



## SESSION 4

### PERIANAL DISEASE: WHAT IS NEW?

### Controversies in Perianal Crohn's Disease: Debunking the Myths

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#### Objectives

- Understand when patients with isolated perianal fistulas might have Crohn's disease (CD)
- Determine if multidisciplinary care is required for all patients with perianal fistulizing Crohn's disease (PFCD)
- Review the literature for non-anti tumor necrosis factor (TNF) therapies for PFCD
- Understand if magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is required to determine treatment response
- Review potential reasons why PFCD do not heal

#### Abstract

Perianal fistulizing Crohn's disease (PFCD) is considered one of the most severe phenotypes of CD and is often associated with debilitating symptoms, more aggressive luminal disease and poor quality of life. Management is believed to require coordinated stepwise care to achieve optimal outcomes for these patients. Until recently, many of our treatment strategies have been based on expert opinion rather than sound scientific evidence. Compounding this problem, research in this field has traditionally been slow, with only one approved medical therapy in over 20 years. In recent years, there has been an explosion of research, particularly from the international TopClass consortium, which has begun to advance our understanding of diagnostic and monitoring strategies, disease classification and treatment strategies. This session aims to review these advances and will help to confirm/ debunk some of the longstanding myths in this field.

#### References

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