease associated with significant symptom burden and an impaired health-related quality of life (HRQoL). The clinical course of MC is variable, with chronic or recurrent mild to severe symptoms persisting for months to years. The prevalence of MC varies substantially between geographical regions. The two major histological subtypes are collagenous colitis (CC) and lymphocytic colitis (LC), but incomplete forms may occur (incomplete MC (MCi)). The diagnosis of MC relies on the histological examination of colonic biopsies and requires dedicated gastroenterologists, endoscopists and histopathologists.

Several review articles have been published on various diagnostic and therapeutic aspects of MC.<sup>1–5</sup> In 2012, the European Microscopic Colitis Group (EMCG) proposed their first recommendations for the diagnosis and treatment of MC.<sup>6</sup> In 2013, MC was included in the European consensus on the histopathology of inflammatory bowel disease published on behalf of the European Society of Pathology and the European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation.<sup>7</sup> According to this particular guideline, MC is defined as a “clinical pathological entity characterised by chronic watery (non-bloody) diarrhoea, a normal or

almost normal endoscopic appearance of the colon, and a distinct histologic pattern of collagenous colitis or lymphocytic colitis”. This includes that other causes for chronic diarrhoea such as infections or other exogenous factors have been ruled out by clinical routine procedures. More recently, the Spanish Microscopic Colitis Group and the American Gastroenterology Associations have published first evidence-based statements and recommendations using GRADE (Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation) methodology, which is now considered as the standard tool for the development of clinical practice guides.<sup>8,9</sup>

With persistent uncertainties and new developments in the clinical management of MC, the United European Gastroenterology (UEG) and

<sup>33</sup>2nd Department of Medicine, Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary

<sup>34</sup>Department of Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA

<sup>35</sup>Department of Human Nutrition and Metabolomics, Pomeranian Medical University, Szczecin, Poland

<sup>36</sup>Department of Internal Medicine, Maastricht University Medical Center, Maastricht, the Netherlands

### Corresponding author:

Stephan Miehke, Center for Digestive Diseases, Internal Medicine Center Eppendorf, Center for Esophageal Disorders, University Hospital Eppendorf, Eppendorfer Landstraße 42, 20249 Hamburg, Germany.

Email: miehke@faz-eppendorf.de

EMCG identified the need to develop updated clinical practical guidelines in order to increase awareness for MC and support clinicians to improve clinical care of MC patients in daily routine practice.

## Methodology

### *The guideline working group*

All members of EMCG were asked to participate and an open invitation was placed on the UEG website for several months prior to the first group meeting held in Vienna in October 2018. Finally, the entire group consisted of 32 physicians and researchers from 14 European countries, including gastroenterologists, pathologists and basic scientists with expertise in scientific methodology, evidence-based medicine and clinical and therapeutic management of MC. A total of five working groups were established (1: Epidemiology, risk factors; 2: Pathogenesis; 3: Clinical manifestation, quality of life; 4: Diagnosis, monitoring; 5: Treatment), each consisting of a working group leader and five to seven group members. A steering committee was established consisting of the two coordinators (SM, AMü) and the working group leaders (DG, YZ, GET, AMKF, SW). First, a list of topics and research questions to be covered by the guidelines was created by the steering committee based upon discussions with the working group members on their relevance and their potential impact on clinical practice. The final list of research questions was formatted into the PICO (patient, intervention, control, outcome) framework, when appropriate.

### *Literature search and assessment of evidence*

A formal systematic review of the literature was carried out for each research question using MEDLINE (accessed via PubMed), EMBASE electronic databases and the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (Cochrane Library) and the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials from inception until July 2019, with no restriction of languages and periodically updated. The search strategy and the process of study selection categorised per research question can be found in online Appendix A (supplementary material). A review of the citations to identify potentially relevant articles was also carried out. This included systematic reviews and other documents offering a critical synthesis of the scientific literature, as well as randomised clinical trials, whenever possible.

Data on epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical manifestations, diagnosis and treatment of MC were critically reviewed and meta-analyses conducted, when applicable. The working groups followed the

GRADE methodology (<https://www.gradeworkinggroup.org/>) to assess the quality of evidence of statements/recommendations, and classified the recommendations for the different clinical scenarios into four final categories: *strong recommendation for an intervention* (implying to do it), *weak recommendation for an intervention* (implying to probably do it), *weak against an intervention* (implying to probably not do it) and *strong against an intervention* (implying not to do it). The strength of recommendation (GR: strong or weak) using the GRADE approach was only given for studies on the accuracy of diagnostic procedures and on the assessment of the treatment efficacy.

The level of evidence (LE) was classified in four categories: high, moderate, low or very low quality, based on the strict assessment of the quality of the evidence. The quality of the evidence could be downgraded as a result of limitations in the study design or in its implementation, imprecision of estimates, variability in the results, indirectness of the evidence or publication bias; or upgraded because of a very large magnitude of effects, a dose–response gradient or if all the plausible biases would reduce an apparent treatment effect. Moreover, the recommendations were also based on some other factors, such as desirable and undesirable consequences of alternative management strategies, variability in values and preferences and the use of resources (costs). The results of data extraction and quality of the evidence assessments are summarised in Appendix B (supplementary material).

### *Evolution of statements/recommendations*

Based on the literature review and assessment of evidence, the working groups drafted initial statements and recommendations, which subsequently underwent a voting process by the entire guideline group using the Delphi method. The participants judged the statement/recommendation based on a five-point Likert scale (1: strongly disagree; 2: disagree; 3: neutral; 4: agree; 5: strongly agree), and suggested modifications or even new ones. Following this process, the statements and recommendations were revised by the working groups. They were modified if necessary and voted on again during a final face-to-face consensus meeting held in Barcelona in October 2019. Statements and recommendations were approved if 75% or more of the participants agreed with it (Likert score of 4 or 5; 75% to 94%: consensus, 95% to 100%: strong consensus). Each statement and recommendation is accompanied by the LE (high, moderate, low, very low), grade of recommendation, result of the vote (percentage agreement) at the consensus meeting and discussion of the corresponding evidence. The guideline group

formulated a total of 39 statements and recommendations (Table 1).

#### *Epidemiology and risk factors of MC. What is the incidence of MC?*

Statement 1.1: The pooled overall incidence rate of MC is estimated to be 11.4 (95% confidence interval (CI): 9.2–13.6) cases per 100,000 person-years. The incidence of CC and LC ranges from 0.6 to 16.4 cases per 100,000 person-years and from 0.6 to 16.0 cases per 100,000 person-years, respectively.

LE: high; GR: not applicable; agreement: 100%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: epidemiological studies have documented an increasing incidence of MC in western countries. An overall pooled incidence rate of 11.4 (95% CI: 9.2–13.6,  $I^2=99.72\%$ ) cases of MC per 100,000 person-years was calculated based on studies providing population-based data.<sup>10–31</sup> Several studies from North America<sup>20,27</sup> and Europe<sup>14,16–18,25,26,29</sup> reported variations in incidence rates over a 10-year time period in the same region. They all showed an increasing incidence in the early years, which has reached a plateau.<sup>32</sup> The pooled incidence rate for CC<sup>10,11,13–24,26–31,33–36</sup> was 4.9 (95% CI: 4.2–5.7,  $I^2=98.3\%$ ) cases per 100,000 person-years. The pooled LC incidence rate was 5.0 (95% CI: 4.0–6.1,  $I^2=98.75\%$ ) cases per 100,000 person-years.<sup>10–31</sup> Geographic variations in the incidence of MC have been reported; however, the limited number of studies from Southern Europe compared to Northern Europe and the lack of direct comparative studies from different countries for the same time period does hinder firm conclusions on this matter.

The MC incidence is higher in the elderly. A previous meta-analysis showed the median patients' age at the time of diagnosis was over 60 years old (CC: 64.9, CI: 57.03–72.78; LC: 62.2, CI: 54.0–70.4 years).<sup>32</sup> However, up to 25% of patients diagnosed with CC were less than 45 years<sup>33</sup> and cases of CC have even been described in children.<sup>37–40</sup>

#### *What is the prevalence of MC?*

Statement 1.2: The pooled overall prevalence of MC is estimated to be 119 (95% CI: 73–166) per 100,000 persons, with an overall prevalence of 50.1 per 100,000 person-year for CC and 61.7 per 100,000 persons for LC.

LE: high; GR: NA; agreement: 94%, consensus

Summary of evidence: five population-based studies from Spain,<sup>21,41</sup> North America<sup>20,27</sup> and Sweden<sup>30</sup> have assessed the prevalence of MC and provided a wide range from 47.5 to 219 cases per 100,000 persons. These studies were pooled to provide an overall MC prevalence of 119.4 (95% CI: 72.9–165.9,  $I^2=97.08\%$ ) cases per 100,000 persons. For CC, the pooled

prevalence was estimated to be 50.1 (95% CI: 13.69–76.5,  $I^2=98.37\%$ ) cases per 100,000 persons.<sup>20,21,27,30,33,41</sup> The estimated pooled prevalence of LC was 61.7 (95% CI: 48.2–75.3,  $I^2=80.56\%$ ) per 100,000 persons.<sup>20,21,27,30,41</sup> Some studies reported that increasing age was a risk factor for developing MC,<sup>20,33,41</sup> with a 5.25 (95% CI: 3.81–7.24) times higher probability of MC in people over 65 years of age.<sup>41</sup>

#### *What is the frequency of MC in chronic diarrhoea?*

Statement 1.3: The pooled frequency of MC in patients with unexplained chronic watery diarrhoea is 12.8% (95% CI: 10–16), with significant heterogeneity ( $I^2=93.6\%$ ).

LE: moderate; GR: NA; agreement: 100%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: the frequency of MC in patients with chronic or intermittent watery diarrhoea and a macroscopically normal (or near normal) colon has been evaluated in several studies.<sup>17,18,21,26,27,42–72</sup>

Based on studies with a moderate or high quality, and a sample size of  $\geq 100$  patients,<sup>17,18,21,26,27,42,43,45–47,49,52,54,56,59,60</sup> the pooled overall frequency of MC was estimated to be 12.8% (95% CI: 9.9–15.9,  $I^2=93.6\%$ ). The pooled frequency of CC and LC was 4.96% (95% CI: 3.6–6.5,  $I^2=85.2\%$ )<sup>17,18,21,26,27,42,43,45,47,49,52,54,56,60</sup> and 8.2% (95% CI: 6.0–10.8,  $I^2=92.0\%$ ),<sup>17,18,21,26,27,42,43,45,47,49,52,54,56,60</sup> respectively (see also Appendix D, supplementary material). The data showed high heterogeneity and are not directly comparable, considering the different geographical and genetic background, different definitions of chronic watery diarrhoea used, the lack of clearly described diagnostic criteria for MC and diagnostic work-up before colonoscopy.

#### *Is smoking a risk factor for MC?*

Statement 1.4: Former, but especially current smoking is associated with an increased risk for both CC and LC.

LE: moderate; GR: NA; agreement: 100%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: the prevalence of current smoking in MC patients ranged from 15.3% to 40.7% (CC: 13.6–37.1%; LC: 13.2–26.0%) compared to 5.0–28.2% in non-MC control groups.<sup>28,43,73–82</sup> In a recent meta-analysis,<sup>83</sup> current smokers had a significantly increased risk of MC compared with never smokers (odds ratio (OR) 2.99; 95% CI: 2.15–4.15).<sup>83</sup> Current smoking was more strongly associated with CC than LC (OR 5.5, 95% CI: 3.4–8.9; OR 2.96, 95% CI: 2.0–4.3, respectively).<sup>83</sup> Former smoking was also associated with an increased risk (OR 1.6, 95% CI: 1.4–1.9).<sup>83</sup> However, inter-study heterogeneity was high or moderate for all analyses. Smoking status was

**Table 1.** Summary of UEG/EMCG statements and recommendations for MC.

Section and number	Statement/recommendation	Level of evidence	Grade of recommendation	Voting
Section 1	Epidemiology and risk factors			
1.1	The pooled overall incidence rate of MC is estimated to be 11.4 (95% CI: 9.2–13.6) cases per 100,000 person-years. The incidence of CC and LC ranges from 0.6 to 16.4 cases per 100,000 person-years and from 0.6 to 16.0 cases per 100,000 person-years, respectively.	High	NA	100%
1.2	The pooled overall prevalence of MC is estimated to be 119 (95% CI: 73–66) per 100,000 persons, with an overall prevalence of 50.1 per 100,000 person-year for CC and 61.7 per 100,000 persons for LC.	High	NA	94%
1.3	The pooled frequency of MC in patients with chronic watery diarrhoea is 12.8% (95% CI: 10–16), with significant heterogeneity ( $I^2 = 93.6\%$ ).	Moderate	NA	100%
1.4	Former, but especially current smoking is associated with an increased risk of both CC and LC.	Moderate	NA	100%
1.5	The risk of developing CC or LC is higher in women than in men.	High	NA	100%
1.6	There is insufficient evidence to evaluate the influence of smoking cessation on the disease course.	Low	NA	78%
1.7	Chronic or frequent use of PPI, NSAID or SSRI is associated with an increased risk of MC. However, this does not imply a causal relationship.	Low	NA	94%
1.8	We suggest to consider withdrawal of any drugs with a suspected chronological relationship between drug introduction and onset of diarrhoea.	Very low	Weak in favour	97%
1.9	MC does not increase the risk of colorectal cancer or adenoma.	Low	Strong in favour	100%
Section 2	A special surveillance colonoscopy program is not recommended.			
2.1	Pathogenesis Pathogenesis of MC is complex and multifactorial. It may include luminal factors, immune dysregulation and genetic predisposition.	Low	NA	100%
Section 3	Clinical manifestation			
3.1	The most common symptom of MC is chronic watery, non-bloody diarrhoea, which is frequently associated with concomitant symptoms including faecal urgency, nocturnal stools and faecal incontinence.	Moderate	NA	97%
3.2	MC diagnosis should be ruled out in patients fulfilling the criteria for functional bowel disease, especially in presence of MC risk factors and/or in absence of IBS-therapy response.	Moderate	NA	93%
3.3	Health-related quality of life (HRQOL) is impaired in patients with MC, depending on the activity and severity of the disease and concomitant comorbidities.	Moderate	NA	100%

(continued)

Table 1. Continued.

Section and number	Statement/recommendation	Level of evidence	Grade of recommendation	Voting
3.4	In the absence of a formally validated metric of disease activity, disease activity and clinical remission in MC should be assessed by the Hjortswang criteria (clinical remission: mean of <3 stools per day and a mean <1 water stool per day during a one-week registration).	Moderate	NA	100%
Section 4	Diagnosis			
4.1	Endoscopic findings are recognised with increased frequency in patients with MC, however they are non-specific.	Low	NA	95%
4.2	The histopathologic criteria of CC are a thickened subepithelial collagenous band $\geq 10$ $\mu\text{m}$ combined with an increased inflammatory infiltrate in lamina propria. The criteria apply to haematoxylin–eosin-stained slides.	Moderate	NA	89%
4.3	The histopathologic criteria of LC are an increased number of intra-epithelial lymphocytes $\geq 20$ per 100 surface epithelial cells combined with an increased inflammatory infiltrate in lamina propria and a not significantly thickened collagenous band (<10 $\mu\text{m}$ ). The criteria apply to haematoxylin–eosin-stained slides.	Moderate	NA	100%
4.4	Incomplete MC comprises incomplete CC (defined by a thickened subepithelial collagenous band >5 $\mu\text{m}$ but <10 $\mu\text{m}$ ) and incomplete LC (defined by >10 IELs but <20 IELs and a normal collagenous band). Both types show a mild inflammatory infiltrate in the lamina propria. The criteria apply to haematoxylin–eosin-stained slides.	Low	NA	95%
4.5	We recommend ileocolonoscopy with biopsies from at least the right and left colon.	High	Strong in favour	100%
4.6	We recommend against histological monitoring in patients with MC.	Very low	Strong in favour	100%
4.7	Faecal calprotectin is not useful to exclude or monitor MC.	Moderate	NA	100%
4.8	We recommend screening for coeliac disease in patients with MC.	High	Strong in favour	100%
4.9	Testing for bile acid diarrhoea is not part of routine diagnostic work-up in MC.	Low	NA	83%
4.10	Testing for bile acid diarrhoea can be considered in patients who experience non-response to budesonide treatment.	Low	Strong in favour	82%
Section 5	Treatment			
5.1.1	We recommend using oral budesonide to induce remission in patients with CC.	Moderate	Strong in favour	100%
5.1.2	We recommend using oral budesonide to induce remission in patients with LC.	Low	Strong in favour	100%
5.2.1	Oral budesonide is effective to maintain remission in patients with CC.	Moderate	Strong in favour	94%

(continued)

**Table 1.** Continued.

Section and number	Statement/recommendation	Level of evidence	Grade of recommendation	Voting
5.2.2	We suggest using oral budesonide to maintain remission in patients with LC.	Very low	Weak in favour	84%
5.3.1	There is no increased risk of serious adverse events with budesonide in MC.	Low	NA	100%
5.3.2	The risk of osteoporotic bone fractures seems not be increased in budesonide treated MC patients, although prolonged use might be associated with a decrease of bone mineral density	Low	NA	97%
5.4	We recommend against treatment with mesalazine in patients with MC for induction of remission. There are no studies for maintenance.	Low	Strong against	94%
5.5	There is not enough evidence to recommend bismuth subsalicylate in patients with MC.	Very low	Strong against	92%
5.6	There is not enough evidence to recommend the use of loperamide in MC. Given the documented effect in patients with chronic diarrhoea, the expert's opinion favours the use of this drug in mild disease.	Very low	Strong in favour	100%
5.7	In patients with MC and bile acid diarrhoea we suggest treatment with bile acid binders.	Very low	Weak in favour	100%
5.8	There is not enough evidence to recommend antibiotics for treatment of MC.	Very low	Strong against	100%
5.9	We recommend against use of probiotics for treatment of MC.	Low	Strong against	100%
5.10	We recommend against the use of prednisolone or other corticosteroids than budesonide for the treatment of MC.	Low	Strong against	100%
5.11	We recommend treatment with thiopurines, anti-TNF drugs or vedolizumab in selected patients with MC who fail to respond to budesonide to induce and maintain clinical remission. We recommend against the use of methotrexate in patients with MC.	Low	Strong in favour	97%
5.12	Surgery can be considered in selected MC patients as last option if all medical therapy fails.	Very low	Weak in favour	100%

MC: microscopic colitis; Ci: confidence interval; CC: collagenous colitis; LC: lymphocytic colitis; IELs: intraepithelial lymphocytes; IBs: irritable bowel syndrome; PPI: proton pump inhibitor; NSAID: nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs; SSRI: selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor; NA: Not applicable.

often assessed by self-administered questionnaires or review of medical records, and a homogeneous definition of smoking was lacking.

*Is female gender a risk factor for MC?*

Statement 1.5: The risk of developing CC or LC is higher in women than in men.

LE: high; GR: NA; agreement: 100%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: the incidence of MC is higher in women than in men, as reported in a previous meta-analysis published in 2015.<sup>32</sup> Actually, subgroup analyses on the incidence of MC by sex were possible in 19 studies.<sup>10,12–24,26–30</sup> Female sex was significantly associated with MC (pooled OR 2.52, 95% CI: 2.28–2.79,  $I^2$  89%), with no differences between studies from Northern Europe (pooled OR 2.48, 95% CI: 2.22–2.78,  $I^2$  90%), Southern Europe (pooled OR 2.53, 95% CI: 1.63–3.94,  $I^2$  62%) and North America (pooled OR 2.77, 95% CI: 2.02–3.81,  $I^2$  37%). Subgroup analyses of CC ( $n = 18$  studies)<sup>10,12–19,23,26–30,33,35,36</sup> and LC ( $n = 15$  studies)<sup>10,12–19,23,26–30</sup> reproduced these results, with a pooled OR of 3.24 (95% CI: 3.03–3.47,  $I^2 = 35%$ ) in CC and 2.06 (95% CI: 1.84–2.31,  $I^2 = 78%$ ) in LC (see also Appendix D, supplementary material). The proportion of females among MC populations have been described in the range of 52% to 86% (see supplement material, p. 28). In the three largest studies from Sweden,<sup>12</sup> Denmark<sup>14</sup> and the Netherlands,<sup>29</sup> the average proportion of females was approximately 72%.

*Does smoking cessation influence the disease course of MC?*

Statement 1.6: There is insufficient evidence to evaluate the influence of smoking cessation on the disease course.

LE: low; GR: NA; agreement: 78%, consensus

Summary of evidence: no studies directly evaluated the effect of smoking cessation on the disease course. In one study, the risk of developing MC declined significantly over time ( $P = 0.017$ ), leading to an attenuated risk after five years after smoking cessation.<sup>73</sup> However, compared to smokers, former smokers do not have a significantly lower risk of MC (OR 1.44; 95% CI: 0.76–2.72).<sup>73–76,78,80,82</sup> In two studies, current smokers developed MC more than one decade earlier than former or never smokers.<sup>77,84</sup> The majority of the studies showed no differences in terms of clinical presentation response to treatment, spontaneous remission rates and disease recurrence or need for maintenance treatment<sup>73,75,77,78,81,84–89</sup> (see also Appendix D, supplementary material). Only in a post-hoc analysis of pooled data from two randomised controlled trials (RCTs) was current smoking associated with a decreased ability to achieve clinical remission with corticosteroid treatment (OR, 0.31; 95% CI: 0.10–0.98).<sup>90</sup>

*Is drug use associated with a significant increased risk of MC?*

Statement 1.7: Chronic or frequent use of proton pump inhibitors (PPIs), nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) or selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) is associated with an increased risk of MC. However, this does not imply a causal relationship.

LE: low; GR: NA; agreement: 94%, consensus

Summary of evidence: drug-induced MC was addressed by retrospective case-control studies<sup>54,81,82,91–100</sup> showing an association with the use of NSAIDs, PPIs and SSRIs. PPI use was strongly associated with MC (OR 2.95, 95% CI: 1.82–4.80,  $I^2 = 99%$ ),<sup>54,81,82,91–96,98–100</sup> especially when used continuously for 4–12 months (OR 4.69, 95% CI: 3.58–6.13).<sup>98</sup> Exposure to NSAIDs was also associated with an increased risk of MC (OR 2.40, 95% CI: 1.99–2.89,  $I^2 = 88%$ ).<sup>54,82,91–95,97–99</sup> The combined use with PPIs might further increase this risk.<sup>98</sup> MC was also associated with SSRI exposure (OR 2.98, 95% CI: 2.35–3.78,  $I^2 = 90%$ )<sup>54,81,82,91–93,95,96,98,99</sup> (see also Appendix D, supplementary material). It should be stressed that different criteria for “drug exposure” were applied and different reference populations were considered. Moreover, the studies lack information on the evolution of clinical symptoms after drug exposure, withdrawal or re-challenge, hindering assessment of causality.

*Should any drug, potentially related to MC onset, been withdrawn?*

Recommendation 1.8: We suggest to consider withdrawal of any drugs with a suspected chronological relationship between drug introduction and onset of diarrhoea.

LE: very low; GR: weak in favour; agreement: 97%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: in total, 62 case reports and 13 case-control studies<sup>97,101–159</sup> describing drug-induced MC were analysed to calculate the so-called “imputability score” describing the likelihood of a causal relationship between drug exposure and MC. PPIs were the most reported drugs in relation to MC. Resolution of diarrhoea and histological normalisation after PPI withdrawal has been reported in four cases using omeprazole,<sup>156,157</sup> in 16 cases using lansoprazole<sup>111–113,119,123,124,129,138,141,142,146,150,153,154,160</sup> and in one case using esomeprazole.<sup>157</sup> For rabeprazole, only one case of clinical improvement without histological control has been published.<sup>139</sup> In 10 cases,<sup>111,112,138,153,154,156,157,160</sup> switch to another PPI did not result in recurrence of diarrhoea, which contradicts the presumption of a class effect of PPI. One case-control study clearly demonstrated that current and recent use of NSAIDs and PPIs were associated with



an increased risk of MC, when compared to never and past use, especially in the case of continuous exposure for 4–12 months.<sup>98</sup> This observation underlines the clinical relevance of a suspected chronological relationship between drug use and onset of MC.

*Do MC patients require a special program for colonoscopy surveillance to rule out colorectal cancer compared to general population?*

Recommendation 1.9: MC does not increase the risk of colorectal cancer or adenoma. A special surveillance colonoscopy program is not recommended.

LE: low; GR: strong in favour; agreement: 100%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: only a few studies examined whether persistent chronic inflammation in MC is associated with an increased risk of colorectal cancer (CRC) or adenomas.<sup>60,71,80,161–169</sup> The meta-analysis of five case-control studies showed that MC was associated with a reduced risk for CRC or adenoma compared to controls (pooled OR 0.65, 95% CI: 0.33–1.28,  $I^2 = 19\%$ ; and OR 0.49, 95% CI: 0.30–0.81,  $I^2 = 92\%$ , respectively). In a larger retrospective cohort of 547 MC patients (171 CC and 376 LC), CRC was detected in five CC (2.82%) and five LC patients (1.33%).<sup>163</sup> MC was negatively associated with the risk for CRC and adenoma (OR 0.34, 95% CI: 0.16–0.73,  $p = 0.006$ ; and OR 0.52, 95% CI: 0.50–0.76,  $p < 0.001$ , respectively), during a mean follow-up of 4.63 years.<sup>163</sup>

*Pathogenesis of MC.* Statement 2.1: Pathogenesis of MC is complex and multifactorial. It may include luminal factors, immune dysregulation and genetic predisposition.

LE: low; GR: NA; agreement: 100%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: the mechanisms involved in the development of MC are poorly understood and the LE is scarce. It is not in the scope of this guideline to provide in-depth information on this subject. The current knowledge of the factors involved is briefly summarised in Appendix C (supplementary material).

*Clinical manifestation and quality of life. What are the most common symptoms in MC?*

Statement 3.1: The most common symptom in MC is chronic watery, non-bloody diarrhoea, which is frequently associated with concomitant symptoms including faecal urgency, nocturnal stools and faecal incontinence.

LE: moderate; GR: NA; agreement: 97%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: the predominant symptom of MC is chronic watery, non-bloody diarrhoea, which was reported by 84–100% of patients in 22 studies. In one third of the cases, the onset of diarrhoea was acute

in nature,<sup>170–173</sup> and according to a European prospective registry<sup>174</sup> it persists for six months before diagnosis in 43%. Symptoms such as stool frequency, stool consistency and overall duration of diarrhoea are reported in a number of the studies, including a large Danish study of 539 patients,<sup>13</sup> in which an average of 6–7 bowel movements per day was reported. Common concomitant symptoms included faecal urgency (55%), nocturnal stools (35.3%) and faecal incontinence (26.3%). Less frequent complaints with varying prevalences among studies are abdominal pain, weight loss and bloating.<sup>172,173,175</sup> A Swedish study from 2004 involving 199 patients with LC<sup>173</sup> reported a median weight loss of 5 (4–8) kg; however, early studies might have included a selected population, as the awareness for MC was lower.

*Should MC be ruled out in patients fulfilling the criteria for functional bowel disease with diarrhoea predominant subtype?*

Statement 3.2: MC diagnosis should be ruled out in patients fulfilling the criteria for functional bowel disease, especially in presence of MC risk factors and/or in absence of IBS (irritable bowel syndrome)-therapy response.

LE: moderate; GR: NA; agreement: 93%, consensus

Summary of available evidence: MC shares similar symptoms and endoscopic results with functional bowel disorders, especially in diarrhoea-dominant irritable bowel syndrome and chronic functional diarrhoea.<sup>176–179</sup> In two meta-analyses, the identification of underlying MC diagnosis was reported in 9% (95% CI: 4.5–14.9%) among patients exhibiting diarrhoea-predominant functional disorders.<sup>176,178</sup> However, not all studies employed the currently accepted diagnostic criteria for MC, and different criteria for defining functional bowel disorders were used, contributing to the high heterogeneity of the results.

*Is the patient's health-related quality of life (HRQoL) impaired by MC?*

Statement 3.3: HRQoL is impaired in patients with MC, depending on the activity and severity of the disease and concomitant comorbidities

LE: moderate; GR: NA; agreement: 100%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: MC can severely impact HRQoL, with baseline HRQoL being lower than that of patients with other intestinal and proctological disorders.<sup>180</sup> Impaired HRQoL was demonstrated in both active CC and LC, including impact on function in daily living, disease-related worry and well-being.<sup>2,8,181–183</sup> However, HRQoL can also be impaired in patients with MC achieving clinical remission.<sup>89,184,185</sup>

In a population-based study, 116 patients with active CC had an impaired HRQoL compared with a

background population, whereas patients in remission scored similar.<sup>186</sup> HRQoL was impaired in those with a mean of  $\geq 3$  stools/day or a mean of  $\geq 1$  watery stool/day. Therefore, it was proposed that remission in CC should be defined as a mean of  $< 3$  stools per day and a mean  $< 1$  watery stool per day during a one-week registration.<sup>187</sup>

In a case-control study including 212 MC patients, all four HRQoL dimensions (symptom burden, social function, disease-related worry, general well-being) were impaired in patients with active CC and LC.<sup>184</sup> In a cross-sectional survey of 151 MC patients, 52 (34.4%) reported IBS-type symptoms and had higher levels of anxiety, depression and somatisation, and impaired quality of life.<sup>179</sup> In another cross-sectional survey of 129 patients with a new diagnosis of MC, fatigue severity resulted to be associated with IBS-type symptoms, psychological comorbidity and impaired quality of life, with a negative correlation in HRQoL measures.<sup>188</sup> In a cross-sectional study including 158 female MC patients, those with coexisting IBS-like symptoms (55%) experienced worse psychological well-being than those without. Also, smoking and PPI were associated with gastrointestinal symptoms and impaired psychological well-being in MC patients.<sup>89</sup> HRQoL was evaluated in five RCTs including CC patients<sup>189–194</sup> and in two RCTs including LC patients.<sup>192,195</sup> In all seven RCTs, HRQoL was markedly altered at baseline in both CC and LC patients, and improved after budesonide treatment.<sup>196–198</sup>

*Are there established metrics to measure disease activity and clinical remission in MC?*

Statement 3.4: In the absence of a formally validated metric of disease activity, disease activity and clinical remission in MC should be assessed by the Hjortswang criteria (clinical remission: mean of  $< 3$  stools per day and a mean  $< 1$  water stool per day during a one-week registration).

LE: moderate; GR: NA; agreement: 100%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: in the absence of a reliable biomarker, the definition of disease activity is based on clinical disease activity. Various definitions for relapse or clinical remission have been used in clinical trials on MC, mainly based on stool frequency<sup>191,199–204</sup> and stool weight.<sup>200,202</sup> A reduction of the mucosal inflammation or thinning of the collagen layer has also been used to assess histopathological response in trials,<sup>195,199–201,203</sup> but the correlation between histology and clinical symptoms is weak.<sup>205</sup>

In a Swedish population-based survey, CC patients with a mean of  $< 3$  stools per day and a mean of  $< 1$  watery stool/day during a one-week symptom registration had no or only mild impact on their HRQoL and were, hence, defined as being in remission.<sup>187</sup>

In contrast, CC patients with either  $\geq 3$  stools/day or  $\geq 1$  watery stool/day had a significant impact on their HRQoL and were, thus, defined as having active disease. This definition is often referred to as the “Hjortswang criteria” for disease activity.

An MC Disease Activity Index (MCDAI) has been proposed based on the same methodological principles as was once used for the development of the Crohn’s Disease Activity Index.<sup>206</sup> A total of 162 MC patients completed a symptom questionnaire and the HRQoL questionnaire Inflammatory Bowel Disease Questionnaire (IBDQ).<sup>180</sup> A single investigator scored a physician global assessment (PGA) of disease severity on a 10-point scale based on the patients’ survey results. Multiple linear regressions identified the following symptoms to best predict the PGA: *number of unformed stools daily, presence of nocturnal stools, abdominal pain, weight loss, faecal urgency and faecal incontinence*. These symptoms were then combined in a weighted formula to create the MCDAI. The MCDAI was moderately associated with the IBDQ ( $r = -0.62$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ).

Neither the “Hjortswang criteria” nor the MCDAI have undergone formal prospective validation and they do not fulfil the new requirements from the Food and Drug Administration for a patient reported outcome in clinical trials.<sup>207</sup> However, the “Hjortswang criteria” has been used in seven published clinical studies, of which three were RCTs,<sup>193,195,203</sup> which represents a real-life external and prospective validation of the score in clinical practice.

*Diagnosis of MC. What is the endoscopic appearance of MC?*

Statement 4.1: Endoscopic findings are recognised with increased frequency in patients with MC; however, they are non-specific.

LE: low; GR: NA; agreement: 95%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: overall, 80 informative articles including 1582 patients on endoscopic findings in MC were identified, including 756 patients with CC, 779 patients with LC and 47 patients with MC.<sup>19,23,166,208</sup> Macroscopically visible lesions or alterations were reported in 38.8% of patients in various parts of the colon, including isolated linear ulcerations, pseudomembranes, irregular vascular patterns, mucosal lacerations, erythema, oedema, nodularity and surface textural alterations.

Although a larger number of publications exist for CC, the number of published CC and LC patients is very similar.<sup>208</sup> Therefore, no conclusive statement can be made as to whether or not endoscopic findings (and which) may be more common in one or the other histological subtype.

*What are the criteria for the histological diagnosis of CC?*

Statement 4.2: The histopathologic criteria of CC are a thickened subepithelial collagenous band  $\geq 10 \mu\text{m}$  combined with an increased inflammatory infiltrate in the lamina propria. The criteria apply to haematoxylin and eosin (HE)-stained slides.

LE: moderate; GR: NA; agreement: 89%, consensus

Summary of evidence: the original histological criteria of CC have not been contested but elaborated by few others.<sup>209</sup> The most characteristic feature is a thickened subepithelial collagenous band exceeding  $10 \mu\text{m}$ .<sup>210–214</sup> The band often has an irregular deeper edge and may contain entrapped capillaries, red blood cells and inflammatory cells. Focal damage of the surface epithelium, including detachment from the basement membrane, flattening and mucin depletion,<sup>205,210,212,215–220</sup> as well as an increased number of intraepithelial lymphocytes (IELs) is seen.<sup>210,211,215–223</sup> This should be combined with an inflammatory infiltrate in lamina propria of mild to moderate degree, dominated by plasma cells and lymphocytes, but also includes eosinophils,<sup>205,210,213–217,219,223–225</sup> mast cells<sup>213</sup> and, more rarely, neutrophils.<sup>212,214–216,219–221,224,226</sup> Paneth cell metaplasia<sup>205,210,221,224</sup> and occasionally cryptitis can be seen.<sup>212,216,220,221,224,227</sup> The biopsies should be orientated vertically, since tangential sectioning can simulate a thickened collagenous band.<sup>228</sup>

The histologic criteria are based on HE-stained sections. Supplementary stains, such as Van Gieson, Masson Trichrome or Sirius red,<sup>219,220,229</sup> might be helpful since the collagenous band is highlighted. The inter-observer reproducibility of the histological diagnosis of CC is good.<sup>230,231</sup>

*What are the criteria for the histological diagnosis of LC?*

Statement 4.3: The histopathologic criteria of LC are an increased number of IELs  $\geq 20$  per 100 surface epithelial cells combined with an increased inflammatory infiltrate in the lamina propria and a not significantly thickened collagenous band ( $< 10 \mu\text{m}$ ). The criteria apply to HE-stained slides.

LE: moderate; GR: NA; agreement: 100%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: LC was originally named in 1989,<sup>217</sup> although described under the name MC in 1980.<sup>232</sup> The criteria were based on HE-stained slides.<sup>217</sup> The most characteristic feature of LC is an increased number of IELs in the surface epithelium  $\geq 20$  per 100 epithelial cells.<sup>1,3,4,7,233–244</sup> Counting should be performed in the surface epithelium, and areas in close relation to lymphoid aggregates in the lamina propria should be avoided.<sup>1</sup> Focal and mild damage of the surface epithelium, including flattening, mucin depletion and vacuolisation, is seen, although not as prominently as in

CC.<sup>1,3,167,218,220,236,237,240,242,245–248</sup> This should be combined with an inflammatory infiltrate in lamina propria of a mild to moderate degree, dominated by plasma cells and lymphocytes,<sup>3,4,167,217,218,220,233,236,238,239,241,242,246–254</sup> but might also include fewer eosinophils and neutrophils.<sup>3,217,220,248,250,254,255</sup> Occasionally, cryptitis<sup>217,220,221,249,252,256</sup> or Paneth cells metaplasia is seen.<sup>221,236,241,250,252</sup>

Supplementary immunohistochemical staining might be helpful, especially in borderline cases, since highlighting the lymphocytes makes counting easier.<sup>1,3,6,244,257</sup> This might lead to over diagnosing and it has been suggested to use higher cut-off values when counting is performed on CD3-stained slides.<sup>258</sup>

*What are the criteria for the histological diagnosis of MCi?*

Statement 4.4: MCi comprises incomplete CC (CCi; defined by a thickened subepithelial collagenous band  $> 5 \mu\text{m}$  but  $< 10 \mu\text{m}$ ) and incomplete LC (LCi; defined by  $> 10$  IELs but  $< 20$  IELs and a normal collagenous band). Both types show a mild inflammatory infiltrate in the lamina propria. The criteria apply to HE-stained slides.

LE: low; GR: NA; agreement: 95%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: patients with symptoms of MC not completely fulfilling the histological criteria of CC or LC can be classified as CCi or LCi.<sup>1,6,237</sup> Different terms have been used, including MC not otherwise specified,<sup>224,259,260</sup> MC type undesignated,<sup>261</sup> borderline LC<sup>217</sup> and paucicellular LC.<sup>251,262</sup> Although the clinical characteristics of MC and MCi seem indistinguishable,<sup>13,263,264</sup> one study reports that a greater proportion of patients with MCi experience spontaneous remission.<sup>263</sup> In CCi, the subepithelial collagenous band is  $> 5 \mu\text{m}$  but  $< 10 \mu\text{m}$ . In LCi,  $> 10$  but  $< 20$  IELs are required. The inflammatory infiltrate in lamina propria is usually mild but comprises identical cell types, as in CC and LC.

In borderline cases, it is recommended to use a supplementary special stain or an immunohistochemical staining procedure in addition to HE stains.<sup>265</sup>

*Where should biopsies be taken in patients with suspected MC?*

Recommendation 4.5: We recommend ileocolonoscopy with biopsies from at least the right and left side of the colon.

LE: high; GR: strong in favour; agreement: 100%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: studies including a high number of patients with simultaneous biopsies taken from the right and left colon show characteristic histological changes of MC in both sides in 95–98%.<sup>13,23,263</sup> Similarly, smaller studies have found high

concordance.<sup>18,45,46,205,211,266–270</sup> Studies without a strict biopsy protocol reported a lower number of diagnostic biopsies from the left colon.<sup>214,219,229,243</sup> Biopsies exclusively from the rectum are not sufficient.<sup>10,214,215,219,220</sup>

However, since a full ileocolonoscopy is indicated for virtually all patients with chronic diarrhoea, it is recommended to take biopsies from the right and left side of the colon.

It may be advisable to send these in separately labelled containers as the number of inflammatory cells in normal surface epithelium and lamina propria is higher in the right colon.<sup>233,271</sup> Similarly, the normal collagenous band has been reported to be thicker in the sigmoid colon and rectum.<sup>226,227</sup> Especially in borderline cases, this may help the pathologists know that the biopsies are from, for example, the left side where the cellularity is usually lower, because this would support the diagnosis if the pathologist is in doubt. For these reasons, expert opinion among the pathologists participating in this guideline tended towards separate containers, although there is no firm evidence to support this.

*Is histological monitoring necessary in patients with MC?*

Recommendation 4.6: We recommend against histological monitoring in patients with MC.

LE: very low; GR: strong in favour; agreement: 100%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: histology of post-diagnostic disease activity has been described, but histological assessment of remission and relapse is not standardised<sup>171,195,199,203,215,241,247,263,272–276</sup> and correlation between clinical disease activity and histologic features is only weak.<sup>171,195,199,203,215,241,247,263,272–276</sup>

Conversion between CC and LC occurs in some studies.<sup>263,273,275</sup> In a study of 283 patients, histological features persisted in post-diagnostic biopsies for up to one year in 77% with CC, 64% with LC and 45% in MCi, of whom 6%, 9% and 18% converted to a different subtype, respectively. Histological features normalised in approximately 10% and persisted beyond the first year in a significant number of patients, including those in whom diarrhoea had resolved and not recurred.<sup>263</sup>

*Is faecal calprotectin useful in MC?*

Statement 4.7: Faecal calprotectin is not useful to exclude or monitor MC.

LE: moderate; GR: NA; agreement: 100%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: small studies have demonstrated that faecal calprotectin was slightly, albeit significantly, higher in those with MC as compared to patients without organic cause of diarrhoea<sup>277</sup> and IBS.<sup>278</sup> The predictive value was low due to a large

overlap. Wildt et al. demonstrated that faecal calprotectin was increased in some but not all 21 patients with active CC and overlapped between patients with active and quiescent disease and normal controls.<sup>279</sup> Further studies demonstrated overlapping values of other faecal biomarkers, including faecal eosinophil protein and eosinophil cationic protein,<sup>63</sup> faecal lactoferrin,<sup>279,280</sup> alpha-1-antitrypsin,<sup>281</sup> and tryptase, eosinophil protein X and myeloperoxidase.<sup>282</sup> More studies on faecal biomarkers in MC including calprotectin are clearly needed.

*Should patients with MC be tested for coeliac disease?*

Recommendation 4.8: We recommend screening for coeliac disease in patients with MC.

LE: high; GR: strong in favour; agreement: 100%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: one large prospective study demonstrated an incidence of coeliac disease in 3.3% of patients with MC versus 0.4% in controls.<sup>283</sup> Incidence rates were between 2% and 4% in large cohort studies,<sup>13,284</sup> a case-control study<sup>76</sup> and one pathology registry including 3456 MC patients having undergone both gastroscopy and lower endoscopy with biopsy.<sup>285</sup> These estimates are larger than in the background populations, albeit lower than reported in numerous retrospective studies, mostly older case series and incomplete cohorts.<sup>28,88,163,166,170,172,173,286–290</sup> Coeliac disease was mainly diagnosed by biochemical testing rather than histology and most studies screened only approximately half of the patients. Development of MC was not associated with intake of gluten.<sup>291</sup>

*Should patients with MC be tested for bile acid diarrhoea?*

Statement 4.9: Testing for bile acid diarrhoea is not part of routine diagnostic work-up in patients with MC.

LE: low; GR: NA; agreement: 83%, consensus

Recommendation 4.10: Testing for bile acid diarrhoea can be considered in patients who experience non-response to budesonide treatment.

LE: low; GR: strong in favour; agreement: 82%, consensus

Summary of evidence: symptoms of MC and bile acid diarrhoea are indistinguishable, and the two conditions coexist.<sup>13,292,293</sup> The diagnosis of bile acid diarrhoea relies on radiolabelled<sup>75</sup> selenium homotaurocholic acid taurine (SeHCAT) testing. SeHCAT for was performed in 181 of 539 patients included in a large incidence cohort, and retention (<10%) was reduced in 125.<sup>13</sup> Small case series reporting a high incidence of bile acid diarrhoea were probably biased by referral.<sup>292,293</sup> Active CC was associated with a reduced ileal bile acid reuptake and normalisation of disease activity increased retention and normalised bile

acid synthesis.<sup>294</sup> Whether this bile acid diarrhoea is a consequence of inflammation in the right colon or even terminal ileum or merely a coexisting disease per se remains to be explored. Expression of the main bile acid receptor was reduced in biopsies from the colon of patients with MC.<sup>295</sup> MC was not associated with prior cholecystectomy.<sup>296</sup>

*Treatment. Is oral budesonide effective in inducing remission of CC?*

Recommendation 5.1.1: We recommend using oral budesonide to induce remission in patients with CC.

LE: moderate; GR: strong in favour; agreement: 100%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence:

**Clinical response.** A meta-analysis conducted in 2017<sup>197</sup> included four randomised placebo-controlled trials with a total of 161 CC patients.<sup>199–201,203</sup> After six to eight weeks of treatment, pooled analysis revealed 81% (62/77) of patients treated with budesonide 9 mg/d achieved a clinical response compared to 36% (30/84) of patients treated with placebo (relative risk (RR) 2.98, 95% CI: 1.14–7.75; random-effects). This analysis was statistically significant for heterogeneity ( $p=0.001$ ,  $I^2=81\%$ ). After excluding an outlier with an unusually high response rate to placebo,<sup>203</sup> the  $I^2$  statistic decreased to 0% and the respective clinical response rates were 81% (38/47) and 17% (8/47) (RR 4.56, 95% CI: 2.43–8.55). Secondary end points in that study<sup>203</sup> included assessing clinical remission at eight weeks according to the Hjortswang criteria of disease activity (mean <3 stools per day, with <1 watery stool per day). The inclusion of this study in the meta-analysis using these data resulted in a pooled clinical remission rate of 81% (62/77) for budesonide compared to 26% (22/84) with placebo (RR 3.10, 95% CI: 1.8–5.3; random effects). There was no significant heterogeneity ( $p=0.186$ ;  $I^2=37.7\%$ ) (see also Appendix D, supplementary material).

**Histological response.** The pooled analysis of histological response of the four studies<sup>197</sup> included a total of 161 patients with histological remission occurring in 60/77 (78%) and 27/84 (32%) of patients receiving budesonide and placebo, respectively (RR 2.68, 95% CI: 1.37–5.24), which did demonstrate a statistically significant response.

**Quality of life.** In one study,<sup>201</sup> the validated Gastrointestinal Quality of Life Index (GIQLI) was used to measure quality of life at baseline and after six weeks of treatment with budesonide or placebo. A complete quality of life assessment was calculated for 29 trial participants (budesonide:  $n=17$ ; placebo:

$n=12$ ). The mean baseline GIQLI score was 67 in the budesonide group and 86 in the placebo group. After six weeks of treatment, the mean GIQLI score remained unchanged in the placebo group (86 to 88) but increased significantly in the budesonide group (67 to 92;  $p<0.001$ ).

*Is oral budesonide effective in inducing remission of LC?*

Recommendation 5.1.2: We recommend using oral budesonide to induce remission in patients with LC.

LE: low; GR: strong in favour; agreement: 100%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence:

**Clinical response.** A pooled analysis for clinical response in three studies<sup>192,195,297</sup> shows a statistically significant benefit for budesonide over placebo. Clinical remission was noted in 84% (43/51) of budesonide patients and 43% (19/44) of placebo patients (RR 1.89, 95% CI: 1.3–2.7), without heterogeneity ( $I^2=0\%$ ) (see also Appendix D, supplementary material).

**Histological response.** The pooled analysis for histological response showed a statistically significant benefit for budesonide over placebo. Histological response was noted in 78% of budesonide patients compared to 33% of placebo patients (two studies; 39 participants; RR 2.44, 95% CI: 1.13–5.28,  $I^2=0\%$ ).<sup>196</sup>

**Quality of life.** The 36-item Short Form Health Survey scores at baseline were reduced compared to normal values for both the physical and mental domains. In the budesonide group, the mean physical sum score increased from 42.0 at baseline to 49.7 after six weeks of treatment, while the mean mental sum score was unchanged, with a value of 46.5 at baseline and 46.9 after six weeks.<sup>192</sup> In the placebo group, the mean physical sum score increased from 44.1 at baseline to 48.0 after six weeks of treatment, while the mean mental sum score was unchanged, with a value of 49.0 at baseline and 49.1 after six weeks.<sup>192</sup>

*Is oral budesonide effective for maintaining remission of CC?*

Recommendation 5.2.1: We recommend using oral budesonide to maintain remission in patients with CC.

LE: moderate; GR: strong in favour; agreement: 94%, consensus

Summary of evidence:

**Maintenance of clinical response.** In three studies,<sup>191,193,272</sup> patients with CC who had achieved a clinical response with open-label budesonide were randomised to continuous treatment with budesonide or placebo. A pooled analysis of the three studies

showed that 68% (57/84) of patients receiving budesonide maintained remission at their respective study endpoints, whereas only 20% (18/88) of patients receiving placebo maintained remission (RR 3.30, 95% CI: 2.13–5.09).<sup>197</sup> At the end of six months, more patients assigned to budesonide than placebo had maintained their clinical response (75% vs 25%). Results from two randomised clinical trials showed that maintenance therapy with budesonide 6 mg daily over six months resulted in a lower risk of clinical relapse (RR 0.34, 95% CI: 0.19–0.6).<sup>197</sup> A lower dose of budesonide (3 mg daily alternating with 6 mg daily) over 12 months showed similar efficacy in maintaining clinical response (see also Appendix D, supplementary material). In a retrospective study on 75 patients with CC, only 20% required budesonide doses of 6 mg/d or more to maintain clinical remission.<sup>85</sup>

**Maintenance of histological response.** In two studies,<sup>191,272</sup> 25 patients assigned to budesonide with a maintained clinical response underwent a follow-up colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy at the end of six months of treatment. Of these, 19 patients had also maintained their histological response, representing 48% (19/40) of the initial patient cohort randomised to budesonide. In comparison, 19 patients assigned to placebo with a maintained clinical response also underwent a follow-up colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy at the end of six months of treatment. Six of these patients, representing 15% (6/40) of the initial patient cohort randomised to placebo, had a maintained histological response. The pooled RR for maintenance of histological response was 3.17 (95% CI: 1.44–6.95). This was not significant for heterogeneity ( $p = 0.60$ ,  $I^2 = 0\%$ ).<sup>197</sup>

*Is oral budesonide effective for maintaining remission of LC?*

Recommendation 5.2.2: We suggest using oral budesonide to maintain remission in patients with LC.

LE: very low; GR: weak in favour; agreement: 84%, consensus

Summary of evidence: there is no RCT assessing the efficacy of budesonide to maintain remission in LC. However, given the similarity of this disease with CC, budesonide has been used to maintain remission in LC in clinical practice. The opinion of the experts favours the use of this drug in the maintenance of clinical remission in LC.

*Is budesonide a safe drug in the treatment of MC?*

Statement 5.3.1: There is no increased risk of serious adverse events with budesonide in MC.

LE: low; GR: NA; agreement: 100%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: five of seven RCTs of CC reported the proportion of patients experiencing at least one adverse event.<sup>191,193,201,203,272</sup> Pooled adverse

event data, regardless of whether the study was an induction or maintenance trial, showed no statistically significant difference in adverse event rates between budesonide and placebo.<sup>197</sup> Forty-nine per cent (68/140) of patients given budesonide and 42% (63/150) of patients given placebo experienced at least one adverse event (five studies, 290 patients; RR 1.18, 95% CI: 0.92–1.51). Seven per cent (10/140) and 7% (11/150) of patients administered budesonide and placebo, respectively, withdrew due to adverse events (five studies, 290 patients; RR 0.97, 95% CI: 0.43–2.17). Serious adverse events were rare, with 1% (1/84) of patients receiving budesonide and 1% (1/91) of patients receiving placebo experiencing one (four studies, 175 patients; RR 1.11, 95% CI: 0.15–8.01).

Adverse events were reported in two RCTs of LC.<sup>192,195</sup> In one study, six adverse events occurred in two patients (10%) in the budesonide group, compared to nine adverse events in three patients (15%) in the placebo group (RR 0.63, 95% CI: 0.12–3.41).<sup>192</sup> In another RCT, 47.4% (9/19) in the budesonide group and 42.1% (8/19) in the placebo group presented adverse events.<sup>195</sup>

*Is prolonged use of oral budesonide in MC associated with an increased risk of osteoporosis?*

Statement 5.3.2: The risk of osteoporotic bone fractures seems not be increased in budesonide-treated MC patients, although prolonged use might be associated with a decrease of bone mineral density.

LE: low; GR: NA; agreement: 97%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: data on the effect of long-term budesonide on bone mineral density mainly come from its use in other diseases. A mean dose of budesonide of 8.5 mg/day (range, 6–9 mg/day) for two years induced more alterations in bone mineral density (loss >2% per year) than not receiving corticosteroid treatment in patients with Crohn's disease in remission.<sup>298</sup> However, in a case-control study, treatment with budesonide at a dose of around 3 mg/day was not associated with an increased risk of fracture.<sup>299</sup> Oral budesonide (6 mg/d for three years) plus ursodeoxycholic acid to treat patients with primary biliary cirrhosis was also associated with a decrease in bone mass density, with no relation to the stage of liver disease.<sup>300</sup>

One study in MC patients ( $n = 50$ ) showed no significant differences in bone mineral density compared to a control group ( $n = 49$ ) of similar age and sex: 58% osteoporosis and osteopenia in MC versus 39% in the control group.<sup>79</sup> However, the sample size was insufficient and the statistical power low. The cumulative dose of budesonide was associated with lower bone mineral density and T-score in the hip, with a cut-off of 2500 mg of budesonide to predict osteopenia. The markers

of bone formation P1NP (Pro-N-terminal peptide procollagen type 1) and bone alkaline phosphatase were lower in patients with MC than in controls, suggesting an osteoblast dysfunction due to the systemic effect of budesonide or to the disease itself. In a recent case-control study,<sup>301</sup> there was no increase in osteoporotic fractures in general, but a modest isolated effect of budesonide on the risk of spinal fractures was observed, mainly in younger patients.

*Is mesalazine effective in MC?*

Recommendation 5.4: We recommend against treatment with mesalazine in patients with MC for induction of remission. There are no studies for maintenance.

LE: low; GR: strong against; agreement: 94%, consensus

Summary of evidence: mesalazine has been shown in placebo-controlled, randomised studies to lack efficacy and to be inferior to treatment with budesonide in CC<sup>203</sup> and LC.<sup>195</sup> Remission rates were 80%, 44% and 38% after eight weeks of treatment with budesonide, mesalazine and placebo, respectively, in patients with CC,<sup>203</sup> and 79%, 63% and 42%, respectively, in patients with LC.<sup>195</sup> These findings are supported by real-life experience in larger cohorts reporting clinical response to mesalazine in 4/28 with CC, 1/9 with LC and 1/6 with MC<sup>13</sup> in 15 of 33 with LC<sup>170</sup> and in 12 of 31 with CC.<sup>173</sup> Others case series reported response to mesalazine in about half of patients with CC and LC.<sup>272,302–304</sup> By contrast, mesalazine was effective in almost all patients in an open-label mesalazine +/- cholestyramine trial.<sup>305</sup>

*Is there a role for bismuth subsalicylate in MC?*

Recommendation 5.5: There is not enough evidence to recommend bismuth subsalicylate in patients with MC.

LE: very low; GR: strong against; agreement: 92%, consensus

Summary of evidence: the effect of treatment with bismuth subsalicylate for eight weeks was studied in one open-label study with 13 patients with LC or CC.<sup>274</sup> Clinical remission was reported in 11 and histological abnormalities resolved in nine of 13. An effect of bismuth in 10 of 55 patients with LC (45.5%) and in 21 of 76 patients with CC (63.6%) was reported in a retrospectively collected case series.<sup>302</sup> A total of 23% of 22 patients with LC identified retrospectively reported cessation of diarrhoea,<sup>288</sup> but the histological criteria were 10 IELs per 100 epithelial cells.

*Is there a role for loperamide in MC?*

Recommendation 5.6: There is not enough evidence to recommend the use of loperamide in MC. Given the documented effect in patients with chronic diarrhoea, the expert's opinion favours the use of this drug in mild disease.

LE: very low; GR: strong in favour; agreement: 100%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: two large retrospective case series reported response or remission in 49 of 69 patients with CC<sup>173</sup> and in 47 of 67 patients with LC.<sup>170</sup> A large retrospective cohort of 539 patients with MC reported a subjective effect of loperamide in 46/77 with MC.<sup>13</sup> Several cohorts or smaller series reported complete or near complete relief of diarrhoea in 18–57% patients with MC treated with loperamide.<sup>288,304</sup> Loperamide has proven efficacious and safe in several randomised, placebo-controlled trials in patients with chronic diarrhoea, in particular abolishing faecal incontinence.<sup>306–309</sup>

*Are bile acid binding agents effective in MC?*

Recommendation 5.7: In patients with MC and bile acid diarrhoea we suggest treatment with bile acid binders.

LE: very low; GR: weak in favour; agreement: 100%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: a large, prospective cohort study demonstrated that bile acid diarrhoea diagnosed with SeHCAT coexists with MC with an estimated prevalence of approximately 14%, and 84 of 167 patients treated with cholestyramine reported subjective cessation of diarrhoea.<sup>13</sup> This concurs with two large case series reporting the effect of cholestyramine in 26 of 44 patients with CC<sup>170</sup> and in 26 of 46 patients with LC.<sup>173</sup> An open-label controlled trial demonstrated a very high response rate to cholestyramine,<sup>305</sup> as did Ung et al. in CC patients both with and without concurrent bile acid diarrhoea.<sup>293</sup> An effect of cholestyramine was also reported in further small case series.<sup>273,288,302</sup> Thus, the available data indicates that bile acid diarrhoea coexists with MC in a substantial number of patients, and that cholestyramine could be efficacious in patients with coexisting MC and bile acid diarrhoea.

*Is there a role for antibiotics in MC?*

Recommendation 5.9: There is not enough evidence to recommend antibiotics for treatment of MC.

LE: very low; GR: strong against; agreement: 100%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: antibiotics for inducing and maintaining remission in MC have not been investigated in controlled trials. Only a few retrospective case series have reported the outcomes of MC after antibiotic treatment. In a retrospective series of 161 CC patients, various antibiotics (metronidazole, erythromycin and penicillin) showed response rates of up to 60%.<sup>170</sup> In another retrospective cohort series of 199 patients with LC, 14/23 and 2/5 responded to metronidazole and norfloxacin.<sup>173</sup> In both studies, no information about response definition, concomitant treatment, dosing or relapse rate were reported. Finally, in a large

consecutive cohort of 539 patients with MC, 6/33 patients had response to antibiotics; however, effect measurement was not defined, and treatment duration and antibiotics of choice not reported.<sup>13</sup>

*Is there a role for probiotics in MC?*

Recommendation 5.10: We recommend against use of probiotics for treatment of MC.

LE: low; GR: strong against; agreement: 100%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: only one placebo-controlled trial examining probiotics against placebo has been published. In an induction study with sample size = 29, *Lactobacillus acidophilus* and *Bifidobacterium animalis subs Lactis* were not superior to placebo.<sup>194</sup> In another randomised but open-labelled trial, the effect of the probiotic *VSL#3* versus mesalazine was examined. Twenty-four patients fulfilled the study. In the *VSL#3* group, a significant reduction in stool weight at eight weeks was demonstrated ( $p=0.03$ ) but no change was seen in stool frequency.<sup>310</sup>

*Is there a role for prednisolone in MC?*

Recommendation 5.11: We recommend against the use of prednisolone or other corticosteroids than budesonide for the treatment of MC.

LE: low; GR: strong against; agreement: 100%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: only one placebo-controlled trial with prednisolone exists. Treatment duration was very short, sample size low (12 patients) and prednisolone was without significant effect.<sup>202</sup> In one open small trial and in several retrospective cohort studies, a positive effect of prednisolone has been reported; however, relapse rates were high.<sup>170,173,288,311,312</sup> An open-label retrospective study investigated beclomethasone dipropionate as a synthetic corticosteroid with topical colonic release in 30 patients with MC showing a response rate of 80% and remission rate of 67%.<sup>313</sup>

*Is there a role for immunomodulators and biologics in the treatment of patients with MC?*

Recommendation 5.12: We recommend treatment with thiopurines, anti-tumor necrosis factor (TNF) drugs or vedolizumab in selected patients with MC who fail to respond to budesonide to induce and maintain clinical remission. We recommend against the use of methotrexate in patients with MC.

LE: low; GR: strong; agreement: 97%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence:

**Azathioprine/6-mercaptopurine.** The effect of thiopurines in MC has been evaluated in several retrospective case series including from nine to 49 MC patients who usually were steroid-dependent or -refractory. The reported long-term response rates allowing corticosteroid discontinuation ranged from 28% to 89%.<sup>314–316</sup>

A retrospective analysis of 49 patients (43 on azathioprine and six on mercaptopurine) demonstrated complete or partial response in 43% and 22%, respectively, whereas cessation of therapy because of adverse events occurred in 17 patients (35%).<sup>317</sup>

**Methotrexate.** Methotrexate was evaluated in a retrospective analysis including 19 MC patients, of whom 16 (84%) showed complete or partial clinical response.<sup>318</sup> Another series of 12 patients reported complete response in seven, partial response in two patients and no response in three patients.<sup>317</sup> Only one study has prospectively evaluated the effect of methotrexate in patients intolerant or refractory to budesonide. Here, none of the nine included patients achieved clinical remission.<sup>319</sup>

**Biologics.** Anti-TNF agents in MC have been studied in small case series<sup>320,321</sup> and single cases.<sup>322–324</sup> In four MC patients with severe symptoms refractory to standard medical therapies, infliximab or adalimumab lead to long-term clinical remission in three cases (two with adalimumab and one with infliximab). One patient on adalimumab had an early loss of response and was referred for colectomy.<sup>320</sup> Münch et al. reported three CC patients receiving adalimumab as a third-line therapy.<sup>321</sup> Two achieved clinical remission at week six, while one had to discontinue due to side effects, despite clinical response. The largest series included 18 patients (16 CC, two LC) treated with adalimumab or infliximab.<sup>323</sup> At week 12, nine patients achieved remission and six were responders.

Vedolizumab has been studied in an international case series of 11 patients (five LC, six CC) who failed to respond to other therapies including anti-TNF agents.<sup>325</sup> After three infusions, clinical remission was observed in five patients (two LC and three CC), of whom three remained well with maintenance therapy during a median duration of 13 months. Other case series reported successful use of vedolizumab to induce remission of MC.<sup>326–328</sup>

*Is there a role for surgery in MC?*

Recommendation 5.13: Surgery can be considered in selected patients as last option if all medical therapy fails.

LE: very low; GR: weak; agreement: 100%, strong consensus

Summary of evidence: scientific evidence on surgical treatment in MC comes only from a few case reports.<sup>329–332</sup> One case series published in 1995 reported on nine female CC patients who failed to respond to medical therapies (none of them received budesonide, immunomodulators or biologics). An ileostomy was performed in eight patients and a sigmoidostomy in one patient. Postoperatively, diarrhoea



ceased in all patients; however, clinical symptoms recurred after restoration of intestinal continuity.

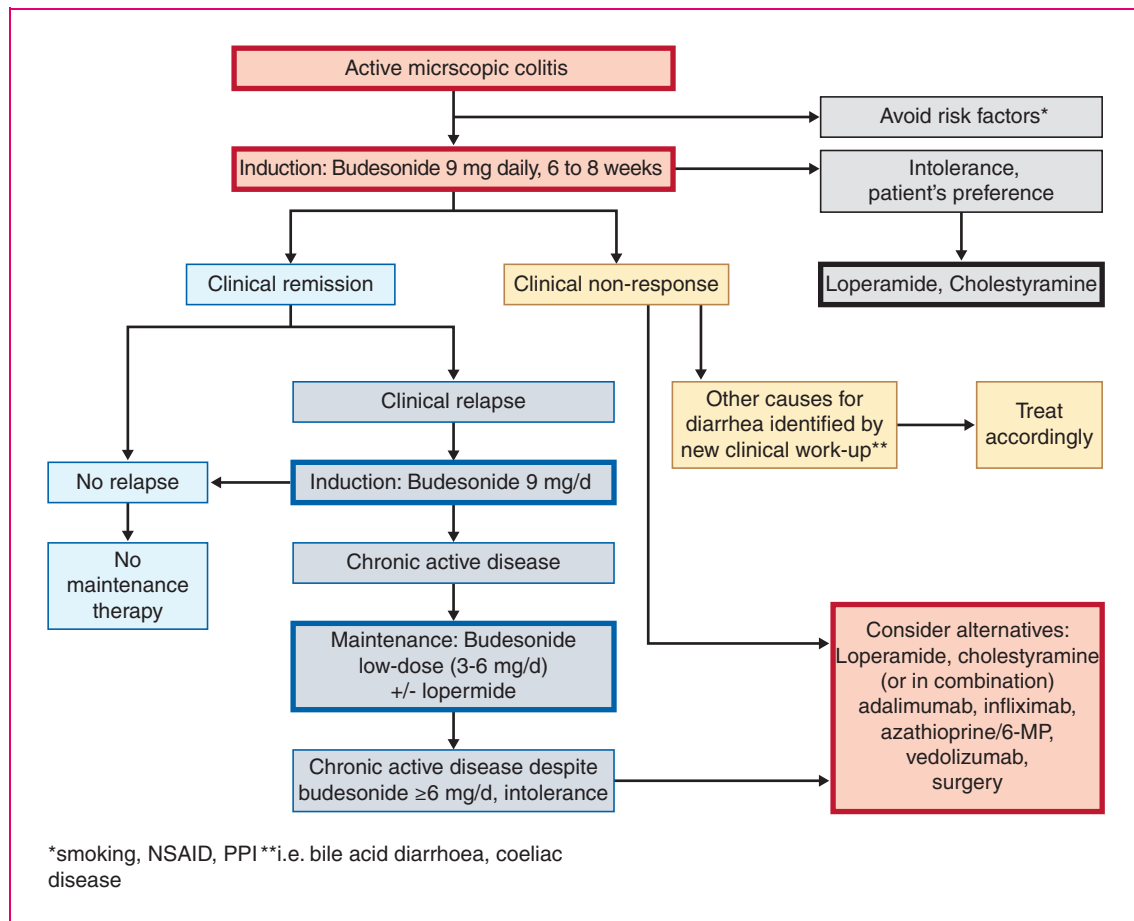
A case report in 2000 described a CC patient who was treated successfully by total proctocolectomy and ileal pouch anal anastomosis.<sup>332</sup> In two case reports of CC patients not responding to budesonide<sup>331</sup> or adalimumab,<sup>330</sup> symptoms improved after temporary loop ileostomy, but recurred after restoration of bowel continuity. One case report described a CC patient undergoing colectomy after adalimumab failure, but no outcome has been reported.<sup>320</sup>

**Therapeutic management of MC.** Based upon the available evidence and expert opinion, a therapeutic algorithm for MC is proposed (Figure 1). This algorithm is supported by a high level of agreement among the guideline group (strongly agree 64.3%, agree 35.7%). For patients with active MC oral budesonide, which is currently the only licensed drug for treatment of MC, should be the medical therapy of choice. In case of chronic active disease, long-term treatment with oral

budesonide with the lowest possible dose for as long as needed is advised. The question of budesonide withdrawal should be discussed with the patient and decided on an individual basis. In case of long-term budesonide treatment, supplementation with calcium/vitamin D and monitoring of bone mineral density may be considered on an individual basis, especially in patients with additional risk factors for osteoporosis. Loperamide may be used on demand if needed. In budesonide-refractory patients and in patients requiring budesonide more than 6 mg per day to maintain clinical remission, alternative medical therapies including immunomodulators or biologics should be considered.

## Conclusions and future perspectives

These EMCG/UEG guidelines provide evidenced-based statements and recommendations for essential aspects of the clinical management of MC. The main objective and potential of these guidelines is to increase



**Figure 1.** Therapeutic algorithm for microscopic colitis in clinical practice.

\*Smoking, NSAID, PPI.

\*\*E.g. bile acid diarrhoea, coeliac disease.

awareness for a presumably under-recognised medical condition and to improve medical care and patient outcomes. Extensive dissemination of these guidelines is needed to facilitate widespread use and implementation in clinical practice. Several unmet needs have been identified, including a better understanding of the natural course and pathophysiological mechanisms of disease, reliable non-invasive biomarkers, validated instruments for assessment of disease activity and new treatment modalities. These gaps should be addressed by high-quality basic research and well-designed clinical trials.

### Acknowledgements

The steering committee (SM, AMü, DG, YZ, GET, AMK, SW) organised the working groups and designed the preliminary list of topics to be covered. All authors systematically reviewed the literature and drafted the statements and recommendations and provided GRADE evaluations. All authors and members of the consensus group voted on the statements and recommendations. The steering committee then drafted the initial manuscript, which was reviewed, revised and approved by all authors and members of the consensus group. Subsequently it was made available to all members for final comments prior to submission for publication. Collaborators: Nadine Steubesand and Franziska Dambon, Clinical Guideline Services, Kiel, Germany. These guidelines have been developed with reasonable care and with the best of knowledge available to the authors at the time of preparation. They are intended to assist healthcare professionals and allied healthcare professionals as an educational tool to provide information that may support them in providing care to patients. Patients or other community members using these guidelines shall do so only after consultation with a health professional and shall not mistake these guidelines as professional medical advice. These guidelines must not substitute seeking professional medical and health advice from a health professional. These guidelines may not apply to all situations and should be interpreted in the light of specific clinical situations and resource availability. It is up to every clinician to adapt these guidelines to local regulations and to each patient's individual circumstances and needs. The information in these guidelines shall not be relied upon as being complete, current or accurate, nor shall it be considered as inclusive of all proper treatments or methods of care or as a legal standard of care. UEG makes no warranty, express or implied, in respect of these guidelines and cannot be held liable for any damages resulting from the application of these guidelines, in particular for any loss or damage (whether direct or indirect) resulting from a treatment based on the guidance given herein. UEG shall not be held liable to the utmost extent permissible according to the applicable laws for any content available on such external websites, which can be accessed by using the links included herein.

### Declaration of conflicting interests

There are no industry or government relationships to report: JB, MdA, JE, AMKF, JK, GL, IL, GM, FM, EM, LKM, AP, KSZ, BV. Advisory boards, consulting: SM: Dr Falk Pharma, Tillotts; YZ: Tillotts, Janssen, FAES; FFB: Tillotts, Termofisher; HH: Abbvie, Janssen, Pfizer, Takeda, Tillotts; AK: Tillotts, Dr Falk Pharma; WM: Sanprobi; AMA: Dr Falk Pharma; OB: Tillotts; GET: Aorta SRL, CapsoVision Inc; AMü: Ferring, Tillotts, Dr Falk Pharma; SW: Tillotts, Takeda. Research grants/clinical trial funding: OB: Tillotts; FFB: Dr Falk Pharma; HH: Abbvie, Ferring, Tillotts, Biomedal; AMü: Ferring. Speaker's bureau: SM: Dr Falk Pharma/Falk Foundation; YZ: Abbvie, MSD, Ferring; DG: Allergan; OB: Dr Falk Pharma/Falk Foundation, Tillotts; HH: Abbvie, Tillotts; AK: Dr Falk Pharma; AMA: Dr Falk Pharma/Falk Foundation; WM: Alfasigma; AMü: Tillotts.

### Ethics approval

Not applicable

### Funding

These guidelines were developed with the support of a UEG Activity Grant. The EMCG administered all aspects of the meetings without other external funding sources.

### Informed consent

Not applicable

### ORCID iDs

Stefania Landolfi  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1059-635X>  
 Alfredo Lucendo  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1183-1072>  
 Ivan Lyutakov  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8883-1121>  
 Wojciech Marlicz  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2649-5967>  
 Árpád V Patai  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1863-5971>

### Supplemental material

Supplemental material for this article is available online.

### References

- Langner C, Aust D, Ensari A, et al. Histology of microscopic colitis-review with a practical approach for pathologists. *Histopathology* 2015; 66: 613–626.
- Miehlke S, Verhaegh B, Tontini GE, et al. Microscopic colitis: pathophysiology and clinical management. *Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2019; 4: 305–314.
- Munch A and Langner C. Microscopic colitis: clinical and pathologic perspectives. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2015; 13: 228–236.
- Pardi DS. Diagnosis and management of microscopic colitis. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2017; 112: 78–85.
- Pardi DS and Kelly CP. Microscopic colitis. *Gastroenterology* 2011; 140: 1155–1165.

6. Munch A, Aust D, Bohr J, et al. Microscopic colitis: current status, present and future challenges: statements of the European Microscopic Colitis Group. *J Crohns Colitis* 2012; 6: 932–945.
7. Magro F, Langner C, Driessen A, et al. European consensus on the histopathology of inflammatory bowel disease. *J Crohns Colitis* 2013; 7: 827–851.
8. Fernandez-Banares F, Casanova MJ, Arguedas Y, et al. Current concepts on microscopic colitis: evidence-based statements and recommendations of the Spanish Microscopic Colitis Group. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2016; 43: 400–426. 2015/11/26.
9. Pardi DS, Tremaine WJ and Carrasco-Labra A. American Gastroenterological Association Institute technical review on the medical management of microscopic colitis. *Gastroenterology* 2016; 150: 247–274.
10. Agnarsdottir M, Gunnlaugsson O, Orvar KB, et al. Collagenous and lymphocytic colitis in Iceland. *Dig Dis Sci* 2002; 47: 1122–1128.
11. Andrews CN, Beck PL, Wilsack L, et al. Evaluation of endoscopist and pathologist factors affecting the incidence of microscopic colitis. *Can J Gastroenterol* 2012; 26: 515–520.
12. Bergman D, Clements MS, Khalili H, et al. A nationwide cohort study of the incidence of microscopic colitis in Sweden. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2019; 49: 1395–1400.
13. Bjornbak C, Engel PJ, Nielsen PL, et al. Microscopic colitis: clinical findings, topography and persistence of histopathological subgroups. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2011; 34: 1225–1234.
14. Bonderup OK, Wigh T, Nielsen GL, et al. The epidemiology of microscopic colitis: a 10-year pathology-based nationwide Danish cohort study. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2015; 50: 393–398.
15. Daferera N, Almer S and Münch A. P634 Incidence of microscopic colitis 2008–2011 in central Östergötland, Sweden. Evidence for an increase? *J Crohns Colitis* 2013; 7: S265.
16. Davidson S, Sjoberg K, Engel PJH, et al. Microscopic colitis in Denmark and Sweden: incidence, putative risk factors, histological assessment and endoscopic activity. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2018; 53: 818–824.
17. Fernandez-Banares F, Salas A, Esteve M, et al. Evolution of the incidence of collagenous colitis and lymphocytic colitis in Terrassa, Spain: a population-based study. *Inflamm Bowel Dis* 2011; 17: 1015–1020.
18. Fernandez-Banares F, Salas A, Forne M, et al. Incidence of collagenous and lymphocytic colitis: a 5-year population-based study. *Am J Gastroenterol* 1999; 94: 418–423.
19. Fumery M, Kohut M, Gower-Rousseau C, et al. Incidence, clinical presentation, and associated factors of microscopic colitis in northern France: a population-based study. *Dig Dis Sci* 2017; 62: 1571–1579.
20. Gentile NM, Khanna S, Loftus EV, Jr, et al. The epidemiology of microscopic colitis in Olmsted County from 2002 to 2010: a population-based study. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2014; 12: 838–842.
21. Guagnozzi D, Lucendo AJ, Angueira-Lapena T, et al. Prevalence and incidence of microscopic colitis in patients with diarrhoea of unknown aetiology in a region in central Spain. *Dig Liver Dis* 2012; 44: 384–388.
22. Heron T, Walsh S and Mowat C. Microscopic colitis in Tayside: clinical features, associations, and behaviour. *Gut* 2005; 54: A84–A84.
23. Kane JS, Rotimi O and Ford AC. Macroscopic findings, incidence and characteristics of microscopic colitis in a large cohort of patients from the United Kingdom. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2017; 52: 988–994.
24. Lewis NR, Archer T and Kaye P. PWE-061 Epidemiology of microscopic colitis in Nottingham: a contemporary cohort study. *Gut* 2017; 66: A156.
25. Moore M, Coleman HG, Allen PB, et al. Microscopic colitis: a population-based case series over a 9-year period in Northern Ireland. *Colorectal Dis* 2018; 20: 1020–1027.
26. Olesen M, Eriksson S, Bohr J, et al. Microscopic colitis: a common diarrhoeal disease. An epidemiological study in Orebro, Sweden, 1993–1998. *Gut* 2004; 53: 346–350.
27. Pardi DS, Loftus EV, Jr., Smyrk TC, et al. The epidemiology of microscopic colitis: a population based study in Olmsted County, Minnesota. *Gut* 2007; 56: 504–508.
28. Thorn M, Sjoberg D, Ekblom A, et al. Microscopic colitis in Uppsala health region, a population-based prospective study 2005–2009. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2013; 48: 825–830.
29. Verhaegh BP, Jonkers DM, Driessen A, et al. Incidence of microscopic colitis in the Netherlands. A nationwide population-based study from 2000 to 2012. *Dig Liver Dis* 2015; 47: 30–36.
30. Wickbom A, Bohr J, Eriksson S, et al. Stable incidence of collagenous colitis and lymphocytic colitis in Orebro, Sweden, 1999–2008: a continuous epidemiologic study. *Inflamm Bowel Dis* 2013; 19: 2387–2393.
31. Williams JJ, Kaplan GG, Makhija S, et al. Microscopic colitis-defining incidence rates and risk factors: a population-based study. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2008; 6: 35–40.
32. Tong J, Zheng Q, Zhang C, et al. Incidence, prevalence, and temporal trends of microscopic colitis: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2015; 110: 265–276.
33. Bohr J, Tysk C, Eriksson S, et al. Collagenous colitis in Orebro, Sweden, an epidemiological study 1984–1993. *Gut* 1995; 37: 394–397.
34. Raclot G, Queneau P and Ottignon Y. Incidence of collagenous colitis – a retrospective study in the east of France. *Gastroenterology* 1994; 106: A23–A23.
35. Rajan J, Noble C and Anderson C. The epidemiology and clinical features of collagenous colitis in Lothian. *Gut* 2005; 54: A99–100.
36. Vigren L, Olesen M, Benoni C, et al. An epidemiological study of collagenous colitis in southern Sweden from 2001–2010. *World J Gastroenterol* 2012; 18: 2821–2826.

37. El-Matary W, Girgis S, Huynh H, et al. Microscopic colitis in children. *Dig Dis Sci* 2010; 55: 1996–2001.
38. Gremse DA, Boudreaux CW and Mancini EA. Collagenous colitis in children. *Gastroenterology* 1993; 104: 906–909.
39. Liu X, Xiao SY, Plesec TP, et al. Collagenous colitis in children and adolescents: study of 7 cases and literature review. *Mod Pathol* 2013; 26: 881–887.
40. Vanderhoof JA, Goble K and Young RJ. Collagenous colitis in a 4-year-old child: response to budesonide. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr* 2010; 50: 688–690.
41. Fernandez-Banares F, Zabana Y, Aceituno M, et al. Prevalence and natural history of microscopic colitis: a population-based study with long-term clinical follow-up in Terrassa, Spain. *J Crohns Colitis* 2016; 10: 805–811.
42. Batista L, Ruiz L, Zabana Y, et al. P240 Microscopic colitis is the most frequent diagnosis of patients with watery chronic diarrhoea and macroscopically normal colonoscopy in a context of clinical practice. *J Crohns Colitis* 2018; 12: S221–S221.
43. Cotter TG, Binder M, Smyrk T, et al. Sa1410 optimization of a scoring system to predict microscopic colitis in a cohort of patients with chronic diarrhea. *Gastroenterology* 2016; 150: S308.
44. da Silva JG, De Brito T, Cintra Damiao AO, et al. Histologic study of colonic mucosa in patients with chronic diarrhea and normal colonoscopic findings. *J Clin Gastroenterol* 2006; 40: 44–48.
45. Erdem L, Yildirim S, Akbayir N, et al. Prevalence of microscopic colitis in patients with diarrhea of unknown etiology in Turkey. *World J Gastroenterol* 2008; 14: 4319–4323.
46. Fine KD, Seidel RH and Do K. The prevalence, anatomic distribution, and diagnosis of colonic causes of chronic diarrhea. *Gastrointest Endosc* 2000; 51: 318–326.
47. Gado AS, Ebeid BA, El Hindawi AA, et al. Prevalence of microscopic colitis in patients with chronic diarrhea in Egypt: a single-center study. *Saudi J Gastroenterol* 2011; 17: 383–386.
48. Garg PK, Singh J, Dhali GK, et al. Microscopic colitis is a cause of large bowel diarrhea in Northern India. *J Clin Gastroenterol* 1996; 22: 11–15.
49. Gu HX, Zhi FC, Huang Y, et al. Microscopic colitis in patients with chronic diarrhea and normal colonoscopic findings in Southern China. *Int J Colorectal Dis* 2012; 27: 1167–1173.
50. Hatemi AI, Senates E, Dobrucali A, et al. Collagenous colitis: a retrospective survey of patients with chronic diarrhea. *Hepatogastroenterology* 2011; 58: 1963–1967.
51. Hotouras A, Collins P, Speake W, et al. Diagnostic yield and economic implications of endoscopic colonic biopsies in patients with chronic diarrhoea. *Colorectal Dis* 2012; 14: 985–988.
52. Kaguyama FM, Nicoli FM, Bonatto MW, et al. Importance of biopsies and histological evaluation in patients with chronic diarrhea and normal colonoscopies. *Arq Bras Cir Dig* 2014; 27: 184–187.
53. Larsson JK, Sjoberg K, Vigren L, et al. Chronic non-bloody diarrhoea: a prospective study in Malmo, Sweden, with focus on microscopic colitis. *BMC Res Notes* 2014; 7: 236.
54. Macaigne G, Lahmek P, Locher C, et al. Microscopic colitis or functional bowel disease with diarrhea: a French prospective multicenter study. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2014; 109: 1461–1470.
55. Miraglia S, Luigiano C, Siringo S, et al. P.12.14 The paucicellular lymphocytic colitis is the most frequent type of microscopic colitis in a city of southern Italy: preliminary results of a 6-month pilot study. *Dig Liver Dis* 2013; 45: S177.
56. Misra V, Misra SP, Dwivedi M, et al. Microscopic colitis in patients presenting with chronic diarrhea. *Indian J Pathol Microbiol* 2010; 53: 15–19.
57. Shah RJ, Fenoglio-Preiser C, Bleau BL, et al. Usefulness of colonoscopy with biopsy in the evaluation of patients with chronic diarrhea. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2001; 96: 1091–1095.
58. Shaw A, Hall J and Ravi S. Random colonic biopsies for chronic diarrhoea – a numbers needed to investigate approach. *Int J Surg* 2016; 36: S61.
59. Sidhu PS, Khan F, Hebden J, et al. PWE-187 Colonic biopsies to detect microscopic colitis in patients with diarrhoea and “normal” colonoscopy: worth the effort? *Gut* 2012; 61: A372.372–A372.
60. Tontini GE, Pastorelli L, Spina L, et al. Microscopic colitis and colorectal neoplastic lesion rate in chronic nonbloody diarrhea: a prospective, multicenter study. *Inflamm Bowel Dis* 2014; 20: 882–891.
61. Trembling PM, Nicol F and Hoare J. PTU-259 Routine biopsy during lower gi endoscopy is of diagnostic value for patients with chronic diarrhoea. *Gut* 2015; 64: A175.172–A176.
62. Villafuerte-Galvez J, Sotelo-Olivera MI, Cok J, et al. Colonoscopic findings in Peruvian patients with chronic diarrhea. *PLoS One* 2012; 7: e46690.
63. Wagner M, Sjoberg K, Vigren L, et al. Elevated fecal levels of eosinophil granule proteins predict collagenous colitis in patients referred to colonoscopy due to chronic non-bloody diarrhea. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2016; 51: 835–841.
64. Arcana Lopez R, Frisancho Velarde O and Chacaltana A. Etiology of chronic diarrhea in the elderly in Hospital Edgardo Rebagliati, Lima-Peru. *Rev Gastroenterol Peru* 2012; 32: 366–370.
65. Carmona-Sanchez R, Tostado-Fernandez F and Esmer-Sanchez D. Usefulness of colonoscopy with biopsy for the study of patients with chronic diarrhea. *Revista de Gastroenterología de México* 2007; 72: 349–354.
66. Channaiah D, Mohammad K, Kini R, et al. Yield of colonoscopy with biopsy in the evaluation of chronic diarrhea. *Indian J Gastroenterol* 2017; 36: A76.
67. Essid M, Kallel S, Brahim EB, et al. Prevalence of microscopic colitis to the course of the chronic diarrhea: about 150 cases. *Tunis Med* 2005; 83: 284–287.
68. Gonzalez N, Guerra L, Sanguinetti A, et al. Prevalence of microscopic colitis in a group of patients from

- Montevideo, Uruguay. *Acta Gastroenterol Latinoam* 2019; 40: 216–220.
69. Marshall J, Singh R and Diaz-Arias A. Chronic, unexplained diarrhea: are biopsies necessary if colonoscopy is normal? *Am J Gastroenterol* 1995; 90: 372–376.
  70. Matsubara Y, Ohta T and Maemoto A. Abnormal colonic biopsy findings in chronic diarrhea patients with almost normal endoscopic findings. *Gastroenterological Endoscopy* 2014; 56: 1563–1569.
  71. Sethi S. Outcomes in patients undergoing colonoscopy to investigate chronic diarrhea. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2012; 27: 43.
  72. Valle Mansilla JL, Leon Barua R, Recavarren Arce S, et al. Microscopic colitis in patients with chronic diarrhea. *Rev Gastroenterol Peru* 2002; 22: 275–278.
  73. Burke KE, Ananthakrishnan AN, Lochhead P, et al. Smoking is associated with an increased risk of microscopic colitis: results from two large prospective cohort studies of US women. *J Crohns Colitis* 2018; 12: 559–567.
  74. Larsson JK, Sonestedt E, Ohlsson B, et al. The association between the intake of specific dietary components and lifestyle factors and microscopic colitis. *Eur J Clin Nutr* 2016; 70: 1309–1317.
  75. Roth B, Gustafsson RJ, Jeppsson B, et al. Smoking- and alcohol habits in relation to the clinical picture of women with microscopic colitis compared to controls. *BMC Womens Health* 2014; 14: 16.
  76. Verhaegh BPM, Pierik MJ, Goudkade D, et al. Early life exposure, lifestyle, and comorbidity as risk factors for microscopic colitis: a case-control study. *Inflamm Bowel Dis* 2017; 23: 1040–1046.
  77. Vigren L, Sjoberg K, Benoni C, et al. Is smoking a risk factor for collagenous colitis? *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2011; 46: 1334–1339.
  78. Wickbom A, Nyhlin N, Montgomery SM, et al. Family history, comorbidity, smoking and other risk factors in microscopic colitis: a case-control study. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2017; 29: 587–594.
  79. Wildt S, Munck LK, Becker S, et al. Risk of osteoporosis in microscopic colitis. *Postgrad Med* 2018; 130: 348–354.
  80. Yen EF, Pokhrel B, Du H, et al. Current and past cigarette smoking significantly increase risk for microscopic colitis. *Inflamm Bowel Dis* 2012; 18: 1835–1841.
  81. Fernandez-Banares F, de Sousa MR, Salas A, et al. Epidemiological risk factors in microscopic colitis: a prospective case-control study. *Inflamm Bowel Dis* 2013; 19: 411–417.
  82. Guagnozzi D, Lucendo AJ, Angueira T, et al. Drug consumption and additional risk factors associated with microscopic colitis: case-control study. *Rev Esp Enferm Dig* 2015; 107: 347–353.
  83. Jaruvongvanich V, Poonsombudlert K and Ungprasert P. Smoking and risk of microscopic colitis: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Inflamm Bowel Dis* 2019; 25: 672–678.
  84. Fernandez-Banares F, de Sousa MR, Salas A, et al. Impact of current smoking on the clinical course of microscopic colitis. *Inflamm Bowel Dis* 2013; 19: 1470–1476.
  85. Fernandez-Banares F, Piqueras M, Guagnozzi D, et al. Collagenous colitis: requirement for high-dose budesonide as maintenance treatment. *Dig Liver Dis* 2017; 49: 973–977.
  86. Gentile NM, Khanna S, Kammer PP, et al. Outcomes of microscopic colitis and smoking: a population-based study. *Gastroenterology* 2013; 144: S439.
  87. Munch A, Tysk C, Bohr J, et al. Smoking status influences clinical outcome in collagenous colitis. *J Crohns Colitis* 2016; 10: 449–454.
  88. O'Toole A, Coss A, Holleran G, et al. Microscopic colitis: clinical characteristics, treatment and outcomes in an Irish population. *Int J Colorectal Dis* 2014; 29: 799–803.
  89. Roth B, Bengtsson M and Ohlsson B. Diarrhoea is not the only symptom that needs to be treated in patients with microscopic colitis. *Eur J Intern Med* 2013; 24: 573–578.
  90. Miehlke S, Hansen JB, Madisch A, et al. Risk factors for symptom relapse in collagenous colitis after withdrawal of short-term budesonide therapy. *Inflamm Bowel Dis* 2013; 19: 2763–2767.
  91. Bonderup OK, Fenger-Gron M, Wigh T, et al. Drug exposure and risk of microscopic colitis: a nationwide Danish case-control study with 5751 cases. *Inflamm Bowel Dis* 2014; 20: 1702–1707.
  92. Bonderup OK, Nielsen GL, Dall M, et al. Significant association between the use of different proton pump inhibitors and microscopic colitis: a nationwide Danish case-control study. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2018; 48: 618–625.
  93. Fernandez-Banares F, Esteve M, Espinos JC, et al. Drug consumption and the risk of microscopic colitis. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2007; 102: 324–330.
  94. Keszthelyi D, Jansen SV, Schouten GA, et al. Proton pump inhibitor use is associated with an increased risk for microscopic colitis: a case-control study. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2010; 32: 1124–1128.
  95. Masclee GM, Coloma PM, Kuipers EJ, et al. Increased risk of microscopic colitis with use of proton pump inhibitors and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2015; 110: 749–759.
  96. Pascua MF, Kedia P, Weiner MG, et al. Microscopic colitis and Medication Use. *Clin Med Insights Gastroenterol* 2010; 2010: 11–19.
  97. Riddell RH, Tanaka M and Mazzoleni G. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs as a possible cause of collagenous colitis: a case-control study. *Gut* 1992; 33: 683–686.
  98. Verhaegh BP, de Vries F, Masclee AA, et al. High risk of drug-induced microscopic colitis with concomitant use of NSAIDs and proton pump inhibitors. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2016; 43: 1004–1013.
  99. Yen EF, Yoo J, Ture A, et al. medication exposure and the risk of microscopic colitis: results from a prospective US trial. *Gastroenterology* 2017; 152: S194.
  100. Harma C, Havelet M, Dean T, et al. Lymphocytic colitis and proton pump inhibitor use: a case-control study. *J Gastroen Hepatol* 2011; 26: 68–83.

101. Al-Ghamdi MY, Malatjalian DA and Veldhuyzen van Zanten S. Causation: recurrent collagenous colitis following repeated use of NSAIDs. *Can J Gastroenterol* 2002; 16: 861–862.
102. Beaugerie L, Luboinski J, Brousse N, et al. Drug induced lymphocytic colitis. *Gut* 1994; 35: 426–428.
103. Beaugerie L and Pardi DS. Review article: drug-induced microscopic colitis - proposal for a scoring system and review of the literature. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2005; 22: 277–284.
104. Beaugerie L, Patey N and Brousse N. Ranitidine, diarrhoea, and lymphocytic colitis. *Gut* 1995; 37: 708–711.
105. Begaud B, Evreux J, Jouglard J, et al. Imputation of the unexpected or toxic effects of drugs. Actualization of the method used in France. *Therapie* 1985; 40: 111–118.
106. Berrebi D, Sautet A, Flejou JF, et al. Ticlopidine induced colitis: a histopathological study including apoptosis. *J Clin Pathol* 1998; 51: 280–283.
107. Bouaniche M, Chassagne P, Landrin I, et al. Colite lymphocytaire au Cyclo 3 Fort®. *La Revue de Médecine Interne* 1996; 17: 776–778.
108. Bouchet-Laneuw F, Deplaix P, Dumollard JM, et al. Chronic diarrhea following ingestion of Tardyferon associated with lymphocytic colitis. *Gastroenterol Clin Biol* 1997; 21: 83–84.
109. Bouvet C, Bellaiche G, Slama R, et al. Lymphocytic colitis and villous atrophy after treatment with ticlopidine. *Gastroenterol Clin Biol* 1998; 22: 1117–1118.
110. Brigot C, Courillon-Mallet A, Roucayrol AM, et al. Lymphocytic colitis and ticlopidine. *Gastroenterol Clin Biol* 1998; 22: 361–362.
111. Capurso G, Marignani M, Attilia F, et al. Lansoprazole-induced microscopic colitis: an increasing problem? Results of a prospective case-series and systematic review of the literature. *Dig Liver Dis* 2011; 43: 380–385.
112. Chande N and Driman DK. Microscopic colitis associated with lansoprazole: report of two cases and a review of the literature. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2007; 42: 530–533.
113. Chiba M, Sugawara T, Tozawa H, et al. Lansoprazole-associated collagenous colitis: diffuse mucosal cloudiness mimicking ulcerative colitis. *World J Gastroenterol* 2009; 15: 2166–2169.
114. Dharancy S, Dapvril V, Dupont-Evrard F, et al. Colite lymphocytaire et atrophie villositaire iléale secondaires à la prise de Cyclo 3 Fort. *Gastroenterol Clin Biol* 2000; 24: 134.
115. Duncan HD, Talbot IC and Silk DB. Collagenous colitis and cimetidine. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 1997; 9: 819–820.
116. Fathallah N, Chatti S and Azouz MM. Lymphocytic colitis associated with oxetorone consumption. *Gastroenterol Clin Biol* 2010; 34: 154–155.
117. Feurle GE, Bartz KO and Schmitt-Graff A. Lymphocytic colitis, induced by ticlopidine. *Z Gastroenterol* 1999; 37: 1105–1108.
118. Fuste L, Arevalo D, Gomez M, et al. Lymphocytic colitis during treatment with ticlopidine. *Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2000; 23: 363–364.
119. Ghilain JM, Schapira M, Maisin JM, et al. Lymphocytic colitis associated with lansoprazole treatment. *Gastroenterol Clin Biol* 2000; 24: 960–962.
120. Giardiello FM, Hansen FC 3rd, Lazenby AJ, et al. Collagenous colitis in setting of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and antibiotics. *Dig Dis Sci* 1990; 35: 257–260.
121. Gugenberger C, Donner P, Naami A, et al. Persistent diarrhea and loss of weight during therapy with leflunomide. *Dtsch Med Wochenschr* 2008; 133: 1730–1732.
122. Gwillim EC and Bowyer BA. Duloxetine-induced lymphocytic colitis. *J Clin Gastroenterol* 2012; 46: 717–718.
123. Hilmer SN, Heap TR, Eckstein RP, et al. Microscopic colitis associated with exposure to lansoprazole. *Med J Aust* 2006; 184: 185–186.
124. Kitagawa T, Sato K, Yokouchi Y, et al. A case of lansoprazole-associated collagenous colitis with longitudinal ulcer. *J Gastrointest Liver Dis* 2013; 22: 9.
125. Kusnik B and Stolte M. Lymphocytic colitis under treatment with duloxetine. *Z Gastroenterol* 2010; 48: 693–695.
126. Larzilliere I, Gargot D, Zleik T, et al. Microscopic colitis and ticlid. *Gastroenterol Clin Biol* 1999; 23: 795–796.
127. Lim C, Macaigne G, Boivin JF, et al. Stalevo-associated lymphocytic colitis. *Gastroenterol Clin Biol* 2008; 32: 698–699.
128. Linares Torres P, Fidalgo Lopez I, Castanon Lopez A, et al. Lymphocytic colitis as a cause of chronic diarrhea: possible association with carbamazepine. *Aten Primaria* 2000; 25: 366–367.
129. Macaigne G, Boivin JF, Simon P, et al. Lansoprazole-associated collagenous colitis. *Gastroenterol Clin Biol* 2001; 25: 1030.
130. Macaigne G, Boivin JF, Chayette C, et al. Oxetorone-associated lymphocytic colitis. *Gastroenterol Clin Biol* 2002; 26: 537.
131. Macaigne G, Ozon N, Dikov D, et al. Colite lymphocytaire associée à la prise de Piasclédine®. *Gastroentérologie Clinique et Biologique* 2004; 28: 412–413.
132. Maroy B. Lymphocytic colitis probably due to etifoxine. A case with relapse after reintroduction. *Therapie* 2009; 64: 137–138.
133. Maroy B. Acute lymphocytic colitis due to carbamazepine. *Gastroenterol Clin Biol* 2010; 34: 155–156.
134. Menecier D, Saloum T, Roycourt AM, et al. Chronic diarrhea and lymphocytic colitis associated with Daflon therapy. *Gastroenterol Clin Biol* 1999; 23: 1101–1102.
135. Menecier D, Thiolet C, Bredin C, et al. Lymphocytic colitis after ingestion of Rustacea flavonoid extract. *Presse Med* 2001; 30: 1063.
136. Menon R and Ng C. Sertraline-induced microscopic colitis. *Psychosomatics* 2015; 56: 316–317.
137. Milman N and Kraag G. NSAID-induced collagenous colitis. *J Rheumatol* 2010; 37: 2432–2433.
138. Mukherjee S. Diarrhea associated with lansoprazole. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2003; 18: 602–603.
139. Murasawa M, Sakurada T, Oishi D, et al. Collagenous colitis associated with rabeprazole in a peritoneal dialysis patient. *Perit Dial Int* 2015; 35: 588–590.

140. Nielsen JA, Steephen A and Lewin M. Angiotensin-II inhibitor (olmesartan)-induced collagenous sprue with resolution following discontinuation of drug. *World J Gastroenterol* 2013; 19: 6928–6930.
141. Nomura E, Kagaya H, Uchimi K, et al. Linear mucosal defects: a characteristic endoscopic finding of lansoprazole-associated collagenous colitis. *Endoscopy* 2010; 42(Suppl 2): E9–E10.
142. Ozeki T, Ogasawara N, Izawa S, et al. Protein-losing enteropathy associated with collagenous colitis cured by withdrawal of a proton pump inhibitor. *Intern Med* 2013; 52: 1183–1187.
143. Pelizza L and Melegari M. Clozapine-induced microscopic colitis: a case report and review of the literature. *J Clin Psychopharmacol* 2007; 27: 571–574.
144. Piche T, Raimondi V, Schneider S, et al. Acarbose and lymphocytic colitis. *Lancet* 2000; 356: 1246.
145. Pierrugues R and Saingra B. Lymphocytic colitis and Cyclo 3 fort: 4 new cases. *Gastroenterol Clin Biol* 1996; 20: 916–917.
146. Rammer M, Kirchgatterer A, Hobling W, et al. Lansoprazole-associated collagenous colitis: a case report. *Z Gastroenterol* 2005; 43: 657–660.
147. Rassiati E, Michiels C, Sgro C, et al. Lymphocytic colitis due to Modopar. *Gastroenterol Clin Biol* 2000; 24: 852–853.
148. Rosa I, Nahon S, Cohen C, et al. Ticlopidine-induced lymphocytic colitis. *Ann Med Interne* 1999; 150: 437–439.
149. Salter TG and Williams MD. Antidepressant-associated microscopic colitis: a case report and literature review. *Psychosomatics* 2017; 58: 307–312.
150. Sawada K, Fujiya M, Itabashi K, et al. Collagenous colitis appeared after 6-year administration of lansoprazole. *Clin J Gastroenterol* 2010; 3: 18–21.
151. Swine C, Cornette P, Van Pee D, et al. Ticlopidine, diarrhea and lymphocytic colitis. *Gastroenterol Clin Biol* 1998; 22: 475–476.
152. Thiolet C, Bredin C, Rimlinger H, et al. Lymphocytic colitis following administration of Cyclo 3 fort. *Presse Med* 2003; 32: 1323–1324.
153. Thomson RD, Lestina LS, Bensen SP, et al. Lansoprazole-associated microscopic colitis: a case series. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2002; 97: 2908–2913.
154. Umeno J, Esaki M, Nuki Y, et al. Letter: lansoprazole consumption is more common in Japanese patients with collagenous colitis. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2013; 38: 208–209.
155. Verschueren P, Vandooren AK and Westhovens R. Debilitating diarrhoea and weight loss due to colitis in two RA patients treated with leflunomide. *Clin Rheumatol* 2005; 24: 87–90.
156. Wilcox GM and Mattia A. Collagenous colitis associated with lansoprazole. *J Clin Gastroenterol* 2002; 34: 164–166.
157. Wilcox GM and Mattia AR. Microscopic colitis associated with omeprazole and esomeprazole exposure. *J Clin Gastroenterol* 2009; 43: 551–553.
158. Yagi K, Nakamura A, Sekine A, et al. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug-associated colitis with a histology of collagenous colitis. *Endoscopy* 2001; 33: 629–632.
159. Chauveau E, Prignet JM, Carloz E, et al. Lymphocytic colitis likely attributable to use of vinburnine (Cervoxan). *Gastroenterol Clin Biol* 1998; 22: 362.
160. Simsek Z, Alagozlu H, Tuncer C, et al. Lymphocytic colitis associated with lansoprazole treatment. *Curr Ther Res Clin Exp* 2007; 68: 360–366.
161. Coyne JD. Microscopic colitis occurring in association with hyperplastic polyps and tubulovillous adenomas: observations in 10 cases. *J Clin Pathol* 2014; 67: 919–920.
162. Fernández-Bañares F, Salas A, Zabana A, et al. Risk of colorectal adenomas in patients with microscopic colitis: a case-control study. *United European Gastroenterol J* 2016; 4: A434.
163. Kao KT, Pedraza BA, McClune AC, et al. Microscopic colitis: a large retrospective analysis from a health maintenance organization experience. *World J Gastroenterol* 2009; 15: 3122–3127.
164. Levy A, Borren NZ, Maxner B, et al. Cancer risk in microscopic colitis: a retrospective cohort study. *BMC Gastroenterol* 2019; 19: 1.
165. McPhaul C, Sonnenberg A and Genta R. Low prevalence of colon polyps in patients with diarrhea and microscopic colitis. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2013; 108: S164.
166. Mellander MR, Ekblom A, Hultcrantz R, et al. Microscopic colitis: a descriptive clinical cohort study of 795 patients with collagenous and lymphocytic colitis. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2016; 51: 556–562.
167. Mills LR, Schuman BM and Thompson WO. Lymphocytic colitis. A definable clinical and histological diagnosis. *Dig Dis Sci* 1993; 38: 1147–1151.
168. Sonnenberg A and Genta RM. Low prevalence of colon polyps in chronic inflammatory conditions of the colon. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2015; 110: 1056–1061.
169. Chan JL, Tersmette AC, Offerhaus GJ, et al. Cancer risk in collagenous colitis. *Inflamm Bowel Dis* 1999; 5: 40–43.
170. Bohr J, Tysk C, Eriksson S, et al. Collagenous colitis: a retrospective study of clinical presentation and treatment in 163 patients. *Gut* 1996; 39: 846–851.
171. Calabrese C, Gionchetti P, Liguori G, et al. Clinical course of microscopic colitis in a single-center cohort study. *J Crohns Colitis* 2011; 5: 218–221.
172. Koskela RM, Niemela SE, Karttunen TJ, et al. Clinical characteristics of collagenous and lymphocytic colitis. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2004; 39: 837–845.
173. Olesen M, Eriksson S, Bohr J, et al. Lymphocytic colitis: a retrospective clinical study of 199 Swedish patients. *Gut* 2004; 53: 536–541.
174. Verhaegh B, Münch B, Cebula W, et al. Demographic and prognosis of incident patients with microscopic colitis—first results of the European pro-MC collaboration, A Link Award project. *United European Gastroenterol J* 2017; 5(8): 1138–1150.
175. Chande N, Driman DK and Reynolds RP. Collagenous colitis and lymphocytic colitis: patient characteristics and clinical presentation. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2005; 40: 343–347.

176. Guagnozzi D, Arias A and Lucendo AJ. Systematic review with meta-analysis: diagnostic overlap of microscopic colitis and functional bowel disorders. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2016; 43: 851–862.
177. Hilpusch F, Johnsen PH, Goll R, et al. Microscopic colitis: a missed diagnosis among patients with moderate to severe irritable bowel syndrome. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2017; 52: 173–177.
178. Kamp EJ, Kane JS and Ford AC. Irritable bowel syndrome and microscopic colitis: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2016; 14: 659–668.
179. Kane JS, Irvine AJ, Derwa Y, et al. High prevalence of irritable bowel syndrome-type symptoms in microscopic colitis: implications for treatment. *Therap Adv Gastroenterol* 2018; 11: 1756284818783600.
180. Cotter TG, Binder M, Loftus EV, Jr., et al. Development of a Microscopic Colitis Disease Activity Index: a prospective cohort study. *Gut* 2018; 67: 441–446.
181. Gentile N and Yen EF. Prevalence, pathogenesis, diagnosis, and management of microscopic colitis. *Gut Liver* 2018; 12: 227–235.
182. O'Toole A. Optimal management of collagenous colitis: a review. *Clin Exp Gastroenterol* 2016; 9: 31–39.
183. Bohr J, Wickbom A, Hegedus A, et al. Diagnosis and management of microscopic colitis: current perspectives. *Clin Exp Gastroenterol* 2014; 7: 273–284.
184. Nyhlin N, Wickbom A, Montgomery SM, et al. Long-term prognosis of clinical symptoms and health-related quality of life in microscopic colitis: a case-control study. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2014; 39: 963–972.
185. Roth B and Ohlsson B. Gastrointestinal symptoms and psychological well-being in patients with microscopic colitis. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2013; 48: 27–34.
186. Hjortswang H, Tysk C, Bohr J, et al. Health-related quality of life is impaired in active collagenous colitis. *Dig Liver Dis* 2011; 43: 102–109.
187. Hjortswang H, Tysk C, Bohr J, et al. Defining clinical criteria for clinical remission and disease activity in collagenous colitis. *Inflamm Bowel Dis* 2009; 15: 1875–1881.
188. Kane JS, Irvine AJ, Derwa Y, et al. Fatigue and its associated factors in microscopic colitis. *Therap Adv Gastroenterol* 2018; 11: 1756284818799599.
189. Madisch A, Heymer P, Voss C, et al. Oral budesonide therapy improves quality of life in patients with collagenous colitis. *Int J Colorectal Dis* 2005; 20: 312–316.
190. Madisch A, Miehke S, Eichele O, et al. Boswellia serrata extract for the treatment of collagenous colitis. A double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled, multicenter trial. *Int J Colorectal Dis* 2007; 22: 1445–1451.
191. Miehke S, Madisch A, Bethke B, et al. Oral budesonide for maintenance treatment of collagenous colitis: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. *Gastroenterology* 2008; 135: 1510–1516.
192. Miehke S, Madisch A, Karimi D, et al. Budesonide is effective in treating lymphocytic colitis: a randomized double-blind placebo-controlled study. *Gastroenterology* 2009; 136: 2092–2100.
193. Munch A, Bohr J, Miehke S, et al. Low-dose budesonide for maintenance of clinical remission in collagenous colitis: a randomised, placebo-controlled, 12-month trial. *Gut* 2016; 65: 47–56.
194. Wildt S, Munck LK, Vinter-Jensen L, et al. Probiotic treatment of collagenous colitis: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial with *Lactobacillus acidophilus* and *Bifidobacterium animalis* subsp. *Lactis*. *Inflamm Bowel Dis* 2006; 12: 395–401.
195. Miehke S, Aust D, Mihaly E, et al. Efficacy and safety of budesonide, vs mesalazine or placebo, as induction therapy for lymphocytic colitis. *Gastroenterology* 2018; 155: 1795–1804.
196. Chande N, Al Yatama N, Bhanji T, et al. Interventions for treating lymphocytic colitis. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2017; 7: CD006096.
197. Kafil TS, Nguyen TM, Patton PH, et al. Interventions for treating collagenous colitis. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2017; 11: CD003575.
198. Sebastian S, Wilhelm A, Jessica L, et al. Budesonide treatment for microscopic colitis: systematic review and meta-analysis. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2019; 31: 919–927.
199. Baert F, Schmit A, D'Haens G, et al. Budesonide in collagenous colitis: a double-blind placebo-controlled trial with histologic follow-up. *Gastroenterology* 2002; 122: 20–25.
200. Bonderup OK, Hansen JB, Birket-Smith L, et al. Budesonide treatment of collagenous colitis: a randomized, double blind, placebo controlled trial with morphometric analysis. *Gut* 2003; 52: 248–251.
201. Miehke S, Heymer P, Bethke B, et al. Budesonide treatment for collagenous colitis: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicenter trial. *Gastroenterology* 2002; 123: 978–984.
202. Munck LK, Kjeldsen J, Philipsen E, et al. Incomplete remission with short-term prednisolone treatment in collagenous colitis: a randomized study. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2003; 38: 606–610.
203. Miehke S, Madisch A, Kupcinkas L, et al. Budesonide is more effective than mesalamine or placebo in short-term treatment of collagenous colitis. *Gastroenterology* 2014; 146: 1222–1230.
204. Miehke S, Madisch A, Voss C, et al. Long-term follow-up of collagenous colitis after induction of clinical remission with budesonide. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2005; 22: 1115–1119.
205. Goff JS, Barnett JL, Pelke T, et al. Collagenous colitis: histopathology and clinical course. *Am J Gastroenterol* 1997; 92: 57–60.
206. Irvine EJ, Feagan B, Rochon J, et al. Quality of life: a valid and reliable measure of therapeutic efficacy in the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease. Canadian Crohn's Relapse Prevention Trial Study Group. *Gastroenterology* 1994; 106: 287–296.
207. Minsk ABJ and Cohen DR. *FDA issues final guidance on patient-reported outcome measures used to support labeling claims*. US Department of Health and Human Services, Silver Spring, MD. April 2010 (accessed 10 April 2017).



208. Marlicz W, Skonieczna-Zydecka K, Yung DE, et al. Endoscopic findings and colonic perforation in microscopic colitis: a systematic review. *Dig Liver Dis* 2017; 49: 1073–1085.
209. Lindstrom CG. ‘Collagenous colitis’ with watery diarrhoea—a new entity? *Pathol Eur* 1976; 11: 87–89.
210. Abdo A, Raboud J, Freeman HJ, et al. Clinical and histological predictors of response to medical therapy in collagenous colitis. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2002; 97: 1164–1168.
211. Armes J, Gee DC, Macrae FA, et al. Collagenous colitis: jejunal and colorectal pathology. *J Clin Pathol* 1992; 45: 784–787.
212. Baert F, Wouters K, D’Haens G, et al. Lymphocytic colitis: a distinct clinical entity? A clinicopathological confrontation of lymphocytic and collagenous colitis. *Gut* 1999; 45: 375–381.
213. Rubio CA. A simple method to evaluate the thickness of collagen in collagenous colitis. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2000; 35: 223–224.
214. Tanaka M, Mazzoleni G and Riddell RH. Distribution of collagenous colitis: utility of flexible sigmoidoscopy. *Gut* 1992; 33: 65–70.
215. Carpenter HA, Tremaine WJ, Batts KP, et al. Sequential histologic evaluations in collagenous colitis. Correlations with disease behavior and sampling strategy. *Dig Dis Sci* 1992; 37: 1903–1909.
216. Jessurun J, Yardley JH, Giardiello FM, et al. Chronic colitis with thickening of the subepithelial collagen layer (collagenous colitis): histopathologic findings in 15 patients. *Hum Pathol* 1987; 18: 839–848.
217. Lazenby AJ, Yardley JH, Giardiello FM, et al. Lymphocytic (“microscopic”) colitis: a comparative histopathologic study with particular reference to collagenous colitis. *Hum Pathol* 1989; 20: 18–28.
218. Mosnier JF, Larvol L, Barge J, et al. Lymphocytic and collagenous colitis: an immunohistochemical study. *Am J Gastroenterol* 1996; 91: 709–713.
219. Offner FA, Jao RV, Lewin KJ, et al. Collagenous colitis: a study of the distribution of morphological abnormalities and their histological detection. *Human Pathology* 1999; 30: 451–457.
220. Veress B, Lofberg R and Bergman L. Microscopic colitis syndrome. *Gut* 1995; 36: 880–886.
221. Ayata G, Ithamukkala S, Sapp H, et al. Prevalence and significance of inflammatory bowel disease-like morphologic features in collagenous and lymphocytic colitis. *Am J Surg Pathol* 2002; 26: 1414–1423.
222. Goranzon C, Kumawat AK, Hultgren-Hornqvist E, et al. Immunohistochemical characterization of lymphocytes in microscopic colitis. *J Crohns Colitis* 2013; 7: e434–442.
223. Levy AM, Yamazaki K, Van Keulen VP, et al. Increased eosinophil infiltration and degranulation in colonic tissue from patients with collagenous colitis. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2001; 96: 1522–1528.
224. Falodia S, Makharia GK, Sateesh J, et al. Spectrum of microscopic colitis in a tertiary care centre in India. *Trop Gastroenterol* 2007; 28: 121–125.
225. Foerster A and Fausa O. Collagenous colitis. *Pathol Res Pract* 1985; 180: 99–106.
226. Lee E, Schiller LR, Vendrell D, et al. Subepithelial collagen table thickness in colon specimens from patients with microscopic colitis and collagenous colitis. *Gastroenterology* 1992; 103: 1790–1796.
227. Wang HH, Owings DV, Antonioli DA, et al. Increased subepithelial collagen deposition is not specific for collagenous colitis. *Mod Pathol* 1988; 1: 329–335.
228. Lazenby AJ, Yardley JH, Giardiello FM, et al. Pitfalls in the diagnosis of collagenous colitis: experience with 75 cases from a registry of collagenous colitis at the Johns Hopkins hospital. *Human Pathology* 1990; 21: 905–910.
229. Narabayashi K, Murano M, Egashira Y, et al. Endoscopic and histopathological evaluation of collagenous colitis. *Digestion* 2012; 85: 136–140.
230. Fiehn AM, Bjornbak C, Warnecke M, et al. Observer variability in the histopathologic diagnosis of microscopic colitis and subgroups. *Hum Pathol* 2013; 44: 2461–2466.
231. Limsui D, Pardi DS, Smyrk TC, et al. Observer variability in the histologic diagnosis of microscopic colitis. *Inflamm Bowel Dis* 2009; 15: 35–38.
232. Read NW, Krejs GJ, Read MG, et al. Chronic diarrhea of unknown origin. *Gastroenterology* 1980; 78: 264–271.
233. Carmack SW, Lash RH, Gulizia JM, et al. Lymphocytic disorders of the gastrointestinal tract: a review for the practicing pathologist. *Adv Anat Pathol* 2009; 16: 290–306.
234. Chetty R and Govender D. Lymphocytic and collagenous colitis: an overview of so-called microscopic colitis. *Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2012; 9: 209–218.
235. Fernandez-Banares F, Salas A and Esteve M. Pitfalls and errors in the diagnosis of collagenous and lymphocytic colitis. *J Crohns Colitis* 2008; 2: 343–347.
236. Geboes K. Lymphocytic, collagenous and other microscopic colitides: pathology and the relationship with idiopathic inflammatory bowel diseases. *Gastroenterol Clin Biol* 2008; 32: 689–694.
237. Guagnozzi D, Landolfi S and Vicario M. Towards a new paradigm of microscopic colitis: incomplete and variant forms. *World J Gastroenterol* 2016; 22: 8459–8471.
238. Langner C. Colorectal normal histology and histopathologic findings in patients with chronic diarrhea. *Gastroenterol Clin North Am* 2012; 41: 561–580.
239. Liszka L, Woszczyk D and Pajak J. Histopathological diagnosis of microscopic colitis. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2006; 21: 792–797.
240. Mahajan D, Goldblum JR, Xiao SY, et al. Lymphocytic colitis and collagenous colitis: a review of clinicopathologic features and immunologic abnormalities. *Adv Anat Pathol* 2012; 19: 28–38.
241. Shaz BH, Reddy SI, Ayata G, et al. Sequential clinical and histopathological changes in collagenous and lymphocytic colitis over time. *Mod Pathol* 2004; 17: 395–401.

242. Stoicescu A, Becheanu G, Dumbrava M, et al. Microscopic colitis – a missed diagnosis in diarrhea-predominant irritable bowel syndrome. *Maedica (Buchar)* 2012; 7: 3–9.
243. Thijs WJ, van Baarlen J, Kleibeuker JH, et al. Microscopic colitis: prevalence and distribution throughout the colon in patients with chronic diarrhoea. *Neth J Med* 2005; 63: 137–140.
244. Zabana Y, Ferrer C, Aceituno M, et al. Advances for improved diagnosis of microscopic colitis in patients with chronic diarrhoea. *Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2017; 40: 107–116.
245. Jaskiewicz K, Rzepko R, Adrych K, et al. Microscopic colitis in routine colonoscopies. *Dig Dis Sci* 2006; 51: 241–244.
246. Mohamed N, Marais M and Bezuidenhout J. Microscopic colitis as a missed cause of chronic diarrhea. *World J Gastroenterol* 2011; 17: 1996–2002.
247. Mullhaupt B, Guller U, Anabitarte M, et al. Lymphocytic colitis: clinical presentation and long term course. *Gut* 1998; 43: 629–633.
248. Setia N, Alpert L, van der Sloot KW, et al. Lymphocytic colitis: pathologic predictors of response to therapy. *Hum Pathol* 2018; 78: 1–7.
249. Bo-Linn GW, Vendrell DD, Lee E, et al. An evaluation of the significance of microscopic colitis in patients with chronic diarrhea. *J Clin Invest* 1985; 75: 1559–1569.
250. Fasoli R, Talbot I, Reid M, et al. Microscopic colitis: can it be qualitatively and quantitatively characterized? *Ital J Gastroenterol* 1992; 24: 393–396.
251. Goldstein NS and Bhanot P. Paucicellular and asymptomatic lymphocytic colitis: expanding the clinicopathologic spectrum of lymphocytic colitis. *Am J Clin Pathol* 2004; 122: 405–411.
252. Patil DT and Odze RD. Biopsy diagnosis of colitis: an algorithmic approach. *Virchows Arch* 2018; 472: 67–80.
253. Rahman MA, Raihan AS, Ahamed DS, et al. Symptomatic overlap in patients with diarrhea predominant irritable bowel syndrome and microscopic colitis in a sub group of Bangladeshi population. *Bangladesh Med Res Counc Bull* 2012; 38: 33–38.
254. Singh P, Das P, Jain AK, et al. Microscopic colitis in children with chronic diarrhea. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr* 2013; 57: 240–244.
255. Fine KD, Lee EL and Meyer RL. Colonic histopathology in untreated celiac sprue or refractory sprue: is it lymphocytic colitis or colonic lymphocytosis? *Human Pathology* 1998; 29: 1433–1440.
256. Wang N, Dumot JA, Achkar E, et al. Colonic epithelial lymphocytosis without a thickened subepithelial collagen table: a clinicopathologic study of 40 cases supporting a heterogeneous entity. *Am J Surg Pathol* 1999; 23: 1068–1074.
257. Chang F, Deere H and Vu C. Atypical forms of microscopic colitis: morphological features and review of the literature. *Adv Anat Pathol* 2005; 12: 203–211.
258. Fiehn AK, Clausen LN, Engel U, et al. Is revision of cutoff values needed when using CD3 immunohistochemical staining in histopathologic diagnosis of lymphocytic colitis? *Hum Pathol* 2019; 84: 115–123.
259. Fraser AG, Warren BF, Chandrapala R, et al. Microscopic colitis: a clinical and pathological review. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2002; 37: 1241–1245.
260. Warren BF, Edwards CM and Travis SP. ‘Microscopic colitis’: classification and terminology. *Histopathology* 2002; 40: 374–376.
261. Kitchen PA, Levi AJ, Domizio P, et al. Microscopic colitis: the tip of the iceberg? *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2002; 14: 1199–1204.
262. Fernandez-Banares F, Casalots J, Salas A, et al. Paucicellular lymphocytic colitis: is it a minor form of lymphocytic colitis? A clinical pathological and immunological study. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2009; 104: 1189–1198.
263. Rasmussen J, Engel PJ, Wildt S, et al. The temporal evolution of histological abnormalities in microscopic colitis. *J Crohns Colitis* 2016; 10: 262–268.
264. Sonnenberg A and Genta RM. Lymphocytic and collagenous colitis: epidemiologic differences and similarities. *Dig Dis Sci* 2013; 58: 2970–2975.
265. Fiehn AM, Engel U, Holck S, et al. CD3 immunohistochemical staining in diagnosis of lymphocytic colitis. *Hum Pathol* 2016; 48: 25–31.
266. Macaigne G, Lahmek P, Locher C, et al. Over 90% of cases of microscopic colitis can be diagnosed by performing a short colonoscopy. *Clin Res Hepatol Gastroenterol* 2017; 41: 333–340.
267. Matteoni CA, Wang N, Goldblum JR, et al. Flexible sigmoidoscopy for the detection of microscopic colitis. *Am J Med* 2000; 108: 416–418.
268. Prior A, Lessells AM and Whorwell PJ. Is biopsy necessary if colonoscopy is normal? *Dig Dis Sci* 1987; 32: 673–676.
269. Shale MJ, Walters JR and Westaby D. Adequacy of flexible sigmoidoscopy with biopsy for diarrhea in patients under age 50 without features of proximal disease. *Gastrointest Endosc* 2011; 73: 757–764.
270. Zins BJ, Tremaine WJ and Carpenter HA. Collagenous colitis: mucosal biopsies and association with fecal leukocytes. *Mayo Clin Proc* 1995; 70: 430–433.
271. Paski SC, Wightman R, Robert ME, et al. The importance of recognizing increased cecal inflammation in health and avoiding the misdiagnosis of nonspecific colitis. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2007; 102: 2294–2299.
272. Bonderup OK, Hansen JB, Teglbjaerg PS, et al. Long-term budesonide treatment of collagenous colitis: a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. *Gut* 2009; 58: 68–72.
273. Fernandez-Banares F, Salas A, Esteve M, et al. Collagenous and lymphocytic colitis. evaluation of clinical and histological features, response to treatment, and long-term follow-up. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2003; 98: 340–347.
274. Fine KD and Lee EL. Efficacy of open-label bismuth subsalicylate for the treatment of microscopic colitis. *Gastroenterology* 1998; 114: 29–36.
275. Vigren L, Olesen M, Benoni C, et al. Are collagenous and lymphocytic colitis different aspects of the same disease? *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2012; 47: 1448–1453.

276. Yagi K, Endo S, Nakamura A, et al. Clinical course of drug-induced collagenous colitis and histological changes after drug withdrawal in a Japanese case series. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2012; 24: 1105–1109.
277. Batista L, Ruiz L, Ferrer C, et al. Usefulness of fecal calprotectin as a biomarker of microscopic colitis in a cohort of patients with chronic watery diarrhoea of functional characteristics. *Dig Liver Dis* 2019; 51: 1646–1651.
278. von Arnim U, Wex T, Ganzert C, et al. Fecal calprotectin: a marker for clinical differentiation of microscopic colitis and irritable bowel syndrome. *Clin Exp Gastroenterol* 2016; 9: 97–103.
279. Wildt S, Nordgaard-Lassen I, Bendtsen F, et al. Metabolic and inflammatory faecal markers in collagenous colitis. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2007; 19: 567–574.
280. Fine KD, Ogunji F, George J, et al. Utility of a rapid fecal latex agglutination test detecting the neutrophil protein, lactoferrin, for diagnosing inflammatory causes of chronic diarrhea. *Am J Gastroenterol* 1998; 93: 1300–1305.
281. Strygler B, Nicari MJ, Santangelo WC, et al.  $\alpha$ 1-antitrypsin excretion in stool in normal subjects and in patients with gastrointestinal disorders. *Gastroenterology* 1990; 99: 1380–1387.
282. Lettesjo H, Hansson T, Peterson C, et al. Detection of inflammatory markers in stools from patients with irritable bowel syndrome and collagenous colitis. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2006; 41: 54–59.
283. Green HD, Beaumont RN, Thomas A, et al. Genome-wide association study of microscopic colitis in the uk biobank confirms immune-related pathogenesis. *J Crohns Colitis* 2019; 13: 1578–1582.
284. Stewart M, Andrews CN, Urbanski S, et al. The association of coeliac disease and microscopic colitis: a large population-based study. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2011; 33: 1340–1349.
285. Sonnenberg A, Turner KO and Genta RM. Associations of microscopic colitis with other lymphocytic disorders of the gastrointestinal tract. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2018; 16: 1762–1767.
286. Fernandez-Banares F, Esteve M, Farre C, et al. Predisposing HLA-DQ2 and HLA-DQ8 haplotypes of coeliac disease and associated enteropathy in microscopic colitis. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2005; 17: 1333–1338.
287. Matteoni CA, Goldblum JR, Wang N, et al. Celiac disease is highly prevalent in lymphocytic colitis. *J Clin Gastroenterol* 2001; 32: 225–227.
288. Pardi DS, Ramnath VR, Loftus EV, Jr., et al. Lymphocytic colitis: clinical features, treatment, and outcomes. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2002; 97: 2829–2833.
289. Svensson M, Bergman D, Olen O, et al. Validating microscopic colitis (MC) in Swedish pathology registers. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2018; 53: 1469–1475.
290. Vigren L, Tysk C, Strom M, et al. Celiac disease and other autoimmune diseases in patients with collagenous colitis. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2013; 48: 944–950.
291. Liu PH, Lebwohl B, Burke KE, et al. Correction: dietary gluten intake and risk of microscopic colitis among US women without celiac disease: a prospective cohort study. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2019; 114: 837.
292. Fernandez-Banares F, Esteve M, Espinos JC, et al. Bile acid malabsorption (BAM) in patients with functional chronic diarrhea: response to cholestyramine. *Gastroenterology* 2000; 118: A885.
293. Ung KA, Gillberg R, Kilander A, et al. Role of bile acids and bile acid binding agents in patients with collagenous colitis. *Gut* 2000; 46: 170–175.
294. Bajor A, Kilander A, Galman C, et al. Budesonide treatment is associated with increased bile acid absorption in collagenous colitis. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2006; 24: 1643–1649.
295. Torres J, Palmela C, Gomes de Sena P, et al. Farnesoid X receptor expression in microscopic colitis: a potential role in disease etiopathogenesis. *GE Port J Gastroenterol* 2018; 25: 30–37.
296. Laing AW, Pardi DS, Loftus EV, Jr, et al. Microscopic colitis is not associated with cholecystectomy or appendectomy. *Inflamm Bowel Dis* 2006; 12: 708–711.
297. Pardi DS, Loftus EV, Tremaine WJ, et al. T1193 A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of budesonide for the treatment of active lymphocytic colitis. *Gastroenterology* 2009; 136: A519–A520.
298. Cino M and Greenberg GR. Bone mineral density in Crohn's disease: a longitudinal study of budesonide, prednisone, and nonsteroid therapy. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2002; 97: 915–921.
299. Vestergaard P, Rejnmark L and Mosekilde L. Fracture risk associated with different types of oral corticosteroids and effect of termination of corticosteroids on the risk of fractures. *Calcif Tissue Int* 2008; 82: 249–257.
300. Rautiainen H, Farkkila M, Neuvonen M, et al. Pharmacokinetics and bone effects of budesonide in primary biliary cirrhosis. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2006; 24: 1545–1552.
301. Reilev M, Hallas J, Thomsen Ernst M, et al. Long-term oral budesonide treatment and risk of osteoporotic fractures in patients with microscopic colitis. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2020; 51: 644–651.
302. Colussi D, Salari B, Stewart KO, et al. Clinical characteristics and patterns and predictors of response to therapy in collagenous and lymphocytic colitis. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2015; 50: 1382–1388.
303. Fiedler LM, George J, Sachar DB, et al. Treatment responses in collagenous colitis. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2001; 96: 818–821.
304. Jobse P, Flens MJ and Loffeld RJ. Collagenous colitis: description of a single centre series of 83 patients. *Eur J Intern Med* 2009; 20: 499–502.
305. Calabrese C, Fabbri A, Areni A, et al. Mesalazine with or without cholestyramine in the treatment of microscopic colitis: randomized controlled trial. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2007; 22: 809–814.
306. Allison MC, Sercombe J and Pounder RE. A double-blind crossover comparison of lidamide, loperamide

- and placebo for the control of chronic diarrhoea. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 1988; 2: 347–351.
307. Barbezat GO, Clain JE and Halter F. A double-blind trial of loperamide in the treatment of chronic diarrhoea. *S Afr Med J* 1979; 55: 502–503.
308. Mainguet P and Fiasse R. Double-blind placebo-controlled study of loperamide (Imodium) in chronic diarrhoea caused by ileocolic disease or resection. *Gut* 1977; 18: 575–579.
309. Sun WM, Read NW and Verlinden M. Effects of loperamide oxide on gastrointestinal transit time and anorectal function in patients with chronic diarrhoea and faecal incontinence. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 1997; 32: 34–38.
310. Rohatgi S, Ahuja V, Makharia GK, et al. VSL#3 induces and maintains short-term clinical response in patients with active microscopic colitis: a two-phase randomised clinical trial. *BMJ Open Gastroenterol* 2015; 2: e000018.
311. Gentile NM, Abdalla AA, Khanna S, et al. Outcomes of patients with microscopic colitis treated with corticosteroids: a population-based study. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2013; 108: 256–259.
312. Sloth H, Bisgaard C and Grove A. Collagenous colitis: a prospective trial of prednisolone in six patients. *J Intern Med* 1991; 229: 443–446.
313. Corte T, Janssens E, D'Hondt A, et al. Beclomethasone dipropionate in microscopic colitis: results of an exploratory open-label multicentre study (COLCO). *United European Gastroenterol J* 2019; 7: 1183–1188.
314. Vennamaneni SR and Bonner GF. Use of azathioprine or 6-mercaptopurine for treatment of steroid-dependent lymphocytic and collagenous colitis. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2001; 96: 2798–2799.
315. Munch A, Fernandez-Banares F and Munck LK. Azathioprine and mercaptopurine in the management of patients with chronic, active microscopic colitis. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2013; 37: 795–798.
316. Pardi DS, Loftus EV, Jr, Tremaine WJ, et al. Treatment of refractory microscopic colitis with azathioprine and 6-mercaptopurine. *Gastroenterology* 2001; 120: 1483–1484.
317. Cotter TG, Kamboj AK, Hicks SB, et al. Immune modulator therapy for microscopic colitis in a case series of 73 patients. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2017; 46: 169–174.
318. Riddell J, Hillman L, Chiragakis L, et al. Collagenous colitis: oral low-dose methotrexate for patients with difficult symptoms: long-term outcomes. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2007; 22: 1589–1593.
319. Munch A, Bohr J, Vigren L, et al. Lack of effect of methotrexate in budesonide-refractory collagenous colitis. *Clin Exp Gastroenterol* 2013; 6: 149–152.
320. Esteve M, Mahadevan U, Sainz E, et al. Efficacy of anti-TNF therapies in refractory severe microscopic colitis. *J Crohns Colitis* 2011; 5: 612–618.
321. Münch A, Ignatova S and Strom M. Adalimumab in budesonide and methotrexate refractory collagenous colitis. *Scand J Gastroenterol* 2012; 47: 59–63.
322. Anderson RJ and Makins R. Successful use of adalimumab in patient with treatment-refractory microscopic colitis. *BMJ Case Rep* 2016; 2016: bcr2016215639.
323. Daferera N, Hjortswang H, Ignatova S, et al. Single-centre experience with anti-tumour necrosis factor treatment in budesonide-refractory microscopic colitis patients. *United European Gastroenterol J* 2019; 7: 1234–1240.
324. Pola S, Fahmy M, Evans E, et al. Successful use of infliximab in the treatment of corticosteroid dependent collagenous colitis. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2013; 108: 857–858.
325. Riviere P, Munch A, Michetti P, et al. Vedolizumab in refractory microscopic colitis: an international case series. *J Crohns Colitis* 2019; 13: 337–340.
326. Casper M, Zimmer V, Hubschen U, et al. Vedolizumab for refractory collagenous colitis: another piece of the puzzle. *Dig Liver Dis* 2018; 50: 1099–1100.
327. Cushing KC, Mino-Kenudson M, Garber J, et al. Vedolizumab as a novel treatment for refractory collagenous colitis: a case report. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2018; 113: 632–633.
328. Jennings JJ and Charabaty A. Vedolizumab-induced remission in 3 patients with refractory microscopic colitis: a tertiary care center case series. *Inflamm Bowel Dis* 2019; 25: e97.
329. Daferera N, Kumawat AK, Hultgren-Hornquist E, et al. Fecal stream diversion and mucosal cytokine levels in collagenous colitis: a case report. *World J Gastroenterol* 2015; 21: 6065–6071.
330. Jarnerot G, Tysk C, Bohr J, et al. Collagenous colitis and fecal stream diversion. *Gastroenterology* 1995; 109: 449–455.
331. Munch A, Soderholm JD, Wallon C, et al. Dynamics of mucosal permeability and inflammation in collagenous colitis before, during, and after loop ileostomy. *Gut* 2005; 54: 1126–1128.
332. Williams RA and Gelfand DV. Total proctocolectomy and ileal pouch anal anastomosis to successfully treat a patient with collagenous colitis. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2000; 95: 2147.