

# How to Treat a Patient with Crohn's After They Have Undergone Intestinal Resection

Parambir S. Dulai, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine

Director of GI Clinical Trials and Precision Medicine

Director of Digestive Health Foundation Biorepository

Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Feinberg School of Medicine Northwestern University

# Disclosures

- Consultant – Abbivax, Takeda, Pfizer, Abbvie, Janssen, Gilead, BMS, Lily, Novartis, Addiso, PreciDiag; grant/research support – Takeda, Pfizer, Janssen, BMS
- Acknowledgement - Miguel Regueiro



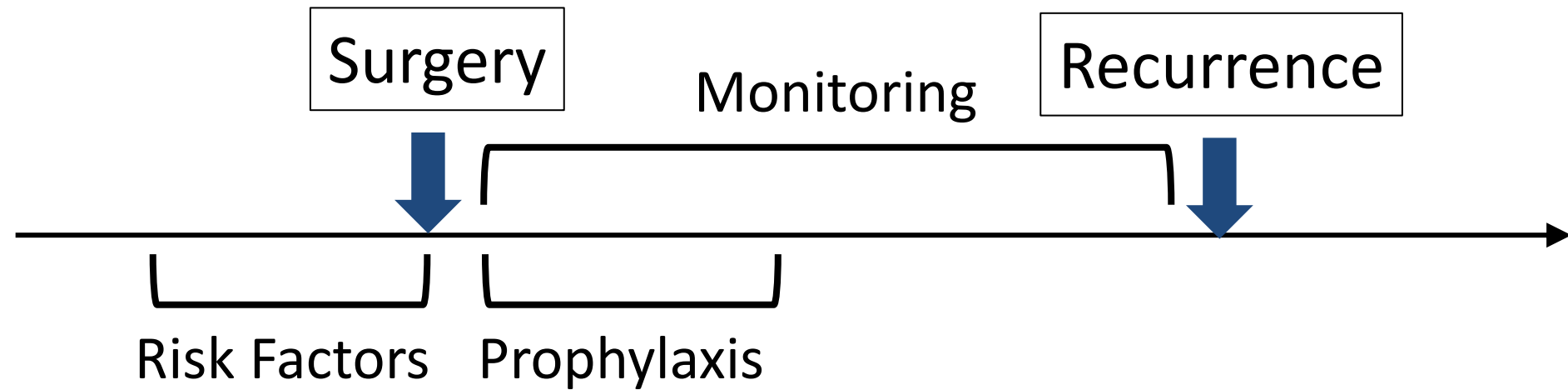
Parambir - Game Code:

# WHITEOUT

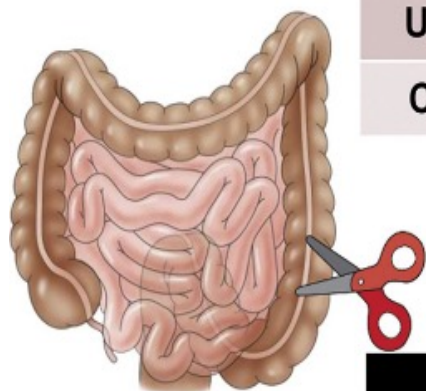
# Learning Objectives

- Understand natural history of post-operative Crohn's disease
- Identify risk factors for recurrence
- Review medical options for prevention of recurrence and/or treatment

# Natural History and Opportunities



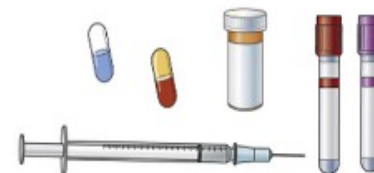
# Surgery Remains Common



Before 2000			
	1-y risk of surgery	5-y risk of surgery	10-y risk of surgery
Ulcerative colitis	4.8% (3.7-6.1)	9.5% (7.8-11.4)	15.2% (12.6-18.2)
Crohn's disease	23.6% (18.3-29.9)	35.7% (29.2-42.9)	46.5% (36.7-56.6)



Improved  
management

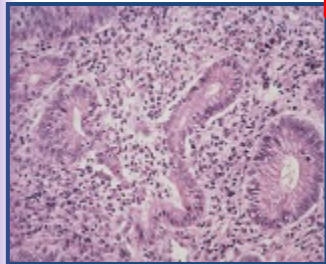


After 2000			
	1-y risk of surgery	5-y risk of surgery	10-y risk of surgery
Ulcerative colitis	2.8% (2.0-3.9)	7.0% (5.7-8.6)	9.6% (6.3-14.2)
Crohn's disease	12.3% (10.8-14.0)	18.0% (15.4-21.0)	26.2% (23.4-29.4)

# Natural History of Disease Recurrence After Surgery

Recurrence is clinically silent initially

**Histologic**



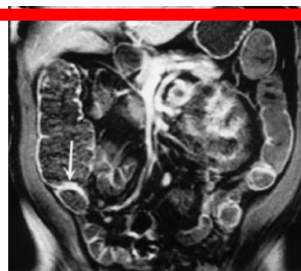
**Within  
1 week**

**Endoscopic**



**70-90%  
by 1 yr**

**Radiologic**



**Tissue  
damage**

**Clinical**



**30% 3 yr  
60% 5 yr**

**Surgical**



**50% by 5 yrs**

**Surgery**

# Risk Factors





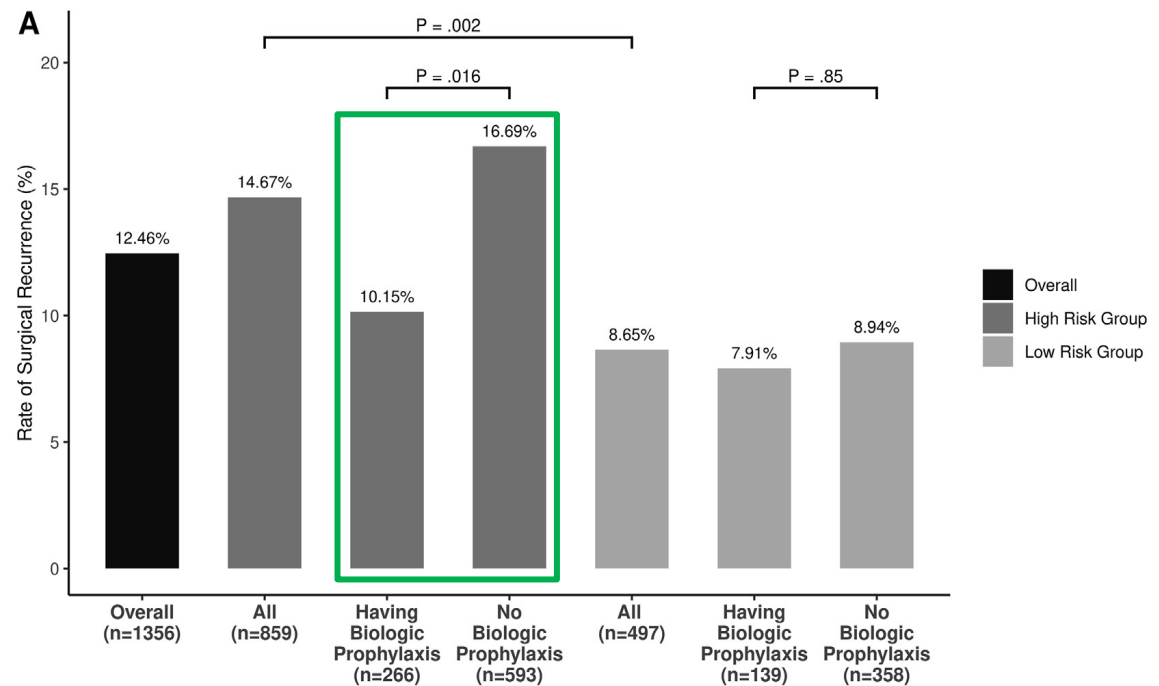
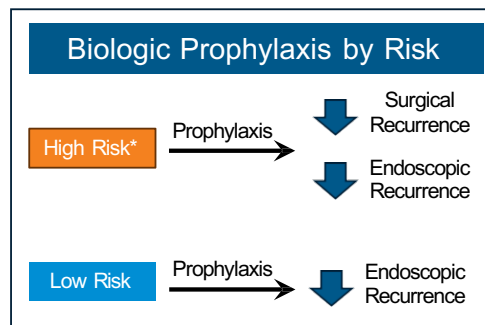
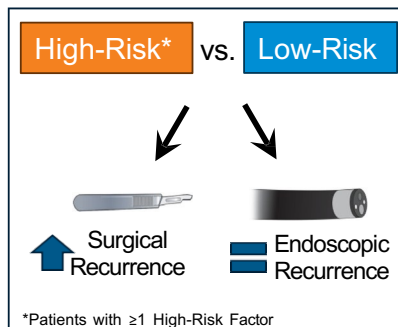
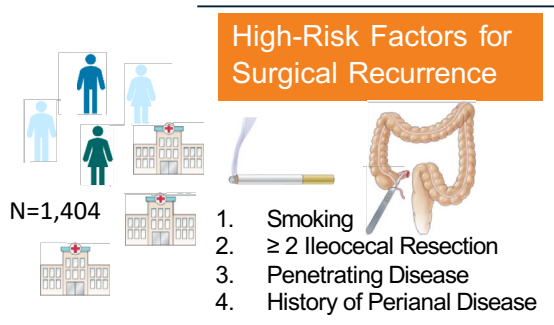
# Post-Op Risk Factors

Factor Category	Risk Factor Associated	
Patient	Age	Family history of IBD
	Sex	Active smoking
	Race	
Disease	Age of disease onset	Anatomic extent involved/length of resection
	Time to surgery from diagnosis	Clinical activity at surgery
	Prior surgical resection	Prior medical therapies
	Disease location	Disease behavior = Penetrating disease
Genetics	NOD2/CARD15	CARD8
Serology	Anti-Saccharomyces cerevisiae (ASCA)	Anti-flagellin (cBIR)
	Outer membrane protein C (Omp-C)	Anti-glycan
	Pseudomonas I2	
Microbiome	Proteus	Fusobacteria
	Lachnospiraceae	Faecalibacterium
Operative Intervention	Surgical approach (laparoscopic/laparotomy)	Anastomotic orientation, technique
	Blood transfusion requirement	Mesenteric excision extent
	Excision margin length	Strictureplasty
	Perioperative complication	
Histology	Margin involvement	Myenteric and submucosal plexitis
	Granulomas	Transmural inflammation
Other “-omics”	Tissue and transcriptomics	Urinary metabolomics

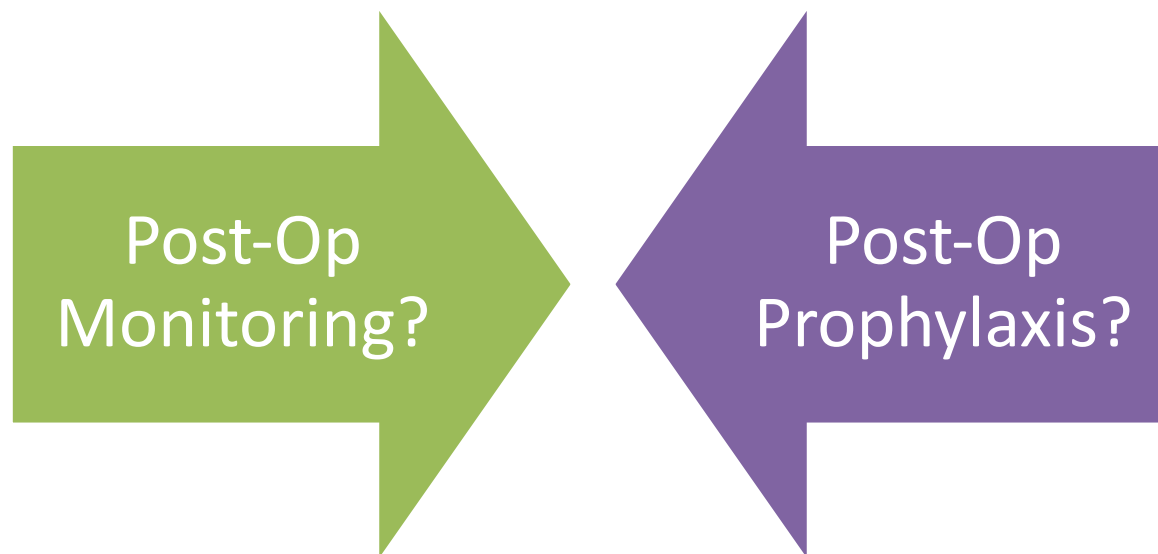
# AGA Risk Factor Stratification

Risk Group	Patient and Disease Characteristics	Clinical Recurrence (>18 months post-op)	Endoscopic Recurrence (>18 months post-op)
Low Risk	> 50 years old Non-smoker 1 <sup>st</sup> surgery (short segment <10cm) Ds. Duration > 10 years	20%	30%
High Risk	< 30 years old Smoker 2 or more prior surgeries	50%	80%

# Routine Practice Confirmation of Risk Factor Stratified Prevention



# Wait and Watch or Treat?



Balance between over treatment and risk of progression?  
Identify patients in the right 'window' of recurrence?  
Do the therapies work as well post-operatively?

# Crohn's disease management after intestinal resection: a randomized post-operative Crohn's endoscopic recurrence (POCER) trial

**Primary Outcome:** 18 mos Endoscopic Recurrence

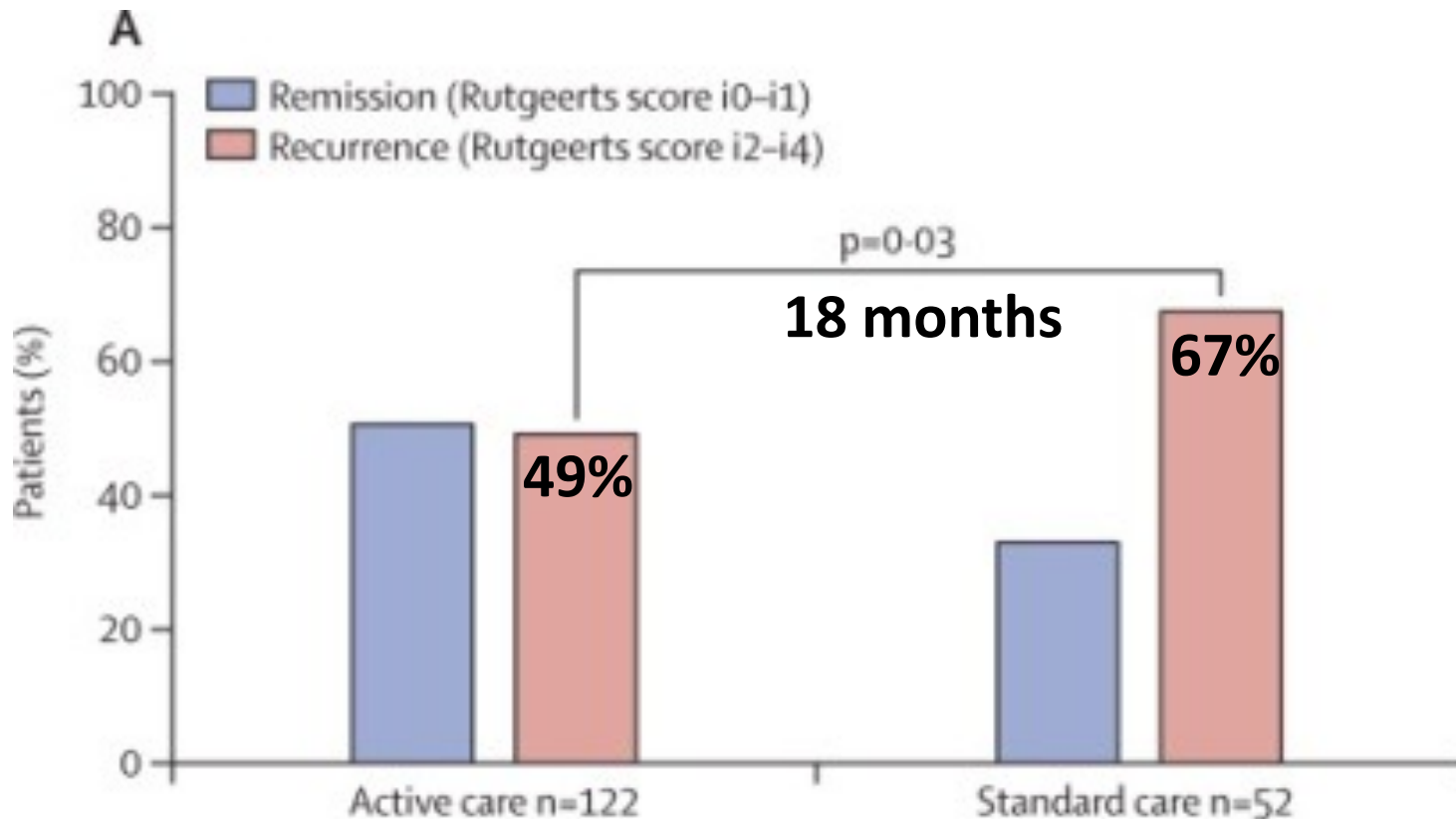
**Randomization:** Group 1 had a 6 month colonoscopy (if active disease then escalate treatment) vs Group 2 no 6 month colonoscopy

All patients received postop metronidazole x 3 mos

**Low Risk for recurrence:** No additional Medication

**High Risk for recurrence:** Thiopurine or Adalimumab if intolerant or previously failed thiopurine

# Active Monitoring Resulted in Lower Endoscopic Recurrence



# Prophylaxis

Surgery



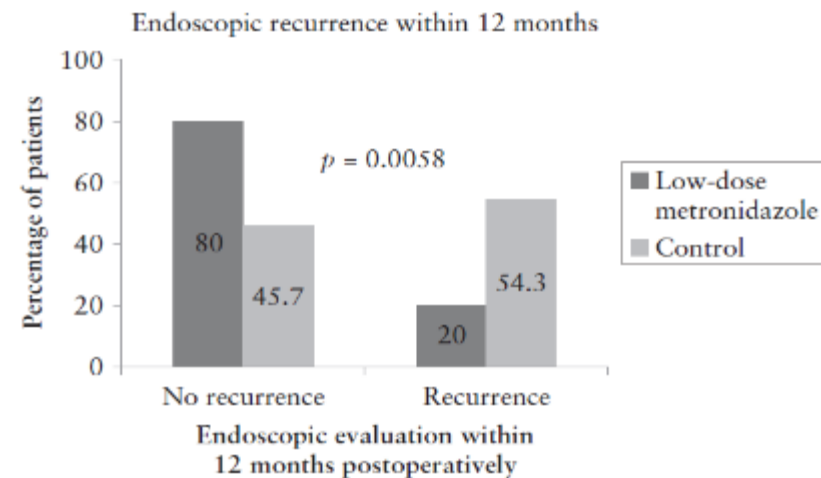
Recurrence



**Prophylaxis**

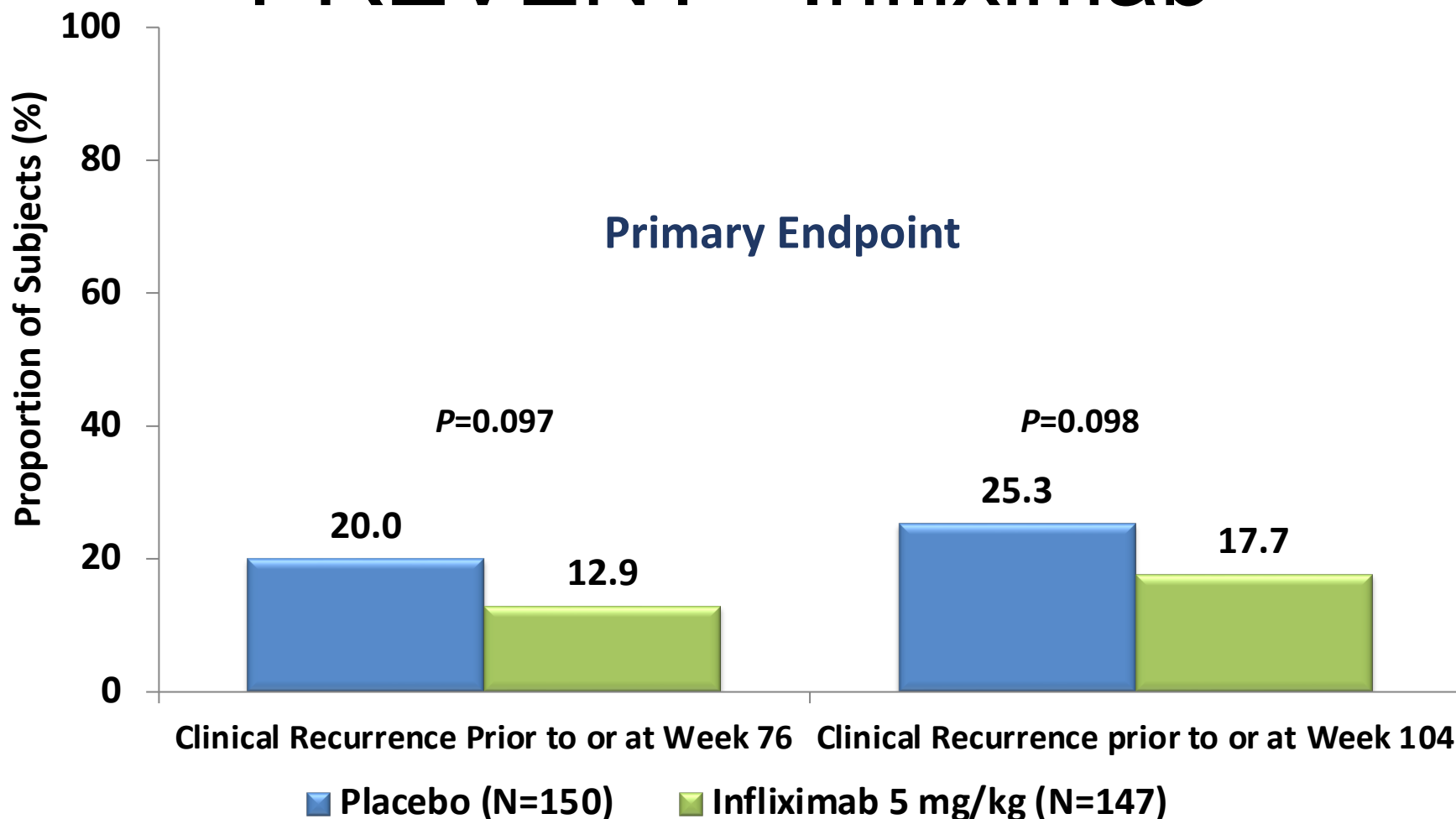
# Medical Prophylaxis

Therapy/Intervention	POR Prevention
Curcumin	-
Vitamin D	-
Enteral Nutrition	+
Probiotics	-
Nitroimidazole/Antibiotics	+
Anti-AIEC	?
Mesalamine	-
Budesonide	-
Thiopurines	+/-
Anti-TNF	+++
Vedolizumab	++



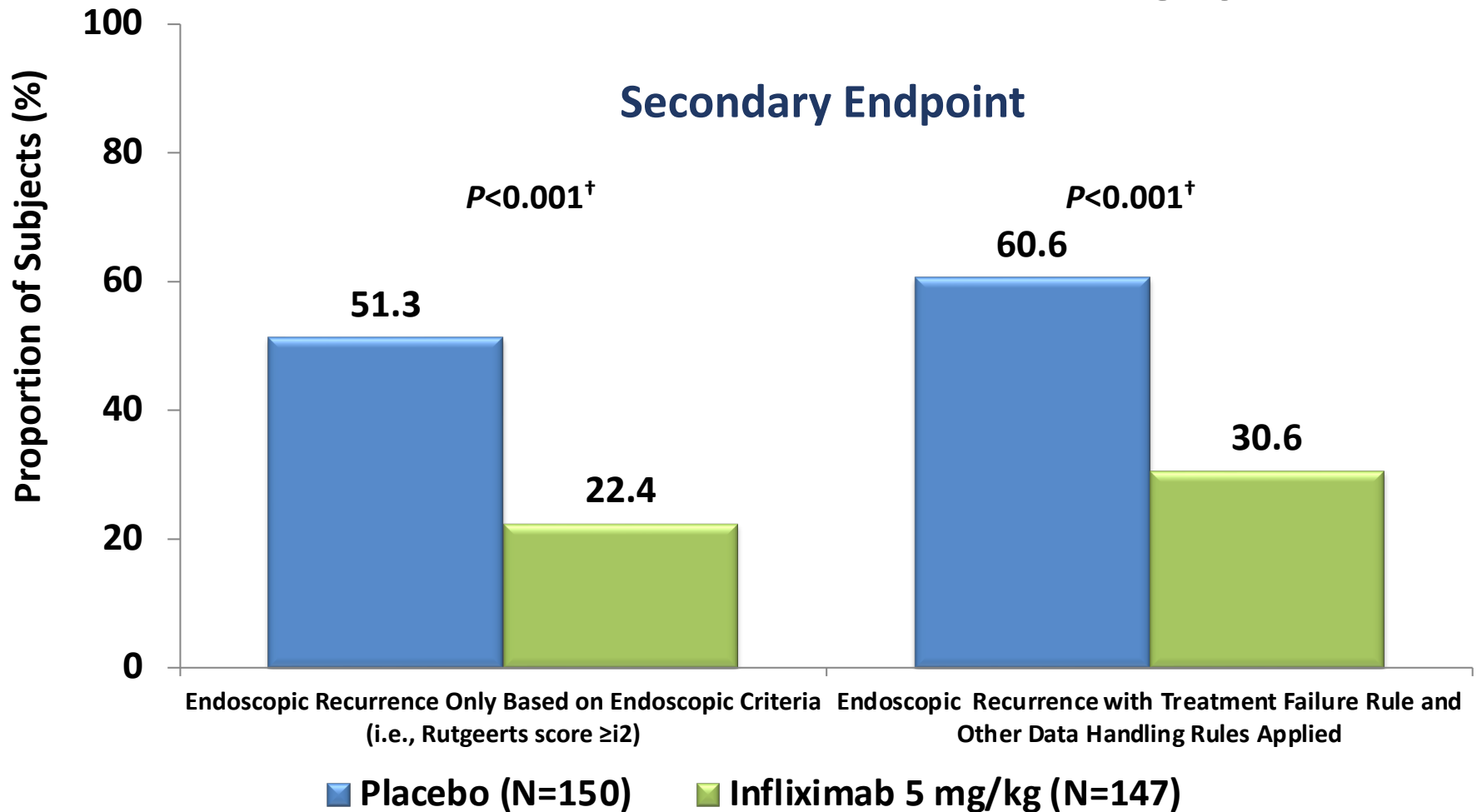


# PREVENT - Infliximab



P-values based on the Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel chi-square test stratified by the number of risk factors for recurrence of active CD (1 or >1) and baseline use (yes/no) of an immunosuppressive (ie, AZA, 6-MP, or MTX).

# PREVENT - Infliximab

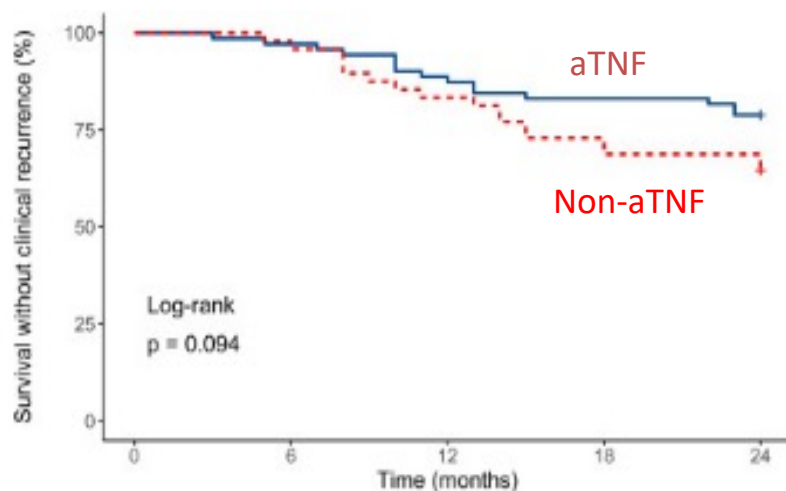


† Nominal p-values based on the Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel chi-square test stratified by the number of risk factors for recurrence of active CD (1 or >1) and baseline use (yes/no) of an immunosuppressive (ie, AZA, 6-MP, or MTX).

# What if they 'failed' anti-TNF prior to surgery?

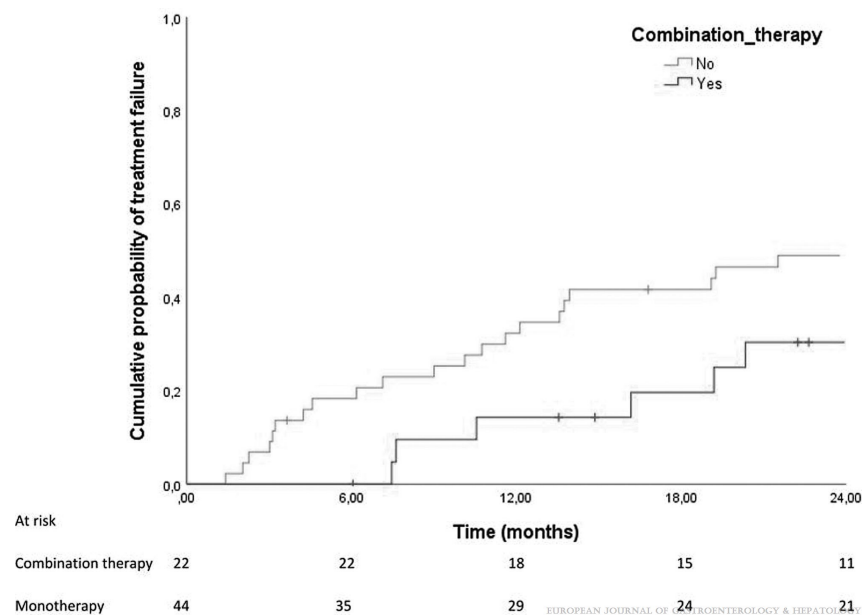
## Feasible to use anti-TNF mechanism post-operatively:

1. If using them, consider use of concomitant IM
2. If they had true 'primary non-response' pre-surgery, then consider alternative mechanism



No difference in prior aTNF reason for failure

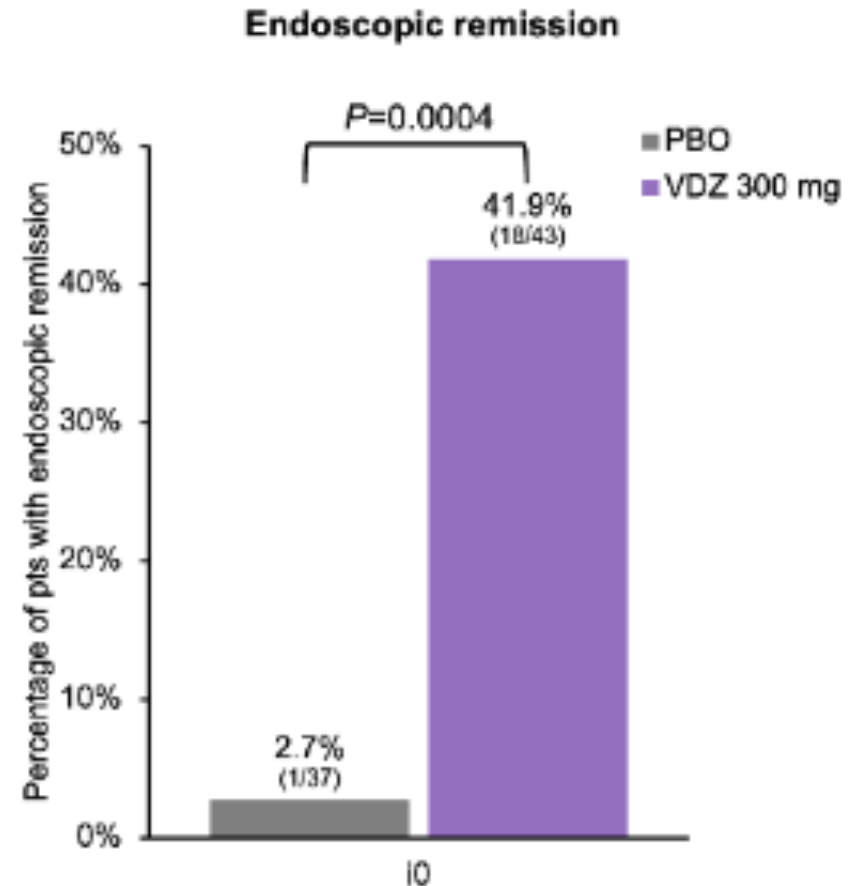
PNR to preop aTNF: higher risk of POR (HR 3.7 [1.32-10.35])



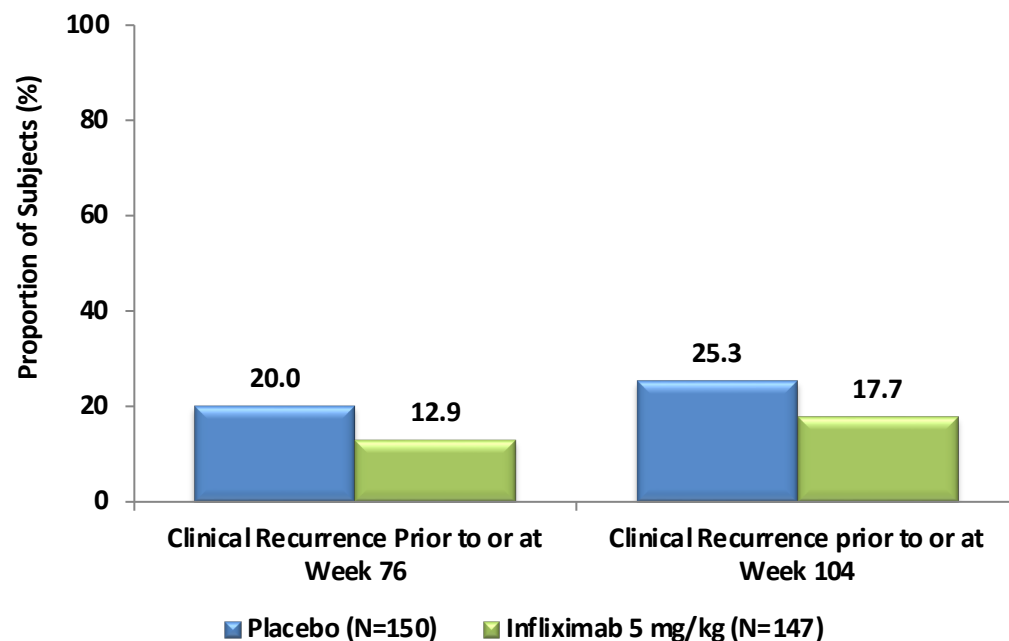
# Vedolizumab Post-op prevention

Prospective RCT preventive effect of VDZ 300 mg q8w on recurrence of CD following ICR with anastomosis

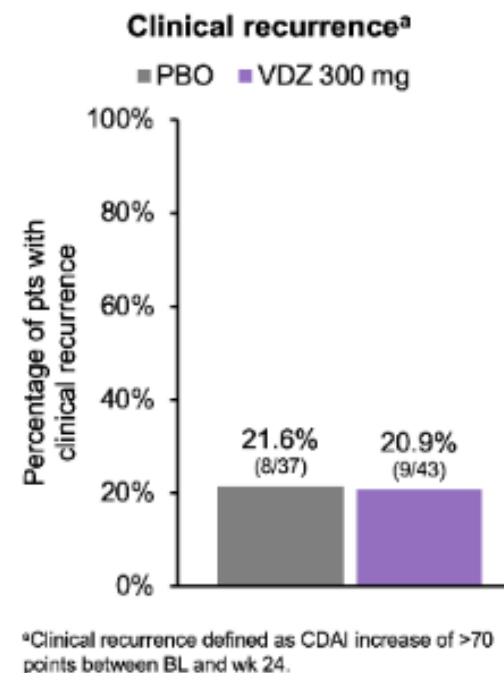
- $\geq 1$  risk factor for recurrence: active smoking,  $\geq 1$  prior resection, surgery for perforating complication (abscess, fistula); prior anti-TNF
- VDZ or PBO within 4 wk after surgery; ileocolonoscopy performed 6 mo post-surgery; central scoring using modified Rutgeerts' score



# Clinical Recurrence is low with IFX and VEDO, and no different than Placebo



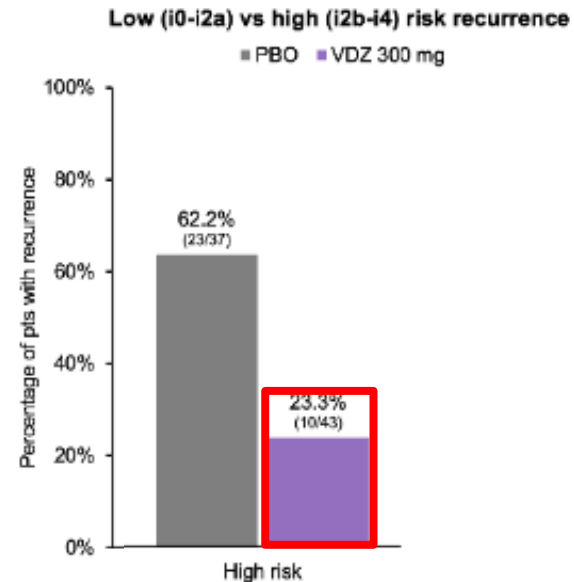
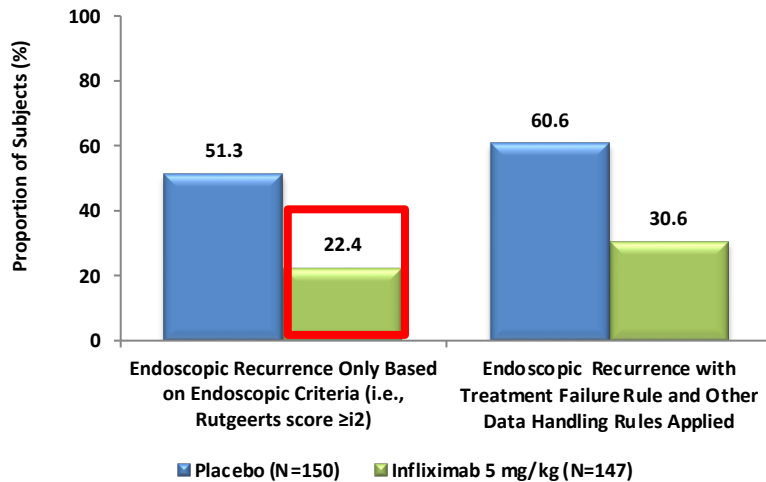
Regueiro M, et al. *Gastroenterology*. 2016;150(7):1568-1578.



D'Haens et al. ECCO 2023

# Endoscopic recurrence

## IFX = 22.4% and VEDO = 23.3%

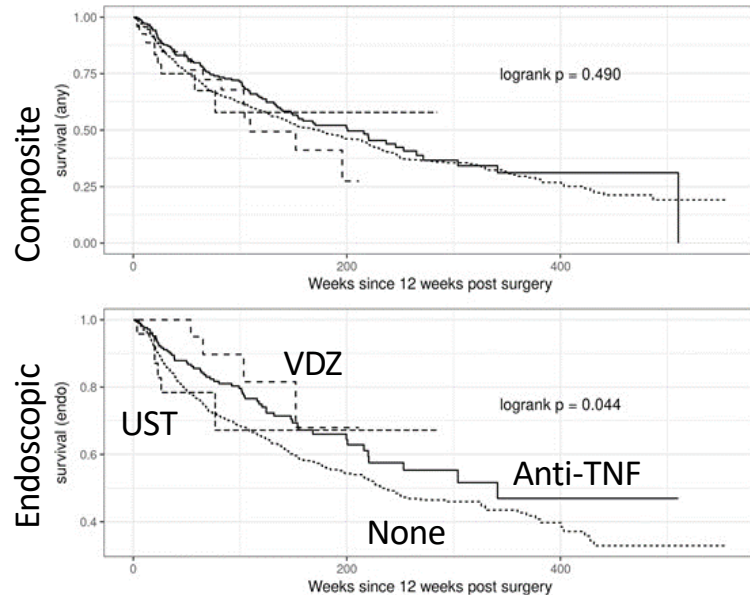


Regueiro M, et al. *Gastroenterology*. 2016;150(7):1568-1578.

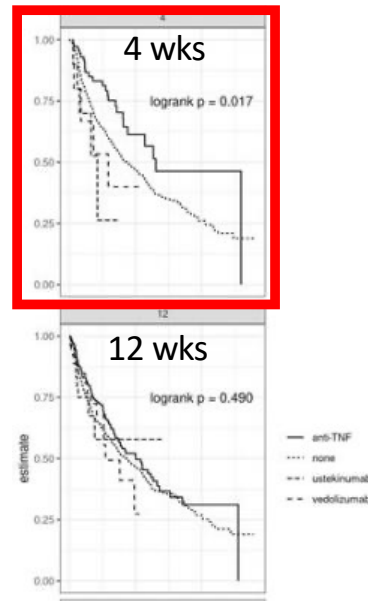
D'Haens et al. ECCO 2023

Note: different study design and endpoints

# It may be more about time-to-initiation (within 4 weeks) rather than which biologic



## Biologic initiation



	Any POR aHR (95% CI)	Endoscopic POR aHR (95% CI)
<b>Starting within 4 weeks</b>		
Anti-TNF	0.61 (0.40, 0.93)	0.49 (0.28, 0.84)
Vedolizumab	1.44 (0.59, 3.56)	0.40 (0.05, 2.86)
Ustekinumab	2.06 (0.84, 5.06)	1.77 (0.56, 5.62)
<b>Starting within 4-12 weeks</b>		
Anti-TNF	0.85 (0.67, 1.09)	0.71 (0.53, 0.96)
Vedolizumab	1.14 (0.64, 2.03)	0.44 (0.16, 1.20)
Ustekinumab	1.25 (0.60, 2.60)	1.26 (0.54, 2.93)
<b>Starting within 12-24 weeks</b>		
Anti-TNF	0.88 (0.69, 1.11)	0.78 (0.59, 1.03)
Vedolizumab	0.87 (0.45, 1.68)	0.45 (0.16, 1.22)
Ustekinumab	1.10 (0.57, 2.11)	1.12 (0.54, 2.34)

# Does the Surgery Matter?

**Surgery**

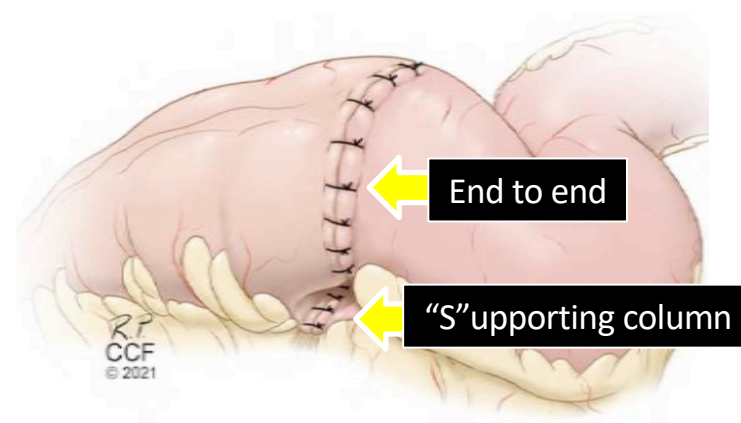
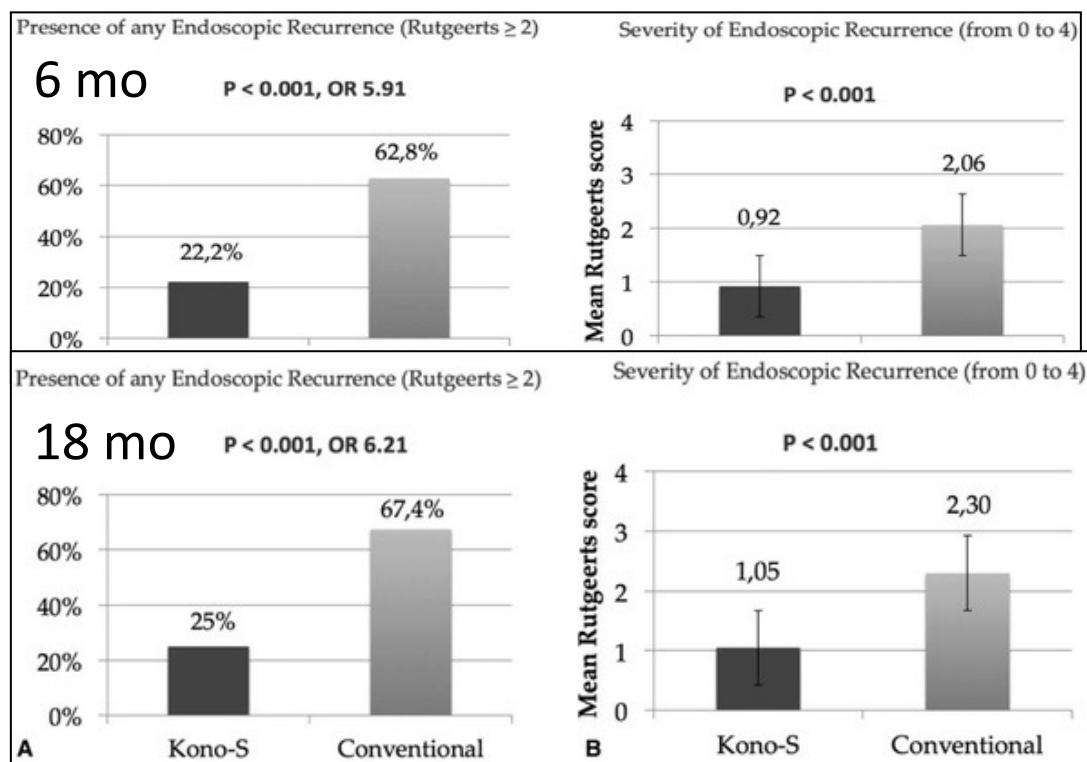


Recurrence



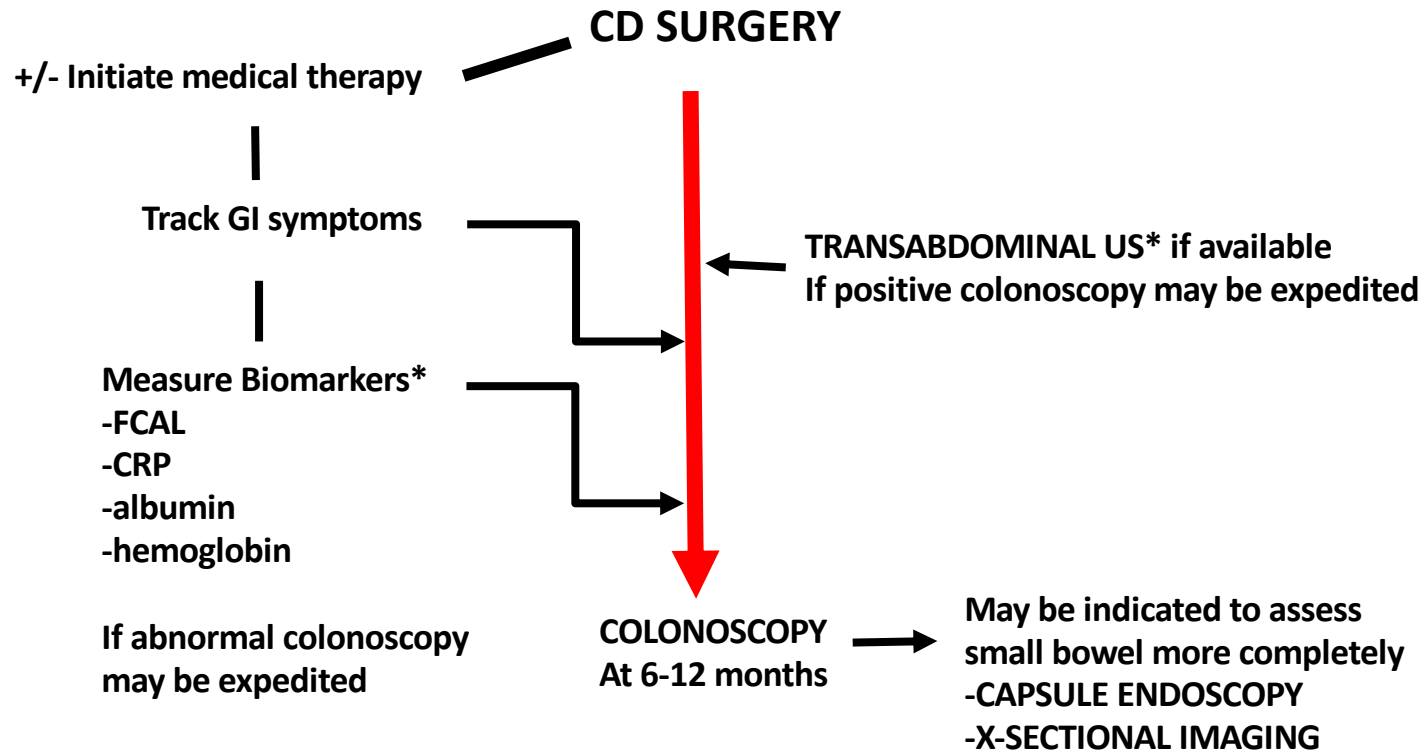


# SuPREMe-CD: Kono-S to Prevent POR





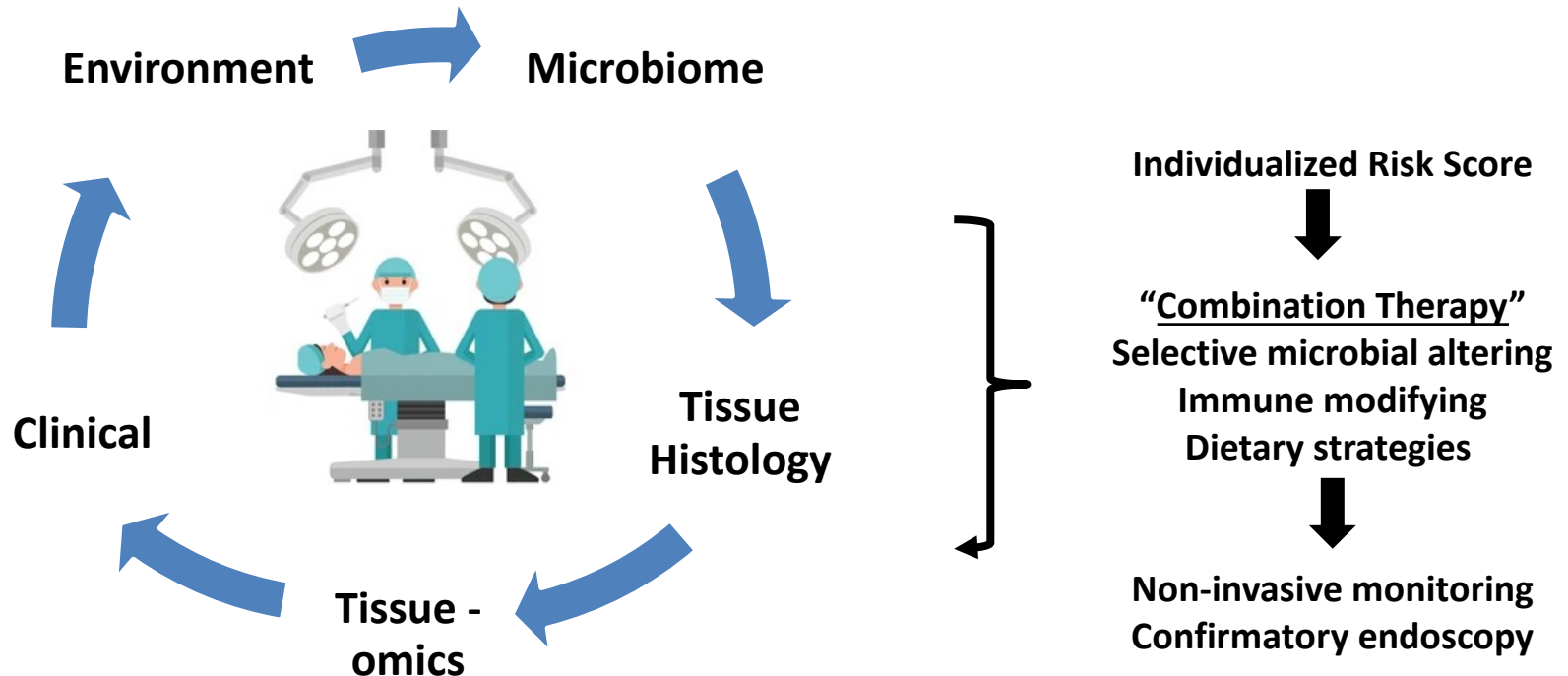
# Algorithm for Post Op CD: Emphasis on Monitoring



\*consider at 3 months

Bernstein C, Regueiro M JCG 2023

# Future State of Postop Crohn's



# Take-Home Points – Postop Crohn's

- Postoperative recurrence common in some, not others
- Penetrating disease, young age, and recurrent surgery may be predictors of recurrence – these are the high-risk patients
- Lifestyle may modify recurrence: smoking cessation, diet
- TNFi and Vedo may prevent recurrence in high-risk patients (if previous TNFi failure, then I suggest Vedo)
- Small bowel US (CTE/MRE) and fecal calprotectin are noninvasive ways to monitor postoperative recurrence
- A postop colonoscopy within 12 months has become standard of care, but remaining questions:
  - Who to start postop meds immediately (and which one)?
  - Who to wait on postop meds (not too long or “damage too far gone”)?