

Title:

Update of the SEPD position statement on the use of biosimilars for inflammatory bowel disease

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<p>ORGANO OFICIAL DE: SOCIEDAD ESPAÑOLA DE PATOLOGÍA DIGESTIVA, SOCIEDAD ESPAÑOLA DE ENDOSCOPIA DIGESTIVA Y ASOCIACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE ECOGRAFÍA DIGESTIVA</p>	
<p>Editorial Colitis diverticular bleeding. Have we identified the risk factors for massive bleeding yet? J. W. Berman Valencia</p>	
<p>Trabajos Originales Risk factors for severity and recurrence of colitis diverticular bleeding N. Jorgensen, P. Caldeira, A. Arduini, M. Escobar and M. Guzmán Management of inflammatory bowel disease: the other diagnosis F. Bermejo, A. Aguilera, V. López-Delgado, I. Goñi, M. Acuña-Barca, M. Hernández-Suárez, C. García, M. de la Cruz, D. Bello and A. López-Suñer Influence of sustained viral response on the regression of fibrosis and portal hypertension in cirrhotic HCV patients treated with antiviral therapy A. Barrio, J. Calzadilla, W. J. López-Alonso, I. L. Fariña, M. T. Arias, A. González, F. Castiella, E. Tabares and J. Crespo Malnutrition risk questionnaire correlated with body composition measurement in malnourished screening in inflammatory bowel disease A. A. Cortés, A. Muñoz, Z. Pili, I. Pili and P. Muñoz A survey-based analysis of endoscopic quality indicators compliance among Spanish endoscopists I. Fernández-Cruz, F. Argüelles, F. Alonso, J. J. Jorba and B. Torregrosa</p>	
<p>Revisión Endoscopic resection of colorectal polyps in patients on antiplatelet therapy: an evidence-based guideline for clinicians G. Piana, M. Sostano, S. S. Sostano, F. Sostano, F. Sostano and M. J. C. Sostano</p>	
<p>Indicadores en Patología Digestiva Neutrophil de la patología inflamatoria superior: una causa infrecuente de elevación de la actividad de la enzima J. Sempere, J. Sempere, P. Albaladejo, J. C. García-Pérez Neutrophilic colitis: a review A. F. Romero-Ruiz and R. Barrio-Zalaga Neutrophilic colitis: a review A. F. Romero-Ruiz and R. Barrio-Zalaga Endoscopic treatment of inflammatory bowel disease: a review J. L. Bermejo-Hernández, M. T. Torregrosa and M. Torregrosa-Rodríguez All that glitters is not gold: a different cause for an "alcoholic colitis" A. Rueda, M. Soto, J. Villanueva and J. Navarro</p>	
<p>Notas Clínicas Colitis crónica en adultos: a case report and review of the literature M. de Almeida-Noronha, V. L. Ribeiro-Cabral and S. S. Lemos Hemangioendotelio sarcoma: una localización infrecuente de tumor vascular I. Alvarado, J. M. García-González, L. Aguilera, A. M. Quintana-Rivera y A. Calvo-Alonso Hemangioma periantral periantral: un caso reportado C. Pineda-Carpas, A. Enríquez-Sánchez, M. A. Rojas-Capó, J. Arango-Alcalá y C. García-Delgado Endoscopic removal of retained large foreign body: a case report M. Escobar and J. Sempere Hemangioma: a review of the literature A. Torregrosa, M. R. Barrio-Zalaga, J. C. Cortés-Ramón, J. Cortés-Ramón and J. L. Cortés-Ramón</p>	
<p>Cartas al Editor Neoplasia neuroendocrina intestinal, un tumor poco frecuente M. de la Cruz, J. Sempere, M. T. Torregrosa y M. T. Torregrosa Prevalencia de la enfermedad por infección por el virus de la hepatitis C asociada a la cirugía de Bariatric: una revisión sistemática V. Pineda-Vargas, D. M. Aguilera y J. A. Alvarado Perforación endoscópica: revisión de un paciente con múltiples endoscopías J. Sempere, J. Sempere y J. Sempere Activación y endoscopia intestinal: endoscopia infrecuente en el diagnóstico diferencial de la enfermedad C. Sempere, J. Sempere, J. Sempere y J. A. Alvarado Perforación múltiple de divertículos de intestino delgado en paciente con síndrome de Turner R. Barrio-Zalaga, A. Barrio-Zalaga y J. Sempere Atrofia antral como manifestación paraneoplásica de un adenocarcinoma gástrico J. Sempere, J. Sempere y J. Sempere Revisión 2016</p>	

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Update of the SEPD position statement on the use of biosimilars for inflammatory bowel disease

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Dear Editor,

In 2013, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) approved the biosimilar infliximab (CT-P13) for the full range of indications of the originator product, based on data from two trials conducted in rheumatoid arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis (1). The same year, our Society published a position statement (2) that was later reviewed (3).

Since then, many studies in inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) have been published and have supported the biosimilarity of CT-P13 with the reference product. Recently, a well-known nationwide Norwegian randomized controlled trial (4) in patients with immune-mediated diseases did not find any differences in the maintenance of remission or adverse events in patients that switched from the reference product *versus* patients with the reference product. Furthermore, a new position of the European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation (ECCO) has been published (5).

Based on these data, the followings statements have been approved:

1. A biosimilar is a drug that, using molecular biology techniques, is intended to provide an action equivalent to that of the product it attempts to copy and requires a complex process based on all the preclinical and clinical trials demanded by European Law.
3. A license obtained for the management of a certain disease allows an extrapolation of results to a different disorder, if the European Medicine Agency considers it based on the results of trials mentioned previously.

4. The product label should clearly show the name of the biosimilar so that the drug a patient is taking may always be identified.
5. Based on the data published, the biosimilar CT-P13 is safe and effective in IBD, both in naïve and switched patients.
6. The appropriate use of the biosimilar always requires an interaction of physicians and patients with the aim of favoring the right of the health of the patient by offering quality, effective and safe products.
8. This task force favors the development of biosimilar drugs and therefore, their approval by regulatory agencies.

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