

# Fistules anales associées au Crohn: Quand et qui opérer?



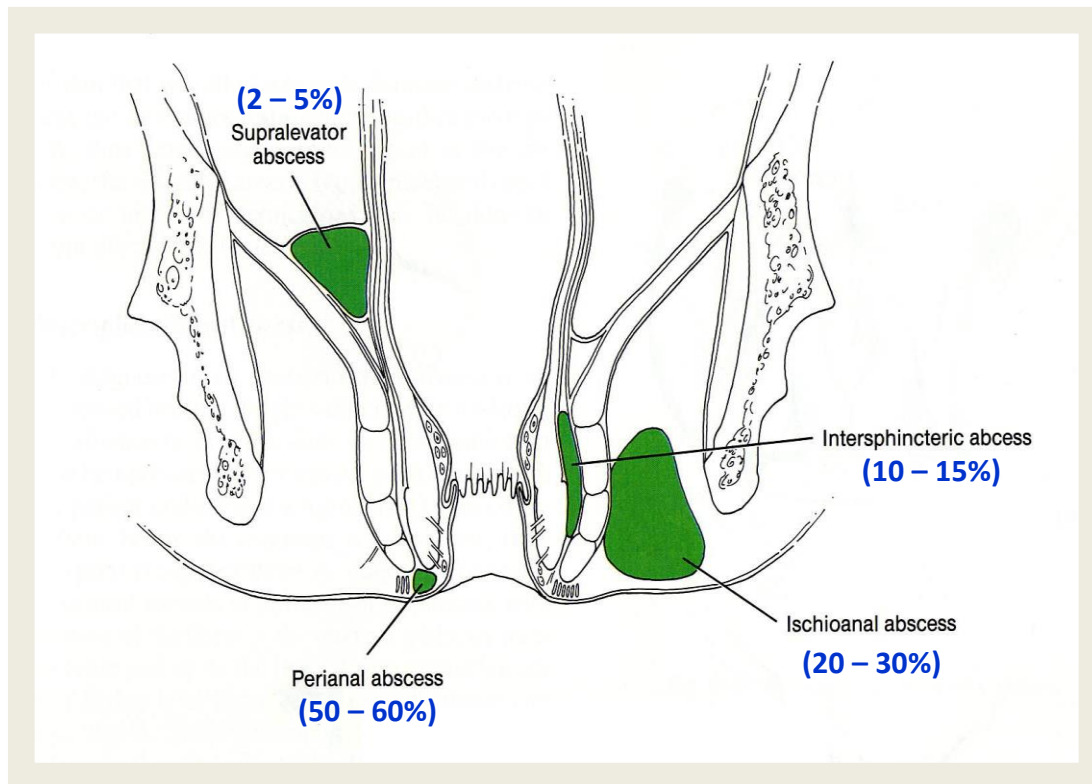
Prof. Dimitri Christoforidis  
Ospedale Regionale di Lugano

38. Schweizerische Koloproktologie-Tagung, 14 Januar 2017

# content

- Basics on anal fistulas
- How different is CD anal fistula compared to cryptoglandular anal fistula?
- Assessment of anal fistula
- Medical and surgical treatment

# Anal abscess



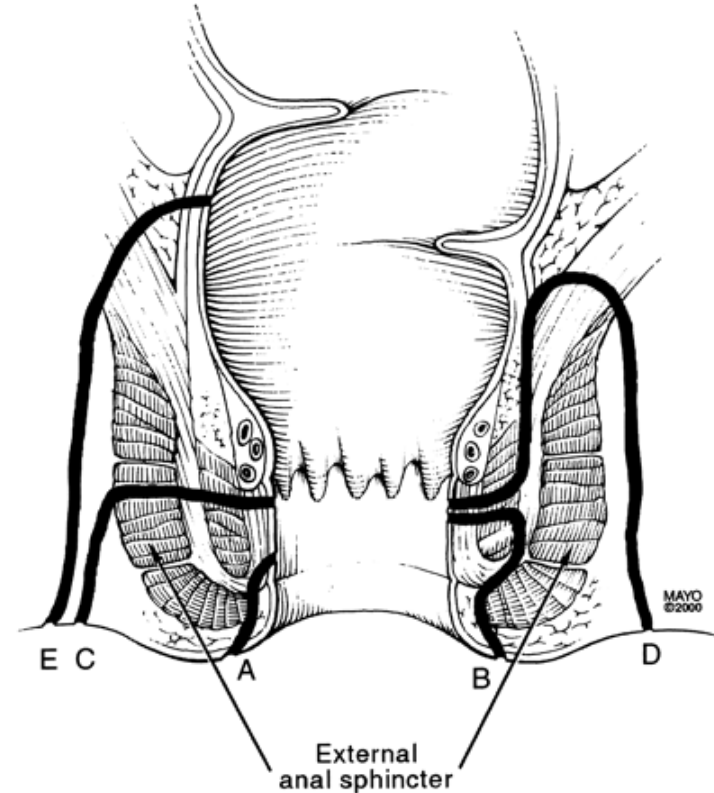


# Fistula

- infection
- persistent bacterial input
- undrained space
- tracks that may close and reopen
- epithelialisation
- granulation tissue
- cytokine milieu
- other factors?

# Parks classification

- A. submucosal
- B. Inters-phincteric
- C. Trans-sphincteric
- D. Supra-sphincteric
- E. Extra-sphincteric



# Practical fistula classification

- simple:
  - rectilinear, single track
  - does not involve (or minimally) sphincter muscle
  - fistulotomy would not affect continence
- complex:
  - multitrack
  - involves sphincter muscle
  - deep abscesses
  - fistulotomy would lead to continence disturbance

# Incidence of anal fistula in Crohn's disease

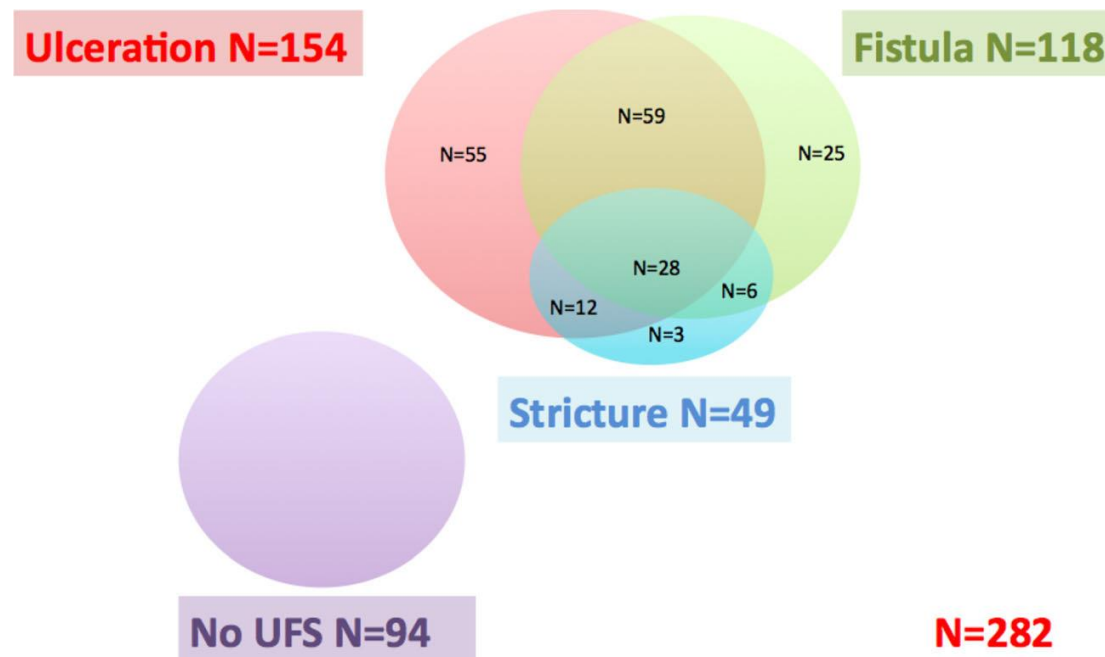
## ➤ depends of disease location:

- 12% with ileal disease
  - 15% with ileocolic disease
  - 41% with colonic disease
  - 92% with rectal disease
- Any Crohn's, cumulative incidence of anal fistula with disease evolution:
    - @ 5 years : 15%
    - @ 10 years : 21%
    - @ 20 years : 26%





# Types of perianal Crohn's Disease



- NO correlation between luminal phenotype of disease (penetrating or stricturing) and presence of anal fistula

# Cryptoglandular vs. Crohn's anal fistula

|   | cryptoglandular          | Crohn's                                    |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| PATHOGENESIS                            | infection of anal gland  | mucosal inflammation                       |
| PRIMARY ORIFICE                         | dentate line             | anorectum                                  |
| SECONDARY ORIFICE                       | single or double         | often multiple                             |
|   |                          |  |
| DISEASE - TIMING                        | acute/persistent disease | chronic disease                            |
| DISEASE - LOCATION                      | local                    | systemic                                   |
|   |                          |  |
| INCONTINENCE RISKS                      |                          | + loose stool<br>+ future anal disease     |
| INFECTION RISKS                         | no                       | immunosuppression/<br>modulation necessary |
|   |                          |  |
| HEALING WITH MEDICAL THERAPY POSSIBLE ? | no                       | yes  |

# Crohn's vs. cryptoglandular anal fistula: anatomy

- 126 patients with MR (fistula specific protocol)
- MRI features:
  - same % of transsphincteric, intersphincteric, abscess
  - more rectal inflammation (30%)

# Treatment of anal fistula: aims

## 1. close the fistula

- Stop purulent discharge
- Stop recurrent abscesses

} perianal discomfort

## 2. maintain continence

# Cryptoglandular vs. Crohn's anal fistula

|                     | cryptoglandular   | Crohn's  |
|---------------------|---|--|
| TREATMENT END-POINT | persistent healing (>6-12 months): closed external and internal orifice | decrease of symptoms   |
|                     |   | closure of at least 50% of open and draining fistulas for at least 4 weeks at any time during the 14-week study (Present et al, NEJM 1999) |
|                     |   | « remission »: absence of draining fistulas in two consecutive visits  |
|                     |   |  |

# Treatment endpoints for perianal CD: PDAI

**Table 2** Perianal disease activity index [19]

| Item  | Points |
|---|--------|
| Discharge   |        |
| No discharge  | 0      |
| Minimal mucous discharge  | 1      |
| Moderate mucous or purulent discharge                                   | 2      |
| Substantial discharge   | 3      |
| Gross fecal soiling   | 4      |
| Pain/restriction of activities  |        |
| No activity restriction   | 0      |
| Mild discomfort, no restriction   | 1      |
| Moderate discomfort, some limitation                                    | 2      |
| Marked discomfort, marked limitation                                    | 3      |
| Severe pain, severe limitation  | 4      |
| Restriction of sexual activity  |        |
| No restriction of sexual activity                                       | 0      |
| Slight restriction of sexual activity                                   | 1      |
| Moderate limitation of sexual activity                                  | 2      |
| Marked limitation of sexual activity                                    | 3      |
| Unable to engage in sexual activity                                     | 4      |
| Type of perianal disease  |        |
| No perianal disease   | 0      |
| Anal fissure or mucosal tear  | 1      |
| <3 perianal fistulas  | 2      |
| >3 perianal fistulas  | 3      |
| Anal sphincter ulceration or fistulas with significant undermining skin | 4      |
| Degree of induration  |        |
| No induration   | 0      |
| Minimal induration  | 1      |
| Moderate induration   | 2      |
| Substantial induration  | 3      |
| Gross fluctuance/abscess  | 4      |

# What you want to know before treating an anal fistula

1. Where is the internal opening
  2. Are there hidden tracks/undrained cavities?
  3. How much sphincter is involved?
- Am I allowed to cut open (fistulotomy)?

# sphincter involvement

```
graph TD; A[sphincter involvement] --> B[non significant]; A --> C[significant]; B --> D[➤ FistulOTomy (lay open)]; C --> E[➤ sphincter sparing procedure]
```

**non significant**

**significant**

➤ **FistulOTomy** (lay open)

➤ sphincter sparing procedure



# Sphincter sparing techniques

- cutting seton
- fistulectomy + endorectal flap
- FIPS (Fistulotomy and Primary Sphincter reconstruction)
- fibrin glue
- plug
- stem cells
- LIFT (Ligation of Intersphincteric Fistula Tract)
- VAAFT (Video Assisted Anal Fistula Treatment)
- PRP (Platelet Rich Plasma) + ERAF
- OVESCO clip
- FiLac (Fistula Laser closure)
- PERFECT (repeated cleaning of fistula & primary orifice)
- ....

# sphincter involvement

**non significant**

**significant**

➤ **FistulOTomy (lay open)**

➤ sphincter sparing procedure

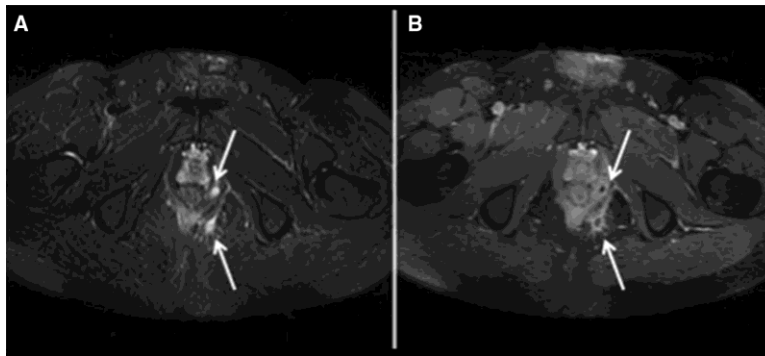
**90-100%**

- healing rate -

**40-70%**

# Fistula assessment

- clinical exam
  - in office
  - under anesthesia
- Endoanal ultrasound (EAUS)
  - 360°, 3D imaging probe
  - readily available, cheap, repeatable, surgeon operated
- MRI



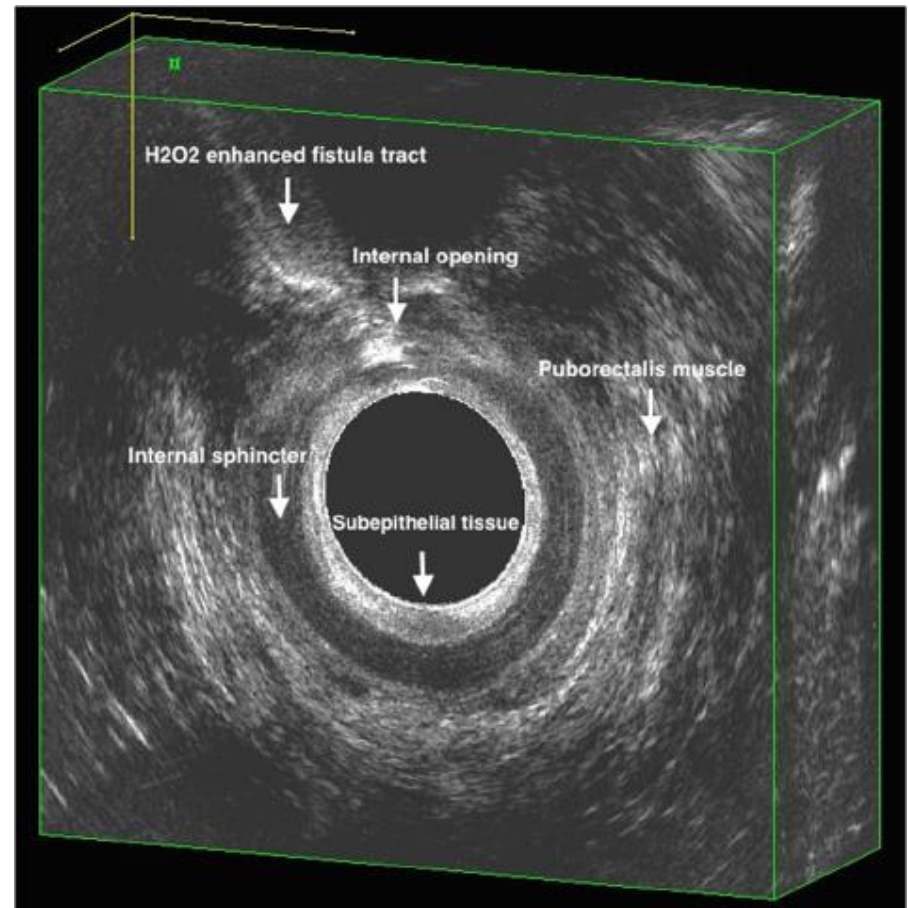
# Endoanal ultrasound (EAUS)

- 151 patients with anal fistula
- Correlation EAUS with clinical examination under anesthesia
- EAUS accuracy:
  - 93% to localize the internal orifice
  - 82% for fistula classification
  - 83% for “depth” of fistula (sphincter involvement)



# H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> contrast enhancement of the tract

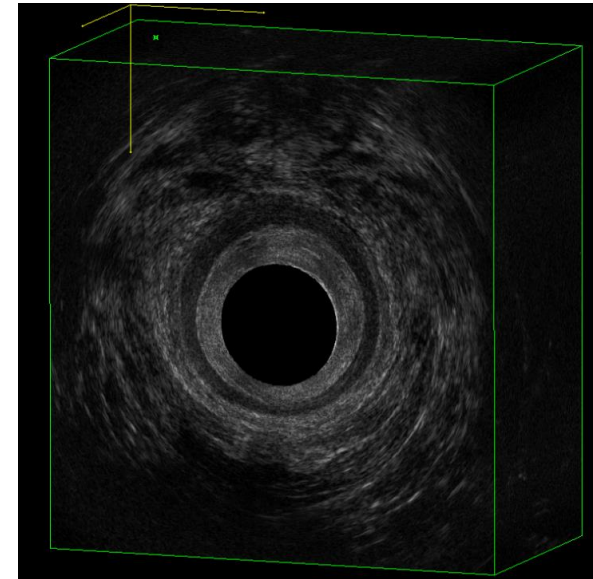
- 102 patients
- Diagnostic accuracy improved by:
  - injection of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> through external opening
  - 3D-immaging
- useful in continence preservation



*Ratto et al, Endoscopy 2005*

# EAUS 3D

- 299 patients: surgery for anal fistulae + preop 3D-EAUS
- Independent review of the 3D-volumes by 2 readers
- intra-operative data: reference standard
  - type of fistula (TS, IS, SS, ES)
  - height of fistula (high vs. low)
- Agreement with surgery:
  - fistula type:
    - proportion of agreement = 0.88,  $\kappa = 0.89$
  - height:
    - proportion of agreement = 0.90,  $\kappa = 0.91$



# Accuracy of clinical, EAUS and MRI evaluation in patients with anal fistulas

- 104 patients with anal fistula
- Confrontation clinical exam (in office), EAUS and MRI
- correct classification of the fistula:
  - clinical exam: 61%
  - EAUS: 81%
  - MRI: 90%
- correct identification of the internal opening:
  - EAUS: 91%
  - MRI: 97%

# Accuracy of clinical, EAUS and MRI evaluation in patients with Crohn's anal fistulas

- 33 patients with fistula
- pre-op evaluation with EAUS, MRI
- clinical examination under anesthesia by colorectal surgeon

Accuracy to identify all fistulas:

- Exam under anesthesia: 29 / 32
- MRI: 26 / 30
- EAUS: 29 / 32

➤ 100% when any 2 modalities combined



# MRI or EAUS?

## ECCO guidelines:

- MRI initial procedure for CD anal fistula
- EAUS is a good alternative
- any modality combined with examination under anesthesia improves accuracy

# Treatment of anal fistula in CD

# Principles of therapy

- Assess & treat perianal sepsis first:
  - abscesses: drain
  - superficial fistula: cut open
  - complex fistula: put seton
  - antibiotics
- Assess and treat inflammatory disease activity
- Discuss surgery for definitive fistula closure

sepsis  
control  
surgery

fistula  
closure  
surgery

# Setons

- draining, not cutting
- no consensus when to put them in
  - avoid if fistula uncertain
- no consensus when to pull them out
  - if initial response (↓ of drainage) to anti-TNF therapy, after 6 weeks
- may be left in place for ever
  - well tolerated, but abscesses may still occur
- different types: vessel loop, nylon suture (Prolene), etc



# Medical therapy of anal fistula in Crohn's disease

# Antibiotics

- Systematic review of 3 trials (123 patients)
- ciprofloxacin and/or metronidazole
- stat significant reduction of fistula drainage
  - RR=0.8; 95% CI=0.66-0.98
  - NNT: 5 (95% CI=3-20).

# Antibiotics for perianal Crohn's disease

**Table 3** Antibiotic trials for fistulizing Crohn's disease

| Authors and study design  | Group 1  | Group 2   | Results   |
|---|--|---|---|
| Thia <i>et al</i> [31]<br>Multicenter, prospective, double-blind, placebo-controlled study (n=25) | Ciprofloxacin (500 mg b.i.d.) or metronidazole (500 mg b.i.d.) for 10 weeks  | Placebo for 10 weeks  | Ciprofloxacin 40% response vs. metronidazole 14.3% vs. placebo 12.5% (P=0.43)                                     |
| Dejaco <i>et al</i> [32]<br>Prospective, open-label study (n=52)                                  | Ciprofloxacin (500-1000 mg/day) and/or metronidazole (1000-1500 mg/day) for 8 weeks                                      | Ciprofloxacin (500-1000 mg/day) and/or metronidazole (1000-1500 mg/day) for 8 weeks, plus azathioprine (2-2.5 mg/kg) from 0 or 8 week | Azathioprine group 48% response vs. no azathioprine group 15% (P=0.03)  |
| West <i>et al</i> [33]<br>Prospective, doubled-blind, placebo-controlled study (n=24)             | Ciprofloxacin (1000 mg/day) for 12 weeks plus infliximab 5 mg/kg at weeks 6, 8 and 12                                    | Placebo for 12 weeks plus infliximab 5 mg/kg at weeks 6, 8 and 12   | Ciprofloxacin group 73% response vs. placebo group 39% (P=0.12)   |
| Dewint <i>et al</i> [34]<br>Prospective, doubled-blind, placebo-controlled study (n=76)           | Ciprofloxacin (500 mg b.i.d.) for 12 weeks plus adalimumab (160/80 mg week 0, 2 and 40 mg every other week) for 24 weeks | Placebo for 12 weeks plus adalimumab (160/80 mg week 0, 2 and 40 mg every other week) for 24 weeks                                    | Ciprofloxacin group 71% response vs. placebo group 47% (P=0.047)  |
| Maeda <i>et al</i> [35]<br>Prospective, doubled-blind, placebo-controlled study (n=74)            | Metronidazole 10% ointment t.i.d. for 4 weeks  | Placebo ointment for 4 weeks  | Reduction in PCDAI score of at least 5 points in metronidazole group 10 of 27 vs. placebo group 4 of 34 (P=0.031) |

PCDAI, perianal Crohn's disease activity index

# antibiotics- conclusions

- improve symptoms by reduction of drainage
- ciproxine antibiotic of choice
- synergic effect with immunomodulators
- do not heal fistulas, recurrence when stopped



# Immunomodulatory agents

**Table 4** Immunomodulatory agents trials, metanalysis or systematic reviews for fistulizing Crohn's disease

| Authors and study design   | Group 1   | Group 2              | Results  |
|--|---|----------------------|--|
| Pearson <i>et al</i> [36]<br>Meta-analysis: nine randomized, placebo-controlled trials of azathioprine or 6-mercaptopurine therapy | Azathioprine or 6-mercaptopurine  | Placebo              | Fistulas improved with azathioprine or 6-mercaptopurine therapy (odds ratio 4.44; 95% CI 1.50 to 13.20)              |
| Sandborn <i>et al</i> [37]<br>Multicenter, prospective, double-blind, placebo-controlled study (n=48)                              | Oral tacrolimus (0.20 mg/kg/day) for 10 weeks   | Placebo for 10 weeks | Tacrolimus 43% response vs. placebo 8% (P=0.004)   |
| Cat <i>et al</i> [39]<br>Retrospective (n=20)  | Intravenous cyclosporine (4 mg/kg/day) for the first week, followed by oral cyclosporine at 8 mg/kg/day | No comparison arm    | 80% patients had symptomatic improvements on days 15 and 30<br>At 3, 6, 7, and 20 months 45% of fistulas were closed |
| Yang <i>et al</i> [41]<br>Systematic review: 4 case series (n=40)  | Thalidomide (50-300 mg/day)   | No comparison arm    | 25% achieved remission, 27.5% partial response and 35% withdrew from the study due to adverse events                 |

95% CI, 95% confidence interval

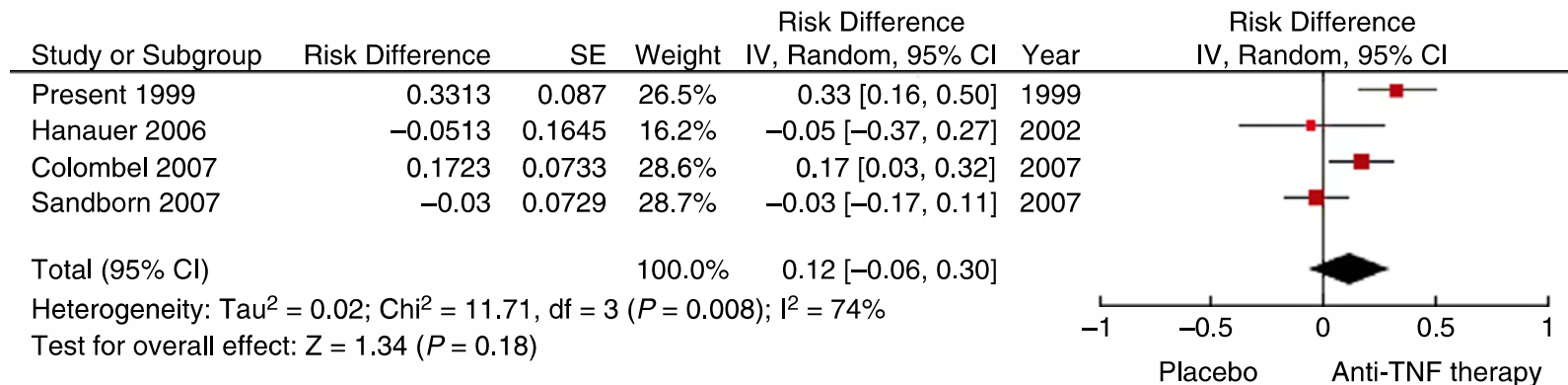
# RCTs anti-TNF for any fistula in CD

| Study                                       | Therapy    | Patients study (N) | Patients fistula (N) | FU weeks | Partial (>50%) fistula closure N (%) | Complete closure N (%) | p-value complete closure |
|---|------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Present <i>et al.</i> 1999<br>(ACCENT)[4]   | Infliximab | 31                 | 63                   | 18       | 39 (62%)                             | <b>46%</b>             | 0.003                    |
|   | Placebo    | 31                 | 31                   |          | 8 (26%)                              | 4 (13%)                |                          |
| Hanauer <i>et al.</i> 2006<br>(CLASSIC)[22] | Adalimumab | 225                | 26                   | 4        | 6 (23%)                              | 3 (12%)                | NS (0.73)                |
|   | Placebo    | 74                 | 6                    |          | 2 (33%)                              | 1 (17%)                |                          |
| Colombel <i>et al.</i> 2007<br>(CHARM)[23]  | Adalimumab | 172                | 70                   | 26       | NR                                   | <b>30%</b>             | 0.043                    |
|   | Placebo    | 170                | 47                   |          | NR                                   | 6 (13%)                |                          |
| Sandborn <i>et al.</i> 2007<br>(GAIN)[24]   | Adalimumab | 159                | 20                   | 4        | 3 (15%)                              | 1 (5%)                 | NS (0.69)                |
|   | Placebo    | 166                | 25                   |          | 5 (20%)                              | 2 (10%)                |                          |

**Table 5** Characteristics of included randomized controlled trials in meta-analysis on anti-TNF treatment. (N = number, FU = follow-up,

- no mention of Setons
- short f-up

# Meta-analysis of RCTs anti-TNF vs. placebo for complete closure



**Figure 3** Meta-analysis of four randomized controlled trials comparing anti-TNF therapy with placebo for complete fistula closure.

# Anti-TNF with or without setons: cohort studies

| Author                   | Year | Country | Study design         | Comparison group | Pts perianal fistulas (N) | M/F     | Age           | Anti-TNF | Concomitant therapy | In/Ma | FU                 | Complete closure N (%) | Partial closure N(%) | p value response | Recurrence N (%) | p value recurrence |
|--------------------------|------|---------|----------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------|---------------|----------|---------------------|-------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Uchino M. et al. [26]    | 2011 | Japan   | Retrospective cohort |                  | 62                        | 43/19   | 27.0 (12-58)  | IFX      | No                  | Ma    | 15 weeks           |                        |                      | 0.25             |                  |                    |
| "                        | "    | "       | "                    | anti-TNF + seton | 26                        | 16/10   | 27.5 (16-55)  | "        | "                   | "     | "                  | 0                      | 22 (88.5%)           |                  | NR               |                    |
| "                        | "    | "       | "                    | seton            | 36                        | 27/9    | 27.5 (16-41)  | x        | "                   | x     | "                  | 0                      | 26 (72.2%)           |                  | "                |                    |
| Sciaudone G. et al. [27] | 2010 | Italy   | Prospective cohort   |                  | 35                        | 13/22   | 36.3 (19-63)  | IFX      | Yes, medical        | Ma    | 18.8 (8-38) months |                        |                      | 0.74             |                  | 0.2                |
| "                        | "    | "       | "                    | anti-TNF         | 11                        | 4/7     | 36.3 (19-63)  | "        | "                   | "     | "                  | 7 (63.6%)              | 3 (27.3%)            |                  | 3 (42.9%)        |                    |
| "                        | "    | "       | "                    | seton            | 10                        | 3/7     | 33.1 (16-58)  | x        | "                   | x     | "                  | 7 (70%)                | 2 (20%)              |                  | 3 (42.9%)        |                    |
| "                        | "    | "       | "                    | anti-TNF + seton | 14                        | 6/8     | 35.3 (18-65)  | IFX      | "                   | "     | "                  | 11 (79%)               | 2 (14.3%)            |                  | 2 (18.2%)        |                    |
| Gaertner WB. et al. [28] | 2007 | USA     | Retrospective cohort |                  | 226                       | 105/121 | 39* (16-83)   | IFX      | Yes, medical        | Ma    | 30* (6-216) months |                        |                      | 0.001            |                  |                    |
| "                        | "    | "       | "                    | anti-TNF + seton | 49                        | NR      | NR            | "        | "                   | "     | "                  | 22 (45%)               | NR                   |                  | NR               |                    |
| "                        | "    | "       | "                    | seton            | 63                        | NR      | NR            | x        | "                   | x     | "                  | 11 (17%)               | "                    |                  | "                |                    |
| Regueiro M. et al. [25]  | 2003 | USA     | Retrospective cohort |                  | 32                        | 16/16   | 34.7* (12-58) | IFX      | Yes, medical        | In    | 18 weeks           |                        | NR                   | 0.014            |                  | 0.001              |
| "                        | "    | "       | "                    | anti-TNF + seton | 9                         | 4/5     | NR            | "        | "                   | "     | "                  | 9 (100%)               | "                    |                  | 4 (44.4%)        |                    |
| "                        | "    | "       | "                    | anti-TNF         | 23                        | 12/11   | NR            | "        | "                   | "     | "                  | 19 (82.6%)             | "                    |                  | 15 (78.9%)       |                    |

**Table 4** Characteristics of included cohort studies directly comparing (combined) anti-TNF and seton drainage on closure and recurrence rates of perianal

fistulas. (Pts = patients, N = number of patients, M/F = male/female, FU = follow-up, \* = mean, [IFX/ADA = infliximab/adalimumab](#), In/Ma =

induction/maintenance,).

# Improving anti-TNF efficacy

- Infliximab + EUA/Setons > Infliximab alone<sup>1</sup>
- Adalimumab + Ciprofloxacin > Adalimumab alone<sup>2</sup>
- higher residual levels?<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Riguiero et al, *Inflamm Bowel Dis* 2003

<sup>2</sup>Dewint P et al, *Gut* 2014

<sup>3</sup>Yarur A et al, *DDW*, May 216

# Medical therapy - summary

**Table 1.** Summary of the available Crohn's disease (CD) therapeutics and their role in the treatment of perianal fistulas

| CD therapeutics                           | Positive influence on fistula activity? | Short-term efficacy? | Feasible for long-term use? | Fistula recurrence after discontinuation? |
|---|---|----------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 5-ASA                                     | no                                      | no                   | –                           | –   |
| Corticosteroids                           | no                                      | no                   | no                          | –   |
| Antibiotics (ciprofloxacin/metronidazole) | yes                                     | yes                  | no                          | yes                                       |
| Calcineurin inhibitors                    | yes                                     | yes                  | no?                         | yes                                       |
| Thiopurines                               | yes                                     | after 3 months       | yes                         | –?  |
| Anti-TNF-alpha antibodies                 | IFX/ADA yes; CERT?                      | IFX/ADA yes; CERT?   | yes                         | yes, in a proportion of patients          |
| Vedolizumab                               | yes                                     | ?                    | yes                         | ?   |

IFX = Infliximab; ADA = adalimumab; CERT = certolizumab.

# Guidelines for complex perianal Crohn's disease

## *ECCO statement 9G*

- **Seton** placement after surgical treatment of sepsis is recommended for complex fistulae [EL2]. The timing of removal depends on subsequent therapy

## *ECCO statement 9H*

- Active **luminal Crohn's disease** should be treated if present, in conjunction with appropriate surgical management of fistulae [EL5]

## *ECCO statement 9I*

- In complex perianal fistulising disease **infliximab** [EL1] **or adalimumab** [EL2] can be used as first line therapy following adequate surgical drainage if indicated. A combination of **ciprofloxacin** and anti-TNF improves short term outcomes [EL1]. To enhance the effect of anti-TNF in complex fistulising disease, combination of anti-TNF treatment with **thiopurines** may be considered (EL5)

## *ECCO statement 9J*

- **Imaging** before surgical drainage is recommended. EUA for **surgical drainage** of sepsis is mandatory for complex fistulas [EL4]. In complex fistulas, abscess drainage and loose seton placement should be performed [EL4]

# Are CD anal fistulas dangerous? Malignant transformation?

- Dutch pathology registry based research over 17 years (1990-2007)
- Adenocarcinoma arising in anal fistula:
  - CD: 4/6058 (0.0007%); 0 in non CD
  - Time to malignancy:
    - 25 years (IQR 10-38) after CD diagnosis
    - 10 years (IQR 6-22) after fistula diagnosis
    - Median age @ diagnosis: 48.3 years (IQR 43-58)
    - $\frac{3}{4}$  asymptomatic



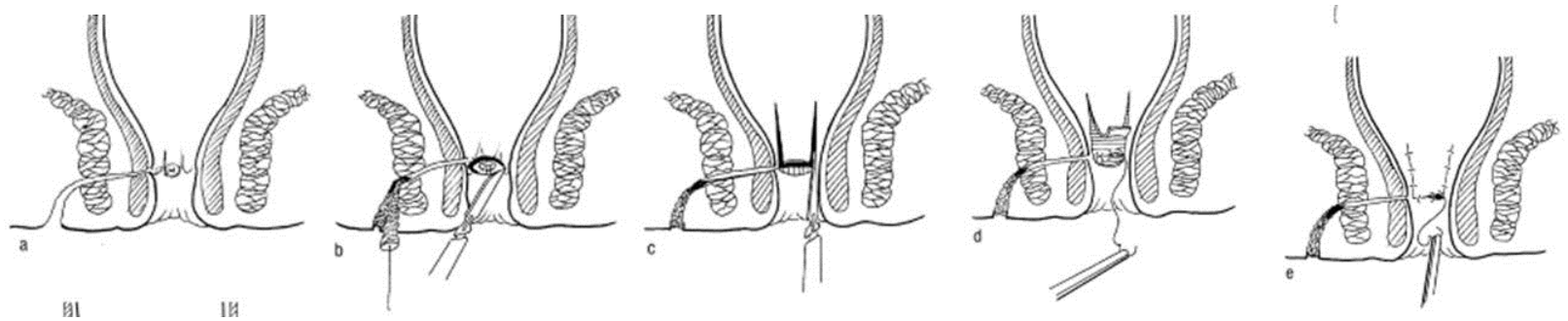
# Sphincter sparing techniques

- cutting seton
- fistulectomy + endorectal flap
- FIPS (Fistulotomy and Primary Sphincter reconstruction)
- fibrin glue
- plug
- stem cells
- LIFT (Ligation of Intersphincteric Fistula Tract)
- VAAFT (Video Assisted Anal Fistula Treatment)
- PRP (Platelet Rich Plasma) + ERAF
- OVESCO clip
- FiLac (Fistula Laser closure)
- PERFECT (repeated cleaning of fistula & primary orifice)
- ....

# Sphincter sparing techniques

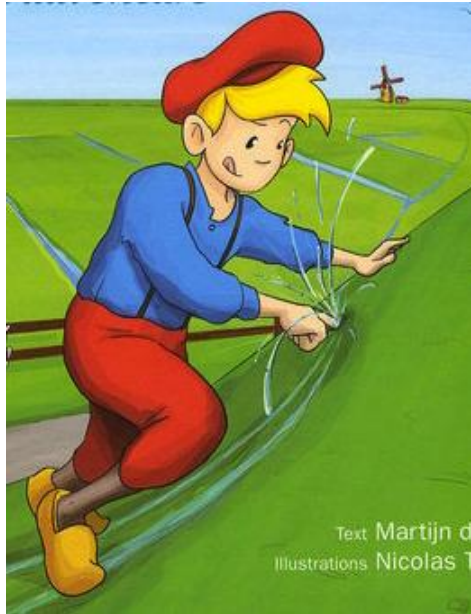
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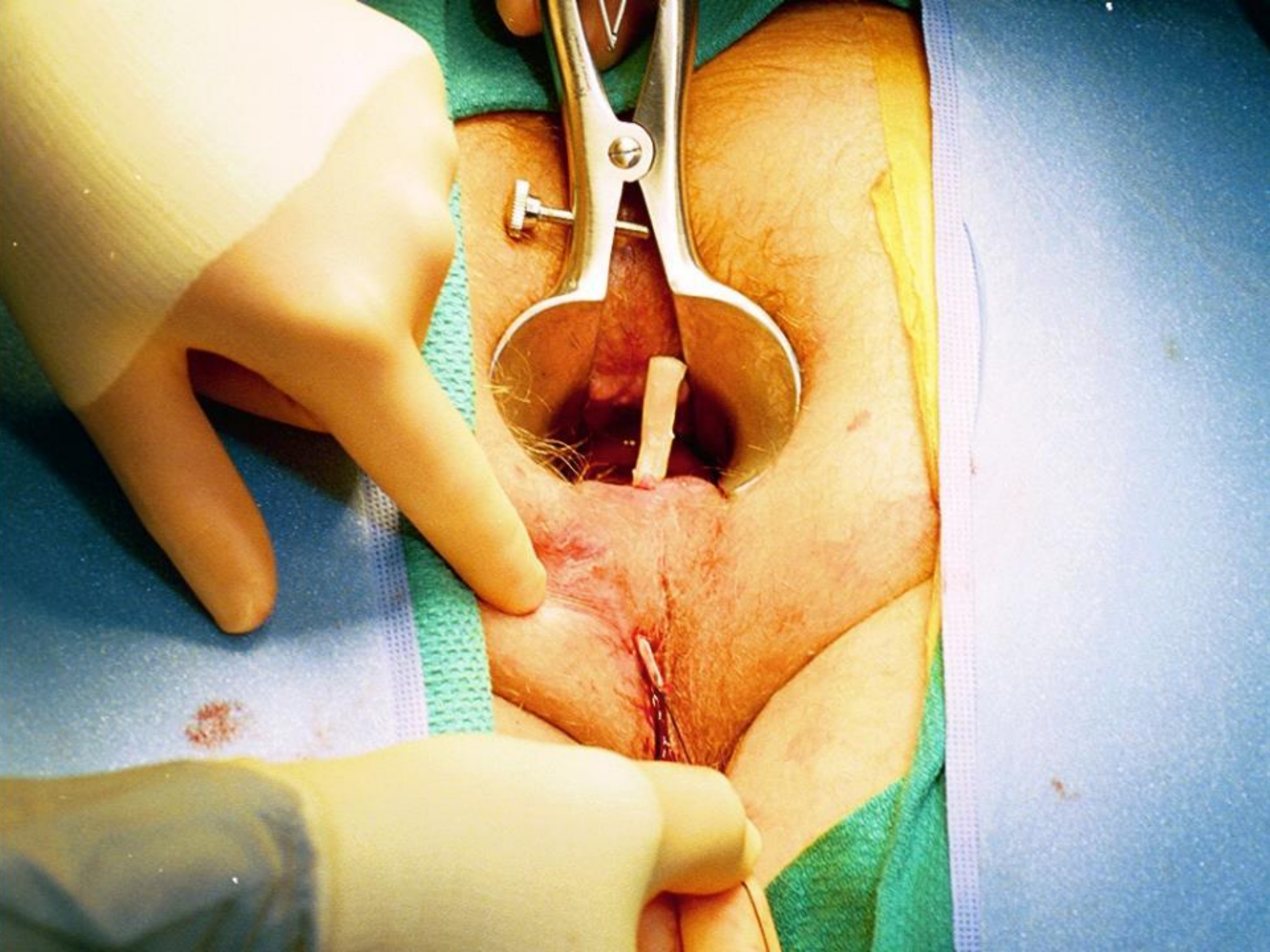
# Fistulectomy + endorectal advancement flap



- Systematic review
- cohort studies/RCT 1978-2008
- patients with cryptoglandular / CD anal fistula
- Success rate / Incontinence rate:
  - cryptoglandular: 81% / 13%
  - Crohn's disease: 64% / 9%

# PLUGS





# plug for Crohn's?

- Systematic review
- Anal fistulas (no rectovaginal)
- 20 studies (8 retro, 10 pro, 2 RCTs)
- F-up 3-48 months
- % success:
  - Crohn: 23/42 (54.8%)
  - No Crohn : 265/488 (54.3%)

# plug for Crohn's?

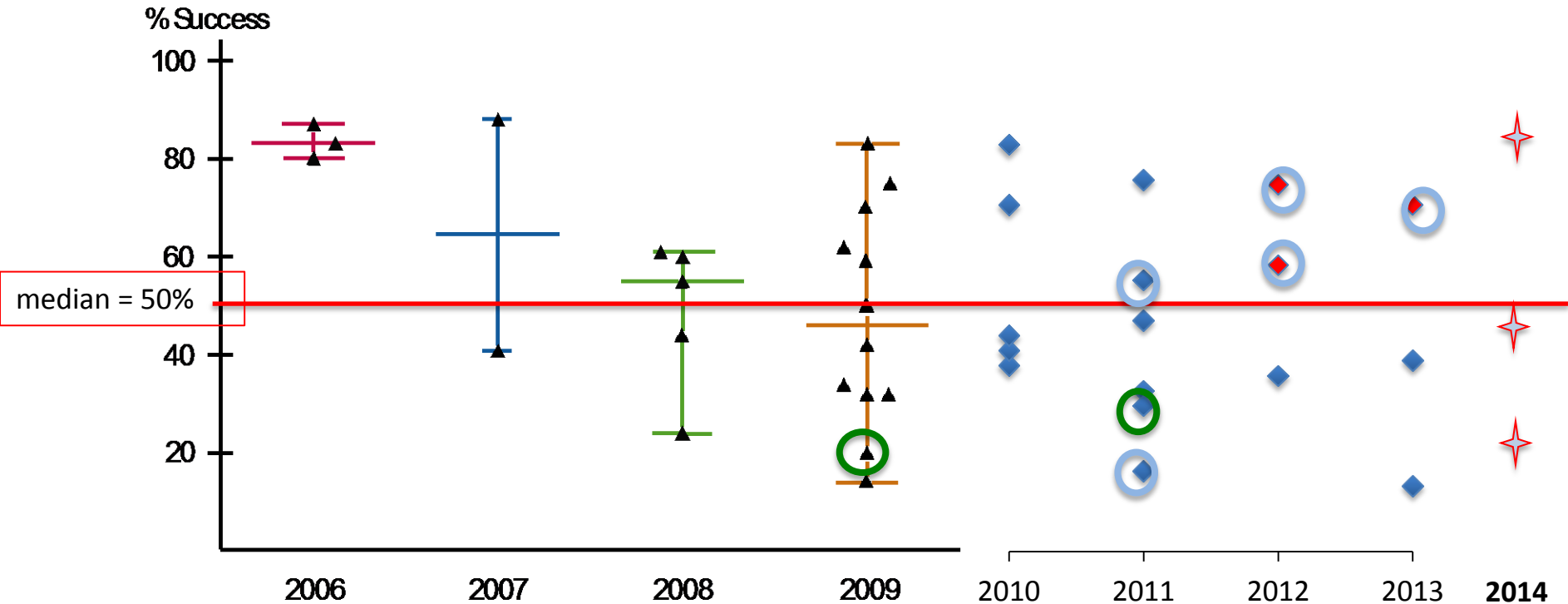
- Systematic review
- 12 studies (case-series)
- 84 patients (n = 1-20 per study)
- median follow-up time of 9 (3-24) months
- success rate: 49/84 (58.3%, 95% CI 47-69)
- Lower success rate with Gore- BIO A plug, in patients with recurrence or receiving immunomodulators

# plug for Crohn's? - RCT

- open label multicenter RCT
- Plug (Surgisis®) vs. seton removal
- 106 patients with mild or non-active Crohn's disease
- stratified according to simple or complex fistula
- 1° endpoint: Fistula closure@ week 12
- Plug: 31.5% } p=ns
- no plug: 23.1% }
- no difference if simple or complex



# Results according to year of publication

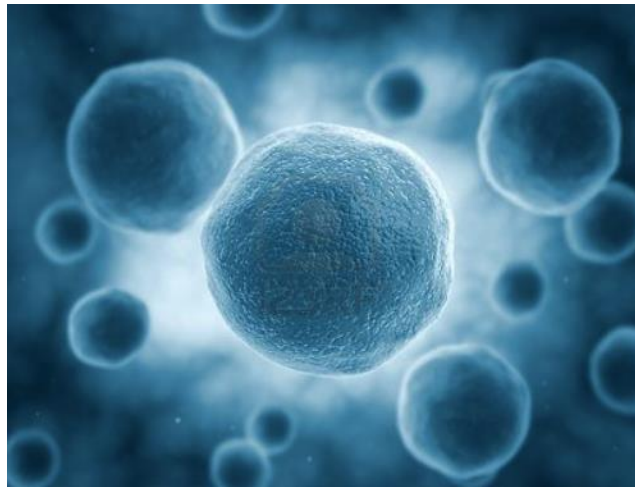


**FIGURE 1.** Fistula healing rates with the anal fistula plug as reported in articles found in PubMed over the past 4 years. Each triangle represents a publication. The horizontal bars represent median and range of values.

○ = RCT

○ = non-Cook plug

# Stem cells



# Expanded adult stem cells (eASCs) (obtenues par liposuction)

- injection dans le trajet après fermeture de l'orifice primaire
- étude randomisée (Madrid)
- n= 49 (cg = 35; Crohn's = 14)
- pas d'effets secondaires

|                           | guérison<br>à 8 semaines |           | guérison<br>à 1 an |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| colle de fibrine          | 3/25 (12%)               | P < 0.001 | 3/25 (12%)         |
| colle de fibrine + eASCs* | 17/24 (71%)              |           | 15/24 (63%)        |

*\*répétition d'une dose de 60 millions de eASCs à 8 sem si fistule persistante*

*Garcia-Olmo D et al, DCR 2009  
Guadalajara H et al, Int J Colorectal Dis 2012*

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|                           | guérison<br>à 8 semaines |           | guérison<br>à 1 an | guérison à la fin du f-up<br>(médiane=38mois) |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------|---|
| colle de fibrine          | 3/25 (12%)               | P < 0.001 | 3/25 (12%)         | 2/25 (8%)                                     |
| colle de fibrine + eASCs* | 17/24 (71%)              |           | 15/24 (63%)        | 7/21 (33%)                                    |

\*répétition d'une dose de 60 millions de eASCs à 8 sem si fistule persistante

Garcia-Olmo D et al, DCR 2009  
Guadalajara H et al, Int J Colorectal Dis 2012

# Expanded adult stem cells (eASCs) (obtenues par liposuction)

- Etude randomisée multicentrique (19) single blind
- n=200

|                           | guérison à 6 mois<br>(centre pionnier) | guérison à 1 an<br>(tout centre) |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| colle de fibrine          | 18 %                                   | 37 %                             |
| colle de fibrine + eASCs* | 83 %                                   | 52 %                             |
| eASCs seul*               | 55 %                                   | 57 %                             |

*\*répetition d'une dose de 60 millions de eASCs à 8 sem si fistule persistante*

- auteur principal a un licence agreement avec Cellerix SA

# Cellules mesenchymateuses stromales (eMSC) (obtenues par ponction de la moelle osseuse)

## *administration iv<sup>1</sup>*

- réponse clinique à 6 semaines chez 3/9 patients (-  $\geq 70$  CDAI)
- pas d'effets secondaires

## *administration intra-fistulaire*

- 10 patients Crohn avec fistules réfractaires
- ciprofloxacine, ceftriaxone, metronidazol pendant 2 semaines pré-op
- injection toutes les 4 semaines (médiane: 4x/patient)
- 7/10: guérison complète, 3/10: amélioration (f-up 12 mois)
- (!) effet systémique:
  - réduction significative du CDI et PADI ( $p < 0.01$ )
  - augmentation soutenue du nombre de cellules T régulatrices (mucosales et circulantes)

<sup>1</sup>Duijvestein M et al (Leiden), Gut 2010

<sup>2</sup>Ciccocioppo R et al (Pavia), Gut 2011

# Stem cells: intralesional injection

- Phase 3 multicenter randomised, double-blind controlled trial
- single injection of expanded allogeneic adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cells (Cx601) vs. placebo in complex perianal fistulas in Crohn's disease
- Assessment by blinded GE + radiologist (MRI)
- stratification according to concomitant baseline treatment
- primary endpoint: combined remission @ week 24
  - clinical assessment of closure of all treated external openings that were draining at baseline
  - absence of collections >2 cm of the treated perianal fistulas in MRI
- 212 patients
- Results:
  - combined remission (ITT) Cx601 **50%** vs. placebo 34%, p=0.024

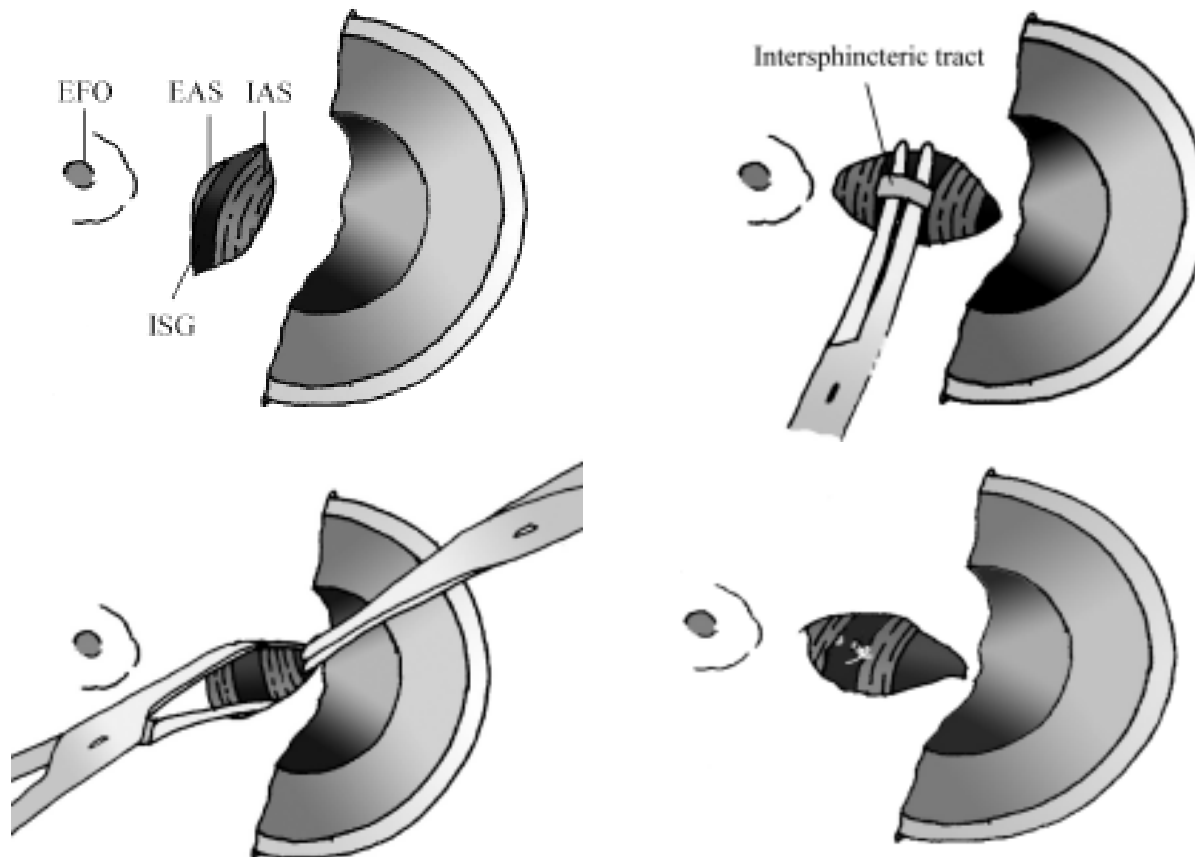
# The LIFT procedure (Ligation of Intersphincteric Fistula Tract)

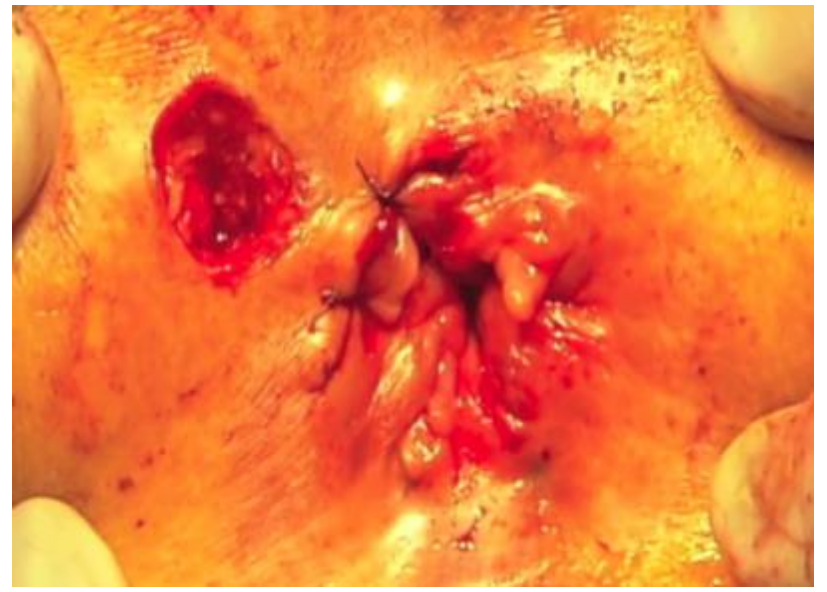
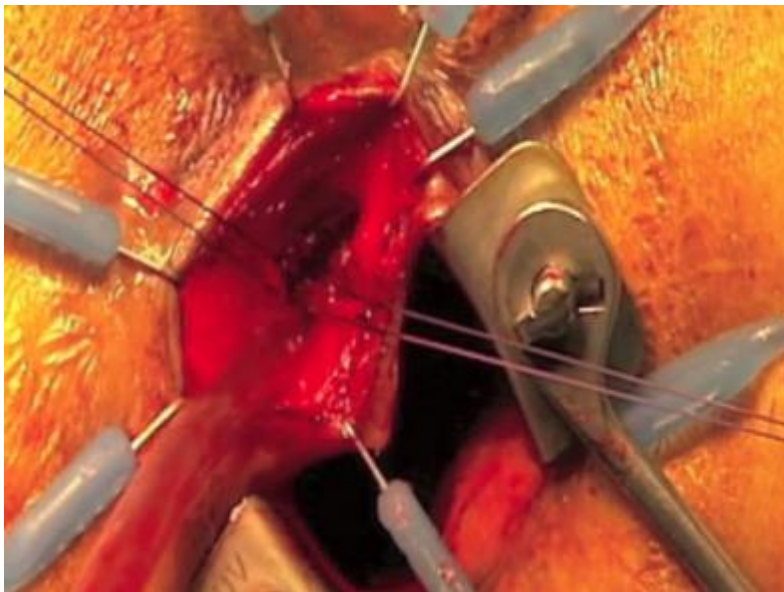
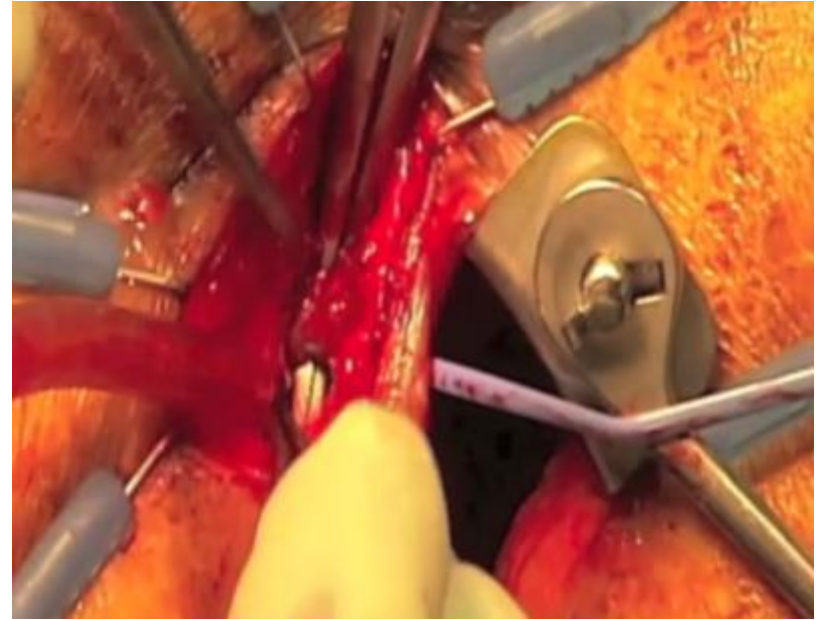
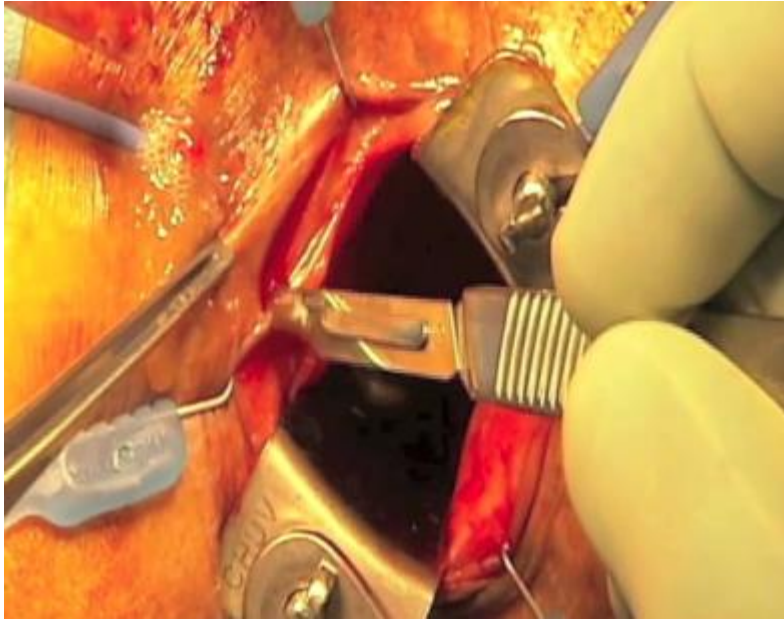


# Total Anal Sphincter Saving Technique for Fistula-in-Ano; The Ligation of Intersphincteric Fistula Tract

Arun Rojanasakul MD\*, Jirawat Pattanaarun MD\*,  
Chucheep Sahakitrungruang MD\*, Kasaya Tantiphlachiva MD\*

\* *Division of Colorectal Surgery, Chulalongkorn University*

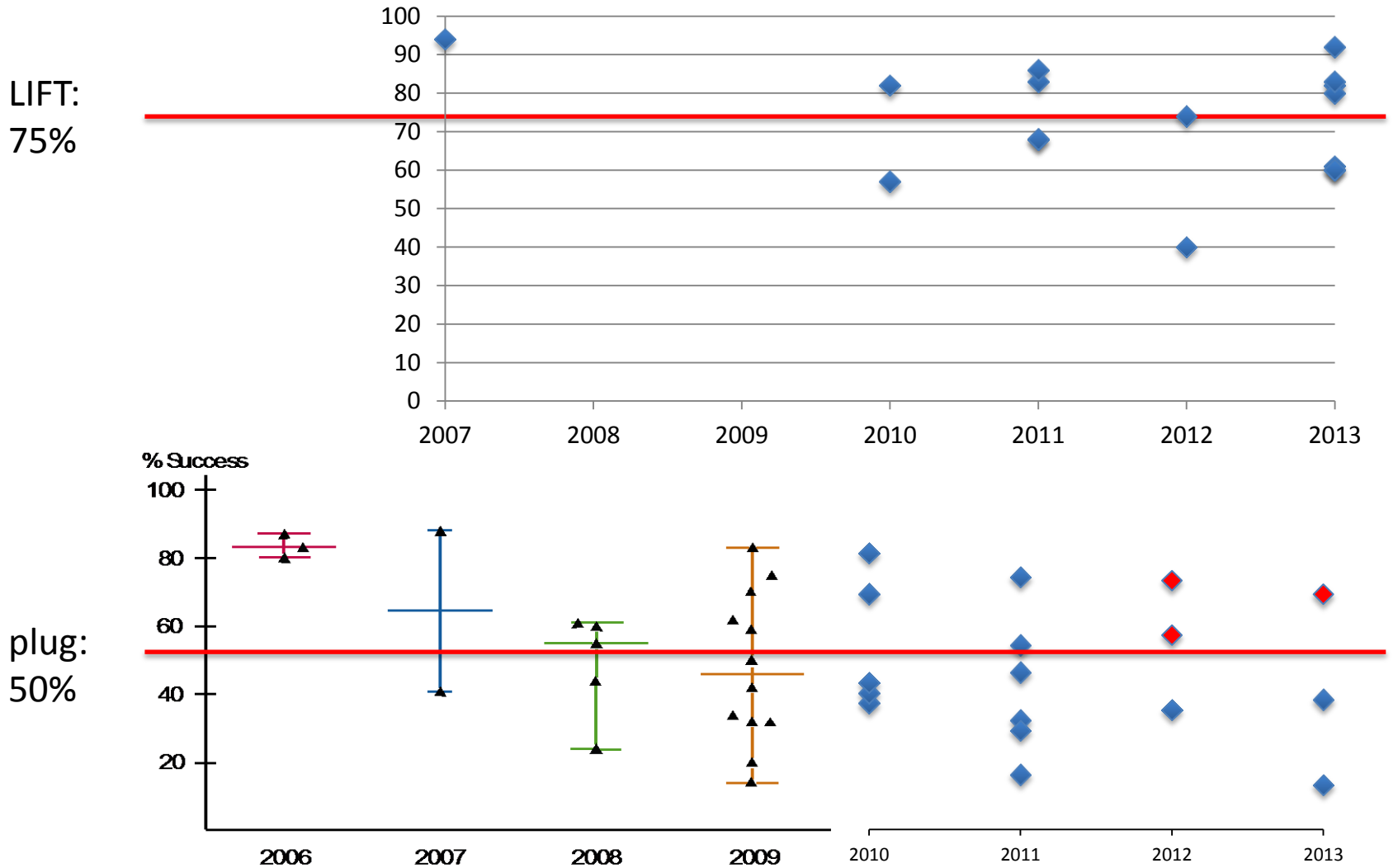




# LIFT in Crohn's disease

- 15 patients
- 8/12 healed @ 12 months
- no fecal incontinence
- Better results if fistula tract
  - lateral > median
  - long > short

# Results according to year of publication

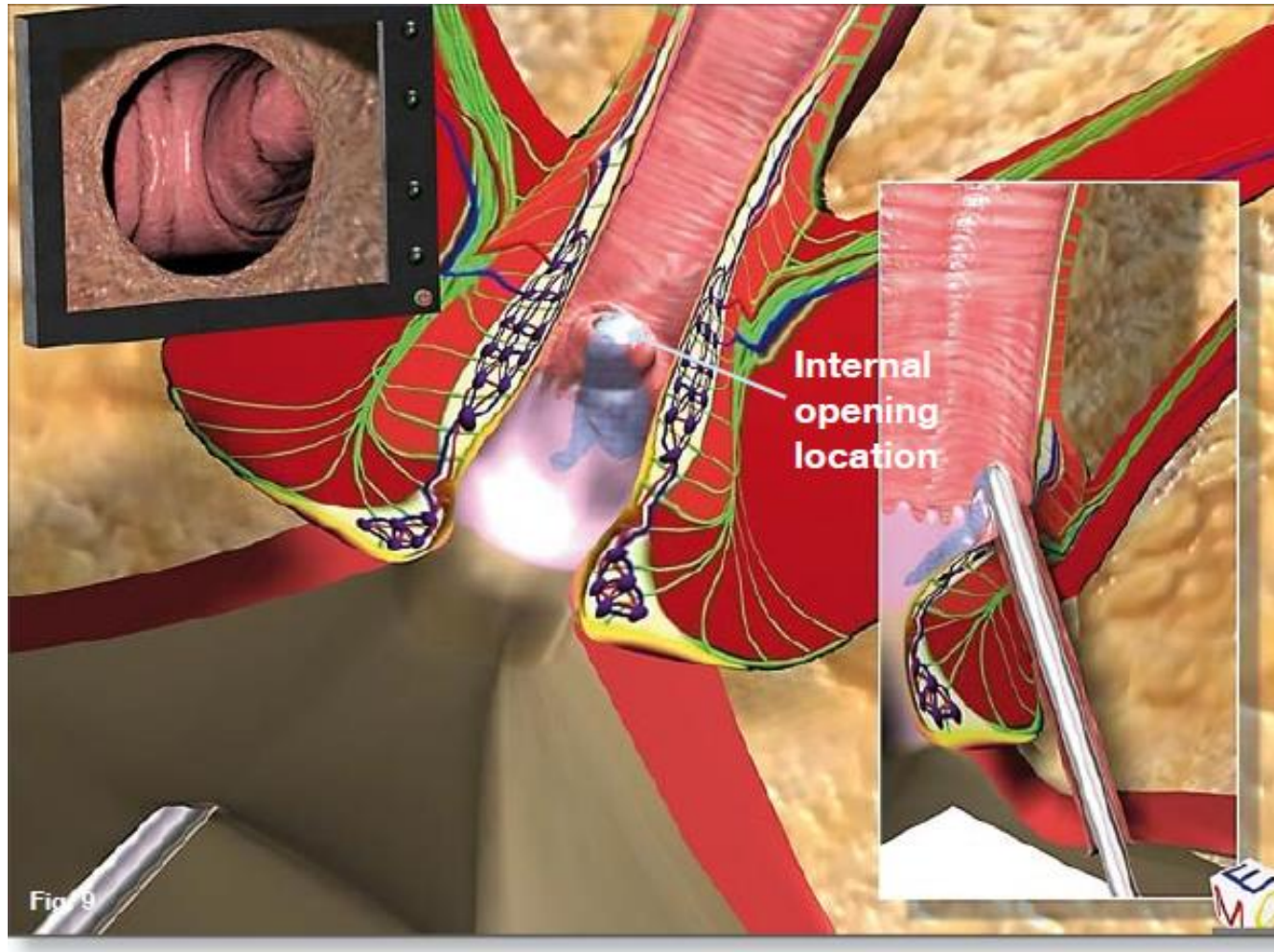


# VAAFT

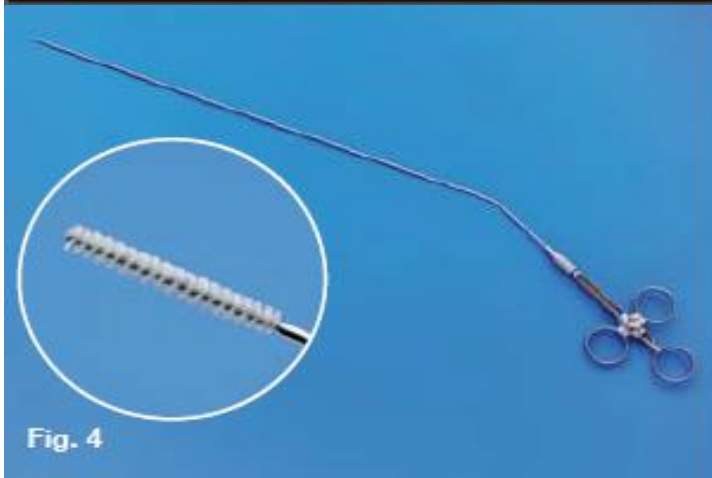
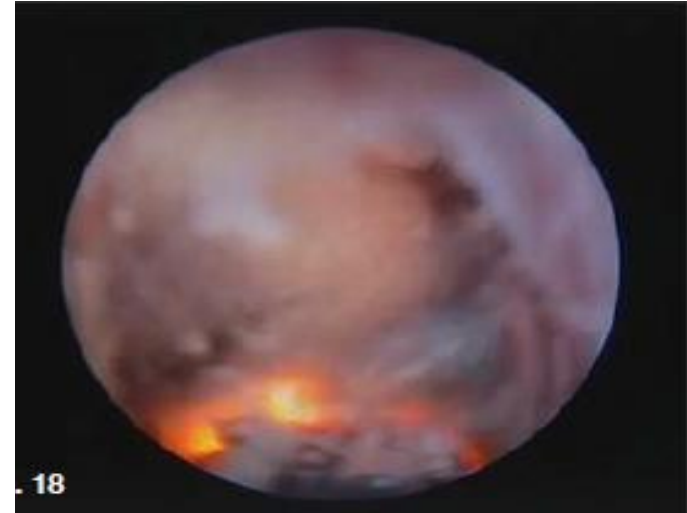
(Video Assisted Anal Fistula Treatment)



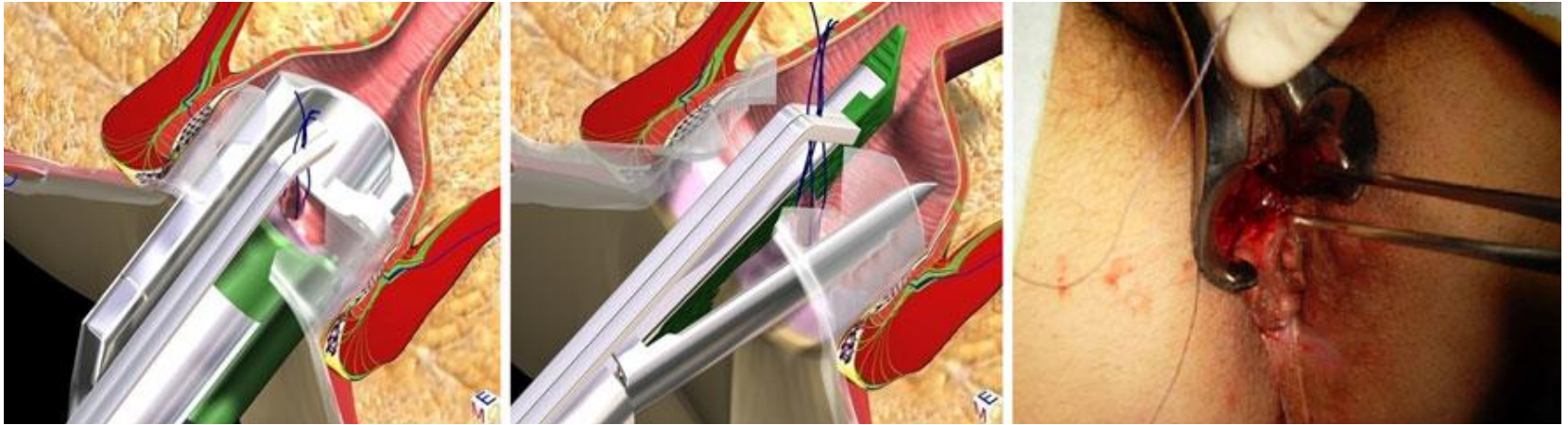
# Rigid fistuloscopy under glycine-mannitol perfusion



# Fistula cleansing by fulguration, brushing and wash-out



## Closure of the primary orifice by flap or stapling



## Cyanoacrylate glue injection un the tract





# Results VAAFT - Meinero

- 203 patients
  - 149 with h/o past fistula surgery
- F-up a 2, 4, 6 et 12 months
- success @ 1 year: 76%
  - in remission @ 2 years: 94%
- no continence disturbance

# VAAFT with endorectal flap - Crohn

- 13 patients
- 2/13 VAAFT not completed
- 7/11 identification of prior occult sinuses
- 9/11 healed
- no impact on continence

# VAAFT - conclusions

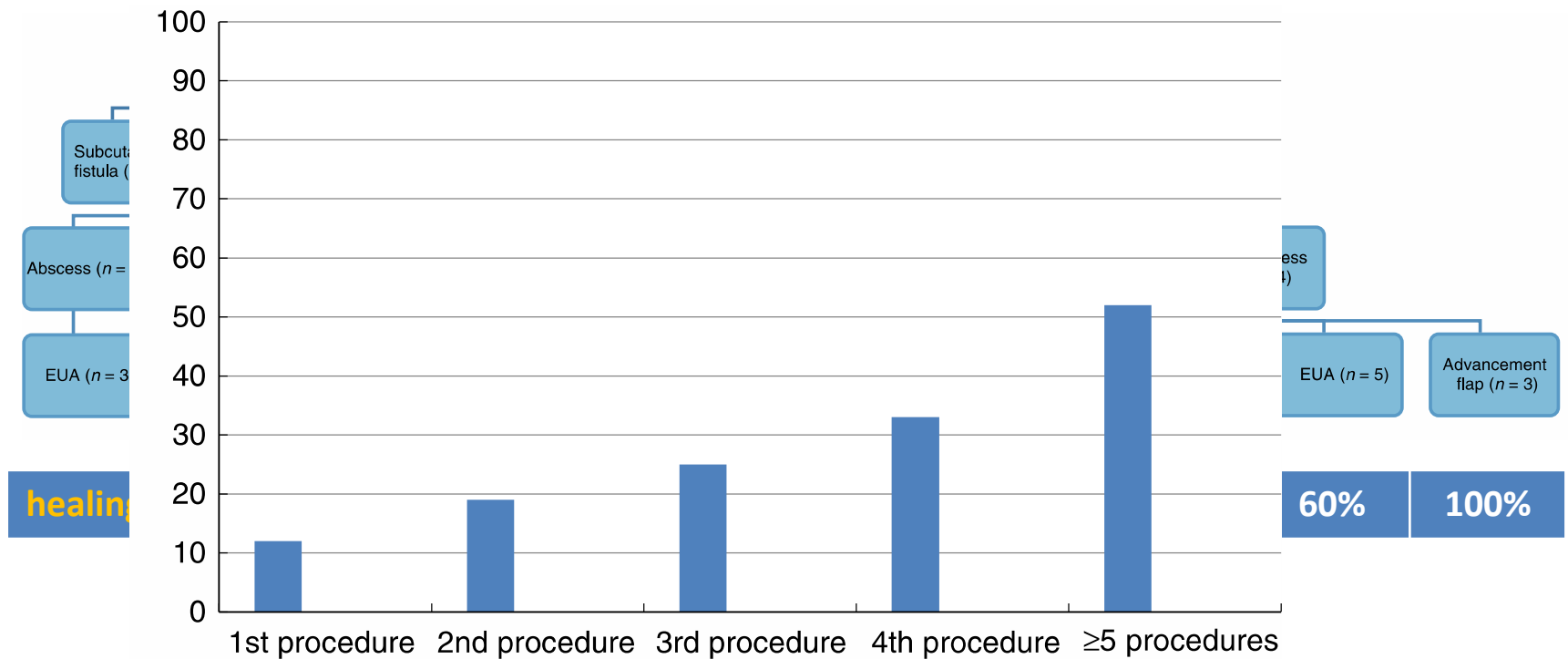
- promising technique
- treatment under direct vision
- advantage (?) for
  - 1° orifice unclear
  - presence of sinuses, deep abscesses
- cost
- awaiting more evidence in CD

# UK survey – perianal CD collaborators: what would you do for CD anal fistulas?

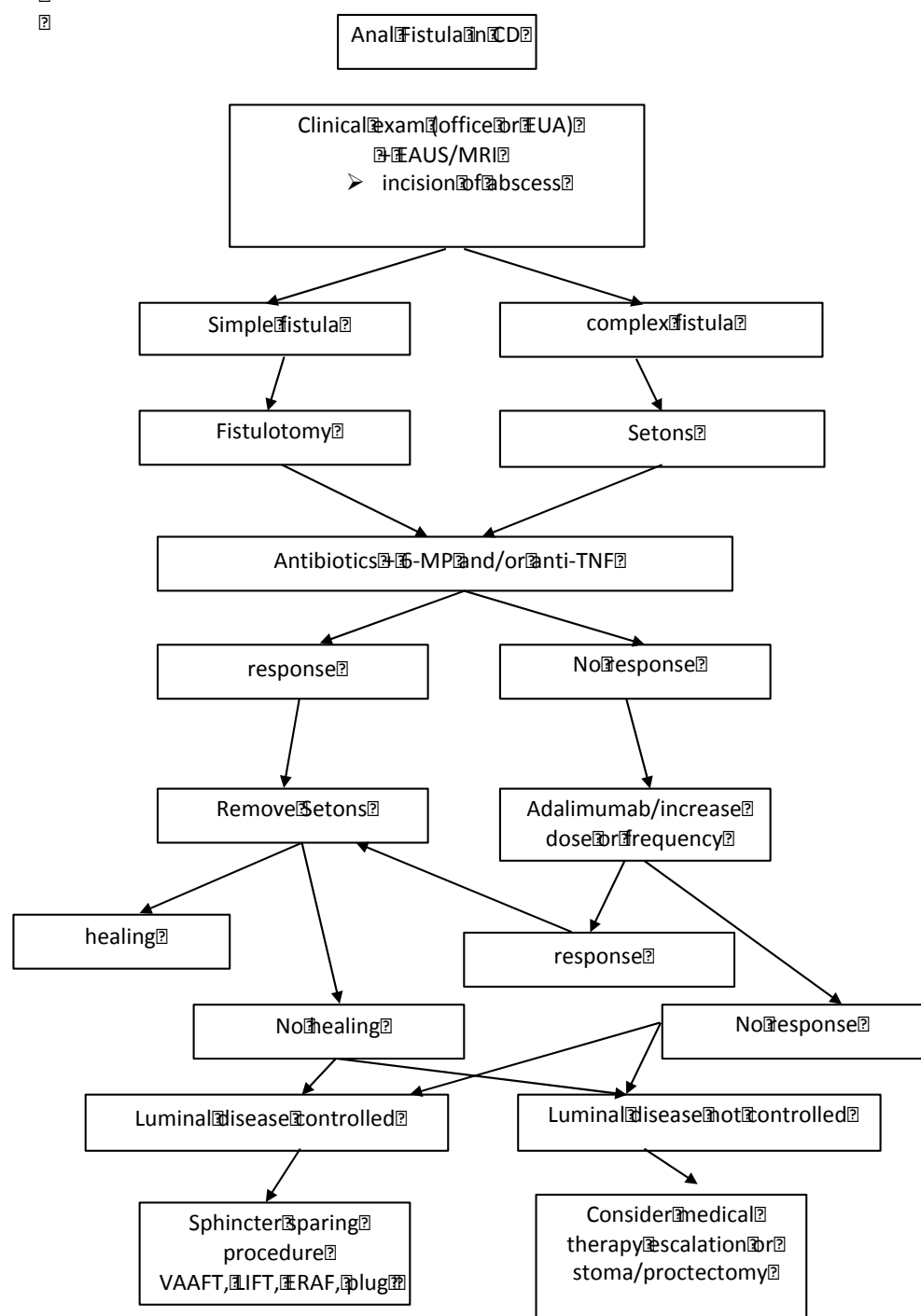
- Anti-TNF- $\alpha$  therapy: 64.2%
- Surgical definitive procedures
  - removal of seton only (70.7%)
  - fistulotomy (57.1%)
  - advancement flap (38.9%)
  - fistula plug (36.4%)
  - ligation of intersphincteric track (LIFT) (31.8%)

# Long-term outcome after surgery for Crohn's anal fistula

- 4 centers in Sweden, 119 patients, 1998-2009
- median follow-up 7.1 years ( 1.0–17.5)

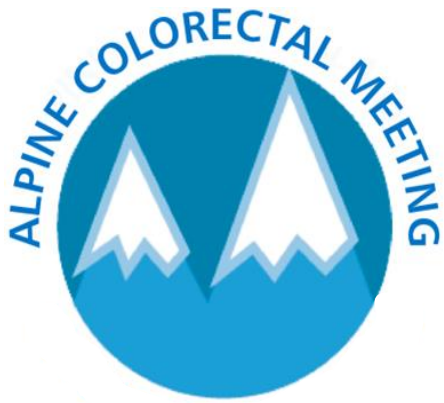


# algorithm



# conclusions

- multidisciplinary approach
- drain sepsis, then medical therapy
- if medical therapy fails and fistula complex
  - discuss with patient
    - long term setons
    - sphincter sparing procedure, if luminal disease controlled
- if perianal disease uncontrollable:
  - stoma / proctectomy



# 18th **ALPINE** **COLORECTAL MEETING**

**22th-24th January 2017**  
**Villars, Switzerland**

**[www.alpinecolorectal.org](http://www.alpinecolorectal.org)**

**Video Session: Transanal Surgery**  
**Watch and wait strategy**  
**Prevention of complications**  
**Inherited colorectal cancer**  
**Debate on ventral mesh rectopexy**  
**Hot topics in IBD**  
**Trial update**

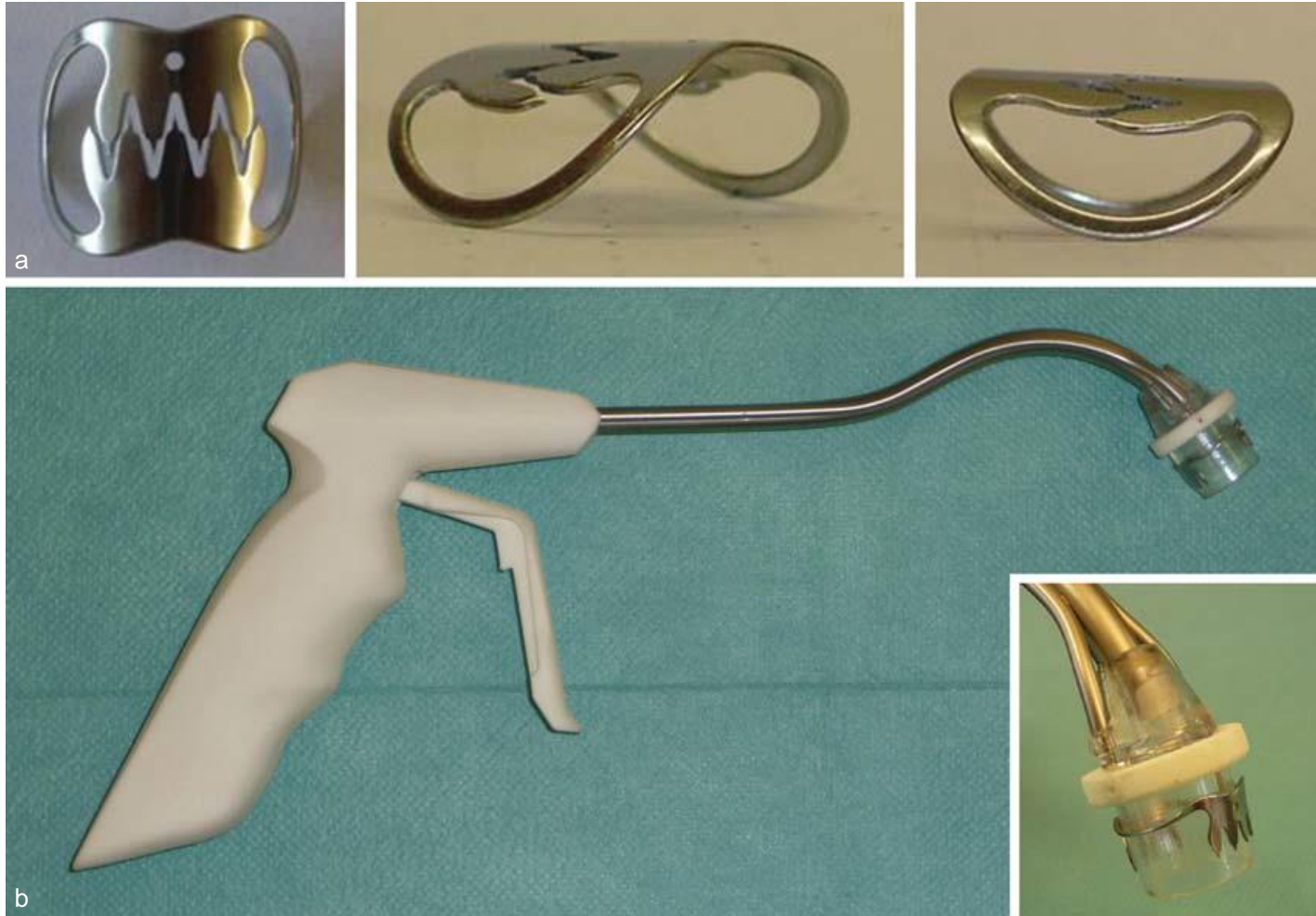


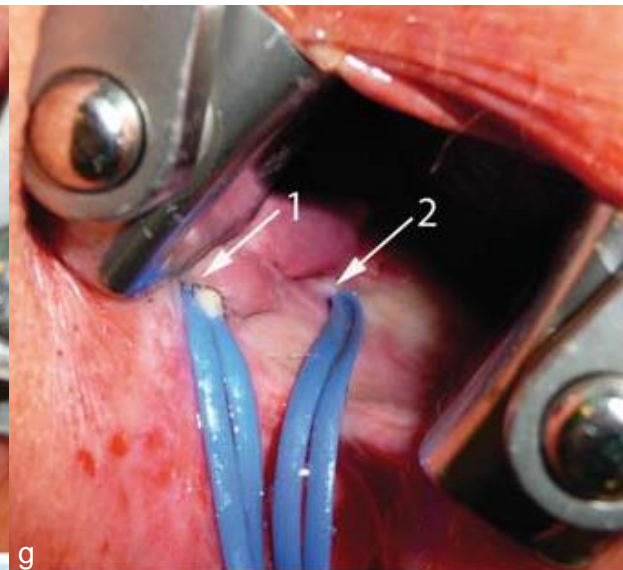
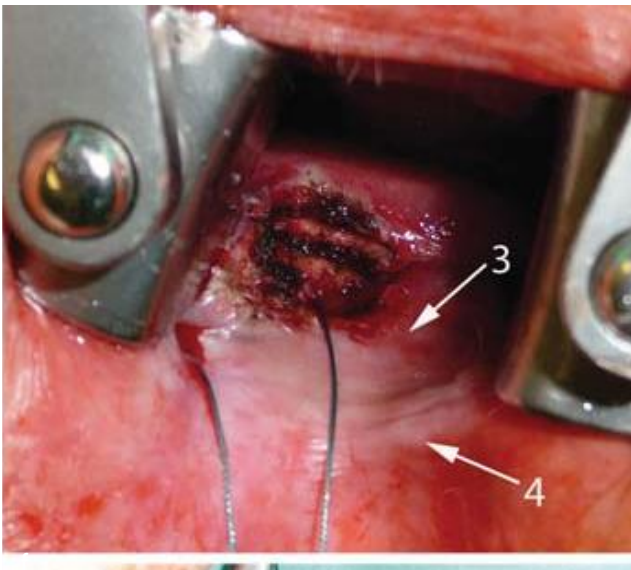
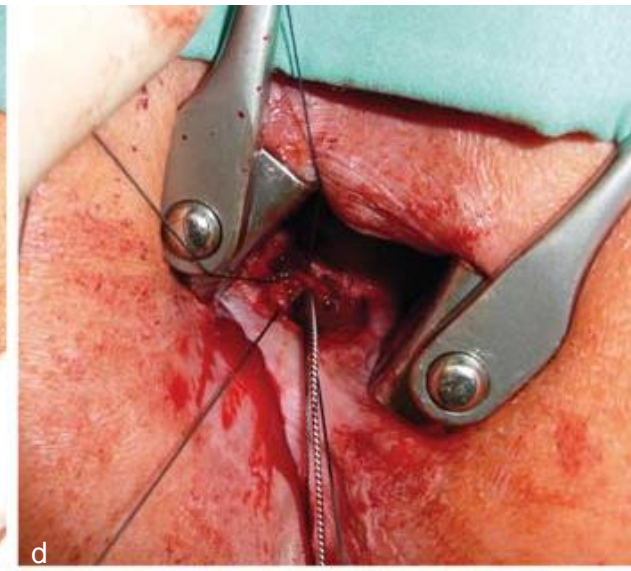
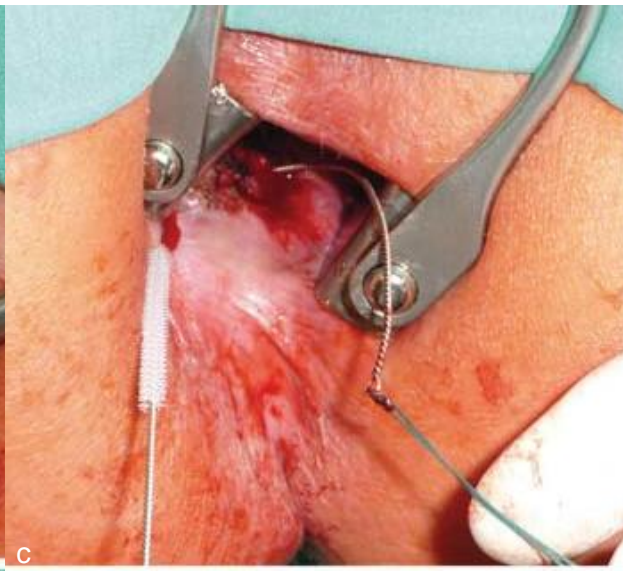
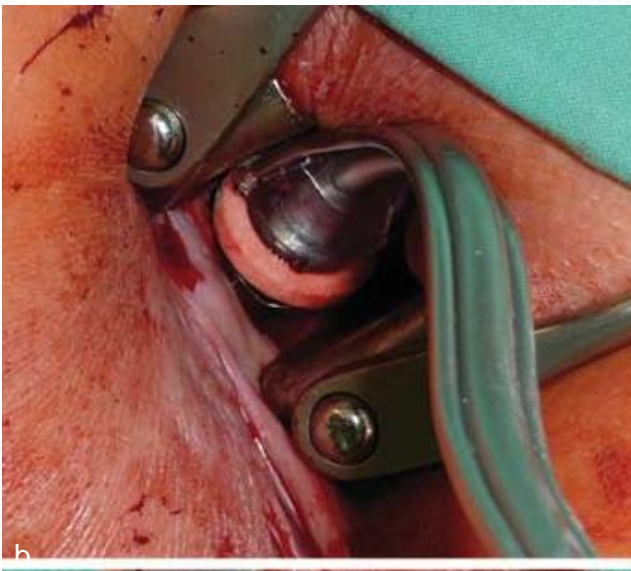


*The End*



# Over The Scope Clip



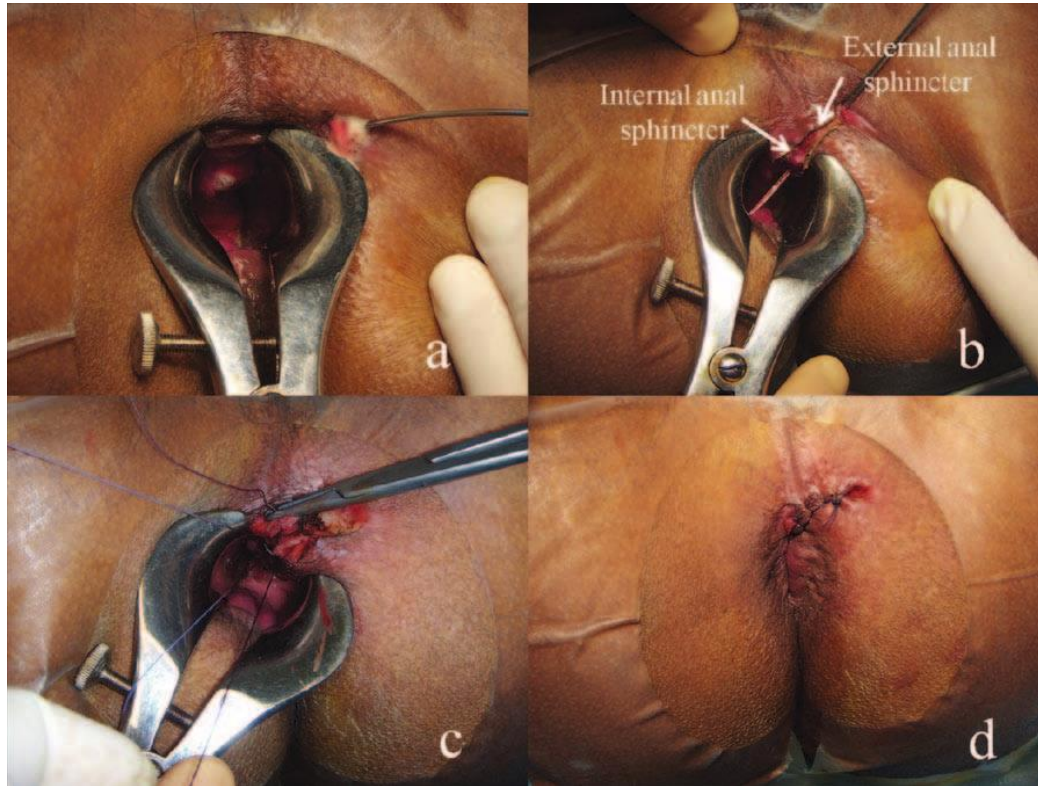


# FIPS (Fistulotomy and Primary Sphincter repair)



# FIPS (Fistulotomy and Primary Sphincter repair)

- Fistulotomie, curettage trajet/abcès profonds
- suture primaire end-to-end du sphincter



# Résultats littérature

**TABLE 5.** Data from the literature on fistulotomy or fistulectomy with primary sphincteroplasty

| Author                           | Year | Study type | Patients n | Complex fistulas n (%) | Recurrent fistulas, n (%) | Follow-up months | Sphincter dehiscence % | Success % | Fecal incontinence |                  |
|----------------------------------|------|------------|------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-----------|--------------------|------------------|
|                                  |      |            |            |                        |                           |                  |                        |           | Impaired %         | Major %          |
| Parkash et al <sup>14</sup>      | 1985 | R          | 120        | 2 (1.7)                | na                        | 6–60             | 3.3                    | 97.5      | 3.7                | na               |
| Lux et al <sup>28</sup>          | 1991 | P          | 46         | 26 (56.5)              | 20 (43.5)                 | 15.3             | 0                      | 100       | 21.7               | 10.9             |
| Christiansen et al <sup>23</sup> | 1995 | P          | 14         | 14 (100)               | 14 (100)                  | 12–48            | 0                      | 85.7      | 21.4               | 0                |
| Lewis <sup>29</sup>              | 1996 | R          | 32         | 32 (100)               | nr                        | nr               | nr                     | 90.6      | nr                 | nr               |
| Gemsenjager <sup>19</sup>        | 1996 | R          | 21         | 11 (52.4)              | na                        | 2–9              | 4.8                    | 95.2      | 4.8                | na               |
| Roig et al <sup>20</sup>         | 1999 | R          | 31         | 31 (100)               | 11 (35.5)                 | 24               | 3.2                    | 90.3      | 20.0               | 0 <sup>a</sup>   |
| Perez et al <sup>17</sup>        | 2005 | P          | 35         | 35 (100)               | 16 (45.7)                 | 32               | 0                      | 93.8      | 12.5               | 0 <sup>a</sup>   |
| Perez et al <sup>24</sup>        | 2006 | RCT        | 28         | 28 (100)               | 9 (32.1)                  | 36               | 0                      | 92.9      | 17.4               | 0 <sup>a</sup>   |
| Jivapaisarnpong <sup>21</sup>    | 2009 | P          | 33         | 33 (100)               | nr                        | 14               | 6.1                    | 87.9      | 0                  | 0                |
| Roig et al <sup>18</sup>         | 2010 | R          | 75         | 75 (100)               | na                        | 13               | 1.3                    | 89.3      | 18.3               | 6.7 <sup>a</sup> |
| Kraemer et al <sup>22</sup>      | 2011 | R          | 38         | 38 (100)               | 7 (18.4)                  | nr               | 2.6                    | 97.4      | 9.4                | 6.3 <sup>a</sup> |
| Total                            |      |            | 473        |                        |                           |                  |                        |           |                    |                  |
| Average                          |      |            |            |                        |                           |                  | 2.1                    | 92.8      | 12.9               | 3.0              |
| Weighted average                 |      |            |            |                        |                           |                  | 2.3                    | 93.8      | 11.6               | 4.1              |
| Present study                    | 2012 | P          | 72         | 72 (100)               | 12 (16.7)                 | 29.4             | 1.4                    | 95.7      | 11.6               | 1.4 <sup>a</sup> |

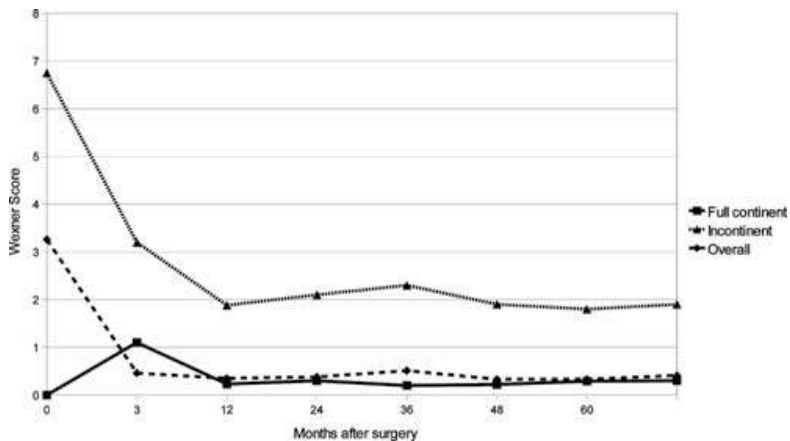
R = retrospective; P = prospective; RCT = randomized clinical trial; FI = fecal incontinence; nr = not reported; na = not available.

<sup>a</sup>Patients with full continence prior to surgery.

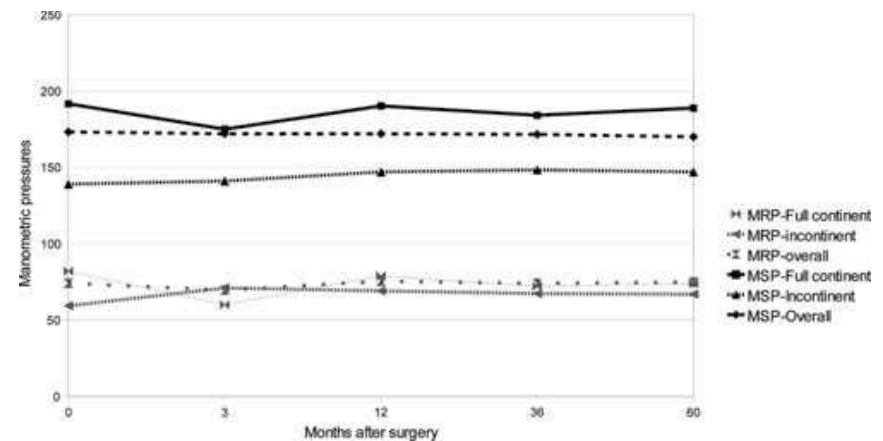
86-100% 10-20% 0-10%

# FIPS – résultats fonctionnels à long terme

- 70 patients opérés par FIPS (32% fistules récidivantes)
- manométrie pré-op, et post-op à 3 mois, 1, 3, 5 ans
- f-up 81 (48-120) mois, 0 patients perdus
- 32% incontinence pre-op (score Wexner )
- succès: 91.5%
- incontinence de novo: 17% (score Wexner <3)



**FIGURE 1.** Continence Wexner Score as a function of time after surgery.



**FIGURE 2.** Sphincter pressures as a function of time after surgery.