



University of Szeged
Center for Gastroenterology



Dear IBD National Study Group Representatives,

Dear ECCO Community,

Dear Colleagues,

About 10-15 % of Crohn's disease (CD) patients show penetrating complications during disease course. Patients with penetrating disease suffer from fistulas and abscesses which are often associated with the inflammation of fluid collections, and it results extremely difficult-to-treat disease phenotype. Crohn's disease complicated with intra-abdominal abscess often requires surgical intervention. It is evidence, that image guided **percutaneous drainage** (PD) can help to avoid surgical interventions, however there is **limited evidence** on the optimal management of CD patients with intra-abdominal abscess **who have undergone PD**.

The **global aim** of the **EVOKE study** to assess the efficacy and safety of elective surgical intervention of intra-abdominal abscess compared to pharmacotherapeutic management after successful PD in CD patients.

With this letter, EVOKE study group (Division of Gastroenterology Department of Medicine of the Albert Szent-Györgyi Medical School) would like to **invite all interested European IBD centres** and study groups to collaborate on this topic in a retrospective, multicentre, cohort study.

The amended study protocol has been reviewed extensively by the Clinical Committee (ClinCom) of ECCO at the 8th National Study Group Meeting. The study has been approved by the Institutional Ethical Committee of the University of Szeged (Szeged, Hungary).

Who can collaborate?

Participation is open to all IBD centers with a medium-high IBD incidence who has retrospective data of CD patients complicating simple intra-abdominal abscess and

willingness to collect and share it. Local Ethical Committee approval is required to all participating centres.

In case you and your centre are interested in participating in this study, please contact on **molnaribd@hotmail.com** or **bacsurp@gmail.com** by 31st of May 2024.

We will aim for the submission of a full manuscript after data analysis. The authors' list will depend on the number of patients included in the study from centre, as specified in the study protocol.

Naturally, collaborator centres are allowed to publish their own data independently as well. However, common data analysis will lead to a manuscript with a higher impact.

Looking forward to your collaboration,

Péter Bacsur MD, PhD Student, sub-investigator, coordinator

Prof. Tamás Molnár, MD, PhD, DSc, principal investigator