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MINIREVIEWS

# Role of wireless capsule endoscopy in the follow-up of inflammatory bowel disease

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## Abstract

The introduction of wireless capsule endoscopy in 2000 has revolutionized our ability to visualize parts of the small bowel mucosa classically unreached by the conventional endoscope, and since the recent

introduction of colon capsule endoscopy, a promising alternative method has been available for the evaluation of large bowel mucosa. The advantages of wireless capsule endoscopy include its non-invasive character and its ability to visualize proximal and distal parts of the intestine, while important disadvantages include the procedure's inability of tissue sampling and significant incompletion rate. Its greatest limitation is the prohibited use in cases of known or suspected stenosis of the intestinal lumen due to high risk of retention. Wireless capsule endoscopy plays an important role in the early recognition of recurrence, on Crohn's disease patients who have undergone ileocolonic resection for the treatment of Crohn's disease complications, and in patients' management and therapeutic strategy planning, before obvious clinical and laboratory relapse. Although capsule endoscopy cannot replace traditional endoscopy, it offers valuable information on the evaluation of intestinal disease and has a significant impact on disease reclassification of patients with a previous diagnosis of ulcerative colitis or inflammatory bowel disease unclassified/indeterminate colitis. Moreover, it may serve as an effective alternative where colonoscopy is contraindicated and in cases with incomplete colonoscopy studies. The use of patency capsule maximizes safety and is advocated in cases of suspected small or large bowel stenosis.

Key words: Small bowel capsule endoscopy; Colon capsule endoscopy; Crohn's disease; Ulcerative colitis; Indeterminate colitis; Postoperative; Ileal pouch-anal anastomosis; Refractory pouchitis

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**Core tip:** Wireless capsule endoscopy is a valuable diagnostic tool for the evaluation of lesions located on the small intestine and large bowel mucosa since the recent introduction of colon capsule endoscopy. It plays an important role in the early recognition of recurrence on postsurgical Crohn's disease patients, offers valuable



information on the evaluation of intestinal disease, and aids significantly in patient management, treatment tailoring and disease reclassification in patients with a previous diagnosis of ulcerative or indeterminate colitis. Patency capsule maximizes safety and is advocated in suspected small or large bowel stenosis.

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## INTRODUCTION

The follow-up of patients with known inflammatory bowel disease consists in close disease monitoring for the maintenance of clinical remission, early detection of biochemical or clinical relapse and early recognition, as well as prevention, of disease and treatment related complications. Since various studies<sup>[1-4]</sup> have provided strong evidence that the inflammation of the intestinal mucosa is not firmly associated with patients' symptoms and laboratory markers of inflammation, the treatment goal has evolved to a new concept, the achievement and maintenance of deep remission. Its definition includes the concurrent abatement of symptoms, a score < 150 as measured with Crohn's Disease Activity Index (CDAI), mucosal healing, a term referring to the endoscopic restoration of normal mucosal appearance of a previously inflamed region and the complete absence of ulceration as well as macroscopic and histological signs of inflammation<sup>[5]</sup>, and diminution of inflammatory markers. In the absence of a consensus on mucosal healing definition in ulcerative colitis patients, this could involve the disease's clinical and endoscopic remission<sup>[6-8]</sup>. In Crohn's disease patients, deep remission is associated with a better healthrelated guality of life and minimization of disease related complications requiring hospitalization or surgery<sup>[6]</sup>.

Despite its invasive character, colonoscopy is considered the gold standard method for the evaluation of intestinal mucosa lesions as it provides accurate assessment of disease extension and localization, offering the ability of tissue sampling of abnormal mucosal segments. By contrast to colonoscopy, the introduction of wireless capsule endoscopy in 2000<sup>[9]</sup>, a non-invasive well-tolerated diagnostic method, allowed the visualization of parts of the small intestine beyond the reach of conventional endoscopes and also the large bowel mucosa, since the recent introduction of wireless colon capsule endoscopy. Current research does not support the use of colon capsule endoscopy over colonoscopy for the evaluation of mucosal healing and disease activity<sup>[10]</sup> although results of a recent study<sup>[11]</sup> demonstrate that colon capsule endoscopy findings can result in changes of the initial diagnosis, in favor of Crohn's disease. The aim of this review is to

evaluate the importance of wireless capsule endoscopy in mucosal healing assessment, treatment management and disease reclassification of inflammatory disease patients, their follow-up in the post-operative period, as well as to highlight its possible future roles.

# CAPSULE ENDOSCOPY: BENEFITS, DRAWBACKS, LIMITATIONS AND

## SAFETY

Capsule endoscopy is a non-invasive, well-tolerated method, allowing direct visualization of the small bowel mucosa and having a significant higher diagnostic yield compared to other diagnostic methods<sup>[12]</sup>.

Its main disadvantages (Table 1) are the procedure's higher cost compared to other modalities, the inability of tissue sampling, the significant incompletion rate which in several trials<sup>[13-15]</sup> is reported to range from 15% to 30%, the risk of aspiration and the risk of capsule retention, which in Crohn's disease patients is estimated to be  $2.6\%^{[15]}$  and may require surgery for the removal of the retained capsule.

The use of capsule endoscopy is contraindicated in patients with known stricturing or obstructing disease and in selected cases, radiology may still be necessary to exclude the presence of strictures. It is considered to be a safe technique<sup>[16]</sup> and the administration of a dissolvable patency capsule to patients with suspected strictures prior to the procedure, provides adequate assessment of the gastrointestinal patency and maximizes safety<sup>[17,18]</sup>. In cases of known gastroparesis or in patients unable of swallowing, the videocapsule can be administered endoscopically. The relative contraindication of wireless capsule administration in patients with electromedical devises is in question, as according to recent research<sup>[19]</sup> it is considered safe.

# CAPSULE ENDOSCOPY SCORING INDEXES FOR THE ASSESMENT OF MUCOSAL INFLAMMATION

In an effort to maximize objectivity on the interpretation of small bowel capsule endoscopy findings and the need of a common language to report severity of small bowel inflammation, two diagnostic scoring systems have been developed, Lewis score (LS) and Capsule Endoscopy Crohn's Disease activity Index (CECDAI).

Developed by Gralnek *et al*<sup>[20]</sup> in 2008, LS<sup>[20]</sup>, an incorporated feature of Given's Rapid Reader software, offers a quantitative assessment of inflammation severity using the Capsule Endoscopy Structured Terminology<sup>[21]</sup> for the description of lesions and a grading system for the assessment of inflammation severity. Capsule transit time is used to divide the small bowel in three tertiles and based on the severity of 3 endoscopic variables - villous edema, ulcers and stenosis - each tertile score is calculated individually. The final score ranges from 8 to 4800 points and is the sum of the tertile with the



able 1 Advantages and disadvantages of wireless capsule endoscopy
Advantages
Non-invasive well-tolerated method
Allows direct visualization of distal and proximal parts of the small
bowel (SBCE) and large bowel mucosa(CCE)
Disadvantages
High cost compared to other modalities
Inability of tissue sampling
Significant incompletion rate (15%-30%)
Risk of capsule retention (2.6%)
Risk of aspiration

SBCE: Small bowel capsule endoscopy; CCE: Colon capsule endoscopy.

greatest score added to the stenosis score. A score below 135 points represents a normal appearing mucosa or clinically insignificant findings.

CECDAI, a quantitative method developed by Gal et  $al^{(22)}$  in 2008, employs the variables of inflammation, extent of disease and the presence of strictures as well as a grading system for the assessment severity. Small bowel is divided in proximal and distal segments after the midpoint determination with the use of small bowel transit time. Segmental scores are gauged separately by multiplying the inflammation score by the extent-of disease score and adding the stricture score. The sum of segmental scores represents the final CECDAI score. Both scores should be interpreted with regard to the patient's history, as they cannot identify the underlying reason of mucosal inflammation. The use of LS and Capsule Endoscopy Crohn's Disease Activity Index is advocated, as they provide an objective non-invasive method for the evaluation of small bowel inflammation and follow up of Crohn's disease<sup>[22-24]</sup> and correlate closely with highly sensitive markers of intestinal inflammation such as fecal calprotectin<sup>[25]</sup>, a protein released from neutrophils and inflamed mucosa. Fecal calprotectin is not able to determinate the cause of intestinal inflammation, however fecal calprotectin levels are demonstrated to correlate closely with intestinal inflammation<sup>[26-29]</sup> and are proved to be a valuable selection tool prior to capsule endoscopy studies as despite the presence of symptoms, patients with fecal calprotectin levels between 50 and 100  $\mu$ g/g, are shown to have negative for findings studies<sup>[30]</sup>.

# THE ROLE OF WIRELESS CAPSULE ENDOSCOPY IN THE ASSESSMENT OF MUCOSAL HEALING AND TREATMENT TAILORING

Clinical remission is not strongly associated with the diminution of inflammatory markers<sup>[4]</sup> although C-reactive protein (CRP) is demonstrated to be a useful marker in the evaluation of moderate to severe Crohn's disease<sup>[31]</sup>. Moreover, clinical and laboratory improvement of patients under treatment is not associated with mucosal healing<sup>[31]</sup>. Patients continue to have small bowel aphthous ulcerations in video capsule endoscopy studies (Table 2) one month after clinical remission and it is estimated that approximately 6 mo are necessary for the complete endoscopic restoration of small bowel mucosa<sup>[4,32]</sup>. In a multicenter prospective study<sup>[3]</sup> including 40 patients with known or suspected non-stricturing, non-penetrating Crohn's disease, only one third of the patients who achieved clinical response improved their endoscopic image in capsule endoscopy studies. A cohort of 43 patients with symptomatic small bowel Crohn's disease, under biologic or immunomodulatory treatment, evaluated mucosal healing and deep remission rate on baseline and after 12 and 52 wk on treatment<sup>[1,33]</sup>. Their baseline demographics, qualityof-life questionnaires, Harvey-Bradshaw index, CRP and fecal calprotectin levels were collected and Capsule Endoscopy Crohn's Disease Activity Index was used to assess ileitis severity. Active small bowel Crohn's disease was present in 39 patients (90%) on baseline and 28 patients (65%) had an endoscopic reassessment during week 52. Despite the clinical and biochemical improvement, no patient achieved complete mucosal healing on week 12<sup>[1]</sup>. Twelve patients achieved deep remission on week 52 (42%)<sup>[33]</sup>. The correlation between capsule endoscopy findings, clinical symptoms (Crohn's Disease Activity Index and Inflammatory Bowel Disease Questionnaire) and laboratory markers of inflammation (CRP) was evaluated in 19 patients with known, moderately active Crohn's disease under treatment<sup>[2]</sup>. All patients had a proven functional patency to minimize the risk of capsule retention, and small bowel capsule endoscopy studies at baseline, after 4, 12 and 24 wk on treatment. Mucosal inflammation was evaluated with the use of LS. At baseline, no correlation was found between clinical symptoms, markers of inflammation and LS, and capsule endoscopy findings were not associated with patients' symptoms on 4 and 12 wk of treatment, leading to the conclusion that capsule endoscopy is a reliable, independent and objective diagnostic modality for the assessment of mucosal healing and response to therapy, and on the prognosis of prolonged clinical disease remission<sup>[32]</sup>. In addition, data obtained of two recent retrospective studies<sup>[34,35]</sup> indicate that capsule endoscopy findings assist on decision making, treatment changes or initiation of new pharmaceutical agents, in a significant proportion of inflammatory bowel disease patients.

# THE ROLE OF WIRELESS CAPSULE ENDOSCOPY IN THE POSTOPERATIVE PERIOD OF INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE PATIENTS

#### Recurrence

The introduction of biologic therapy for the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease did not eliminate Table 2 Key studies describing the role of wireless capsule endoscopy on the assessment of mucosal healing in Crohn's disease patients under treatment

	Ref.	Treatment	Indication	Patients (n)	Conclusion	
CD	Niv et al <sup>[2]</sup>	Yes	SB mucosa evaluation of known CD patients	19	Musocal findings are independent from clinical	
					and laboratory parameters	
CD	Hall et al <sup>[1]</sup>	Yes	SB mucosal healing and deep remission rates	43	Symptomatic and biochemical response to	
			assessment on 12 wk of treatment of known		treatment is not mirrored by mucosal healing	
			symptomatic CD patients			
CD	Hall et al <sup>[33]</sup>	Yes	SB mucosal healing and deep remission rates	43	Symptomatic and biochemical response to	
			assessment on 52 wk of treatment of known		treatment appears to be mirrored by endoscopic	
			symptomatic CD patients		remission in 42% of individuals	
CD	Efthymiou <i>et al</i> <sup>[3]</sup>	Yes	SB mucosal healing assessment of known	40	Clinical response does not correlate closely with	
			symptomatic CD patients		mucosal healing in patients with CD of the small	
					bowel	
CD	Tsibouris et al <sup>[32]</sup>	Yes	Assessment of detection rate of small bowel	102	SB aphthous ulcers are present a month after	
				ulcerative lesions and completion rate in CD		entering clinical remission
			patients in acute phase and remission			

CD: Crohn's disease; SB: Small bowel; CRP: C-reactive protein.

the need for surgical intervention<sup>[36-40]</sup>. Eventually, 20%-30% of ulcerative colitis patients<sup>[41,42]</sup> and up to 75% of Crohn's disease patients<sup>[43]</sup>, will require surgery for the management of uncontrolled inflammatory bowel disease and disease related complications. A common and undesirable postsurgical outcome is the development of disease recurrence. In Crohn's disease patients, recurrence rate increases with time<sup>[44]</sup> and is demonstrated to be higher in smokers<sup>[45]</sup>, patients with ileocolonic involvement<sup>[46]</sup>, perforating disease<sup>[47]</sup> and 5-ASA-treated patients with end-to-end anastomosis<sup>[44]</sup>. The introduction of Rutgeerts endoscopic scoring system<sup>[48]</sup> has provided a valuable modality for the quantified assessment of postoperative recurrence of the ileocolonic anastomosis or neoterminal ileum, and a valuable prognostic tool of Crohn's disease recurrence<sup>[48-50]</sup>, since endoscopic recurrence precedes the development of symptoms<sup>[48]</sup> and does not correlate with  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{CDAI}}^{\ensuremath{\scriptscriptstyle [51]}}$  . The follow-up of postoperative patients is directed towards recognition of endoscopic recurrence (Table 3), as severe endoscopic recurrence rate is estimated at 50.2% (95%CI: 28-73; range: 30-79) and early identification and initiation of treatment may prevent clinical recurrence<sup>[52,53]</sup>.

In a prospective study of 22 Crohn's disease patients, capsule endoscopy was reported to have comparable results with other noninvasive tests on the detection of recurrence<sup>[54]</sup>. Moreover, based on the results of a prospective study<sup>[55]</sup> including 35 patients who had undergone ileocolonic or partial ileal resection, wireless capsule endoscopy was not shown to be superior to ileocolonoscopy for the detection of recurrence on the neoterminal ileus although it enabled the visualization of lesions beyond colonoscope's reach in two out of three patients and aided significantly in the detection of recurrence in two patients missed by ileocolonoscopy. However, capsule endoscopy was the diagnostic modality preferred by patients in a small prospective study<sup>[56]</sup> including 24, symptomfree Crohn's disease patients under no prophylactic treatment, who had undergone ileocolonic anastomosis. In the same study, the authors concluded that capsule endoscopy was more effective in the detection of a significant number of Crohn's disease recurrence missed by colonoscopy and an effective diagnostic alternative for the visualization of the neoterminal ileum of patients with incomplete colonoscopy studies. Current research supports the use of baseline capsule endoscopy, shortly after the resection, for the detection of true cases of recurrence, as many ulcerations near the anastomotic site are formed due to factors related to surgery, such as disturbed blood flow and sutures<sup>[57]</sup>, but its preoperative use is reported to be of little value for the prognosis of recurrence<sup>[58]</sup>. The use of wireless capsule endoscopy in suspected or known luminal stenosis is contraindicated<sup>[54,57]</sup>.

#### Anemia

Based on the results of a small study of 17 ulcerative colitis patients with ileal pouches and persistent iron deficiency anemia<sup>[59]</sup>, the authors concluded that wireless capsule endoscopy is a well-tolerated procedure to provide additional information on the reason of anemia. Patients with persistent anemia, 12 mo after ileal pouchanal anastomosis (IPAA) or continent ileostomy, were evaluated with upper gastrointestinal endoscopy, pouch endoscopy and videocapsule endoscopy, and they had laboratory screening to exclude celiac disease. The reason of anemia was identified in 5 patients (29.4%). In one patient, arterio-venous malformations of the small bowel were only recognized by capsule endoscopy.

## Pouchitis in patients with IPAA

Surgical removal of the colon and rectum with the creation of an artificial pouch, the IPAA, may be the only treatment option for ulcerative colitis patients with medically uncontrolled disease, who are unwilling to receive immunomodulatory or biologic therapy, or suffering from severe disease complications.



Table 3 Key studies on the role of wireless capsule   endoscopy on postoperative Crohn's disease recurrence					
Patient group	Ref.	No. of patients	WCE findings/( <i>n</i> )	lleocolonoscopy findings/(n)	
CD	Bourreille et al <sup>[55]</sup>	32	21/(32)	19/(32)	
CD	Pons Beltrán et al <sup>[56]</sup>	24	15/(22)	6/(19)	
CD	Biancone et al <sup>[54]</sup>	22	16/(17)	21/(22)	
CD	Kono <i>et al</i> <sup>[57]</sup>	19	14/(18)	NA	

CD: Crohn's disease; WCE: Wireless capsule endoscopy; WCE findings: Number of patients with findings on WCE; WCE (*n*): Total number of patients who had undergone WCE; Ileocolonoscopy findings: Number of patients with findings on ileocolonoscopy; Ileocolonoscopy (*n*): Total number of patients who had undergone ileocolonoscopy; NA: Not available.

Pouchitis is the most common complication, with a cumulative probability of nearly 50% ten years after IPAA performed<sup>[60]</sup> requiring investigation for the recognition of the underlying cause.

Results based on trials of ulcerative colitis patients with IPAA and symptomatic pouchitis<sup>[35,61,62]</sup> (Table 4), support the use of capsule endoscopy for the evaluation of small bowel mucosa on the suspicion of Crohn's disease and on differentiating intermediate colitis.

## THE ROLE OF WIRELESS CAPSULE ENDOSCOPY ON DISEASE RECLASSIFICATION

Inflammatory bowel disease patients may undergo multiple imaging studies, endoscopic procedures and biopsies before reaching a definitive Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis diagnosis, while 10%-15% of patients will remain unclassified<sup>[63]</sup>. Capsule endoscopy has become an important tool for the reclassification of disease (Table 5) in patients with an initial diagnosis of ulcerative colitis or inflammatory bowel disease unclassified/indeterminate colitis. The importance of wireless capsule endoscopy in the diagnostic workup of inflammatory bowel disease was demonstrated in a recent study of 23 known ulcerative colitis patients<sup>[64]</sup> where small bowel lesions (13 patients, 57%) and erosions (8 patients, 35%) were identified in the majority of them.

Corresponding results from the initial experience with small bowel capsule endoscopy<sup>[65]</sup> have demonstrated that the identification of small bowel lesions by wireless capsule in patients with isolated colitis, lead to further investigation with ileocolonoscopy with biopsies, and a change of diagnosis in favor of Crohn's disease. In a retrospective trial<sup>[62]</sup> including 120 patients with known ulcerative colitis or indeterminate colitis undergone capsule endoscopy, 19 patients (15.8%) had findings suggestive of small bowel Crohn's disease involvement. Interestingly, patients with the highest proportion of small bowel disease were those with a history of colectomy (7 out of 21 patients, 33%) compared to the patients who did not undergo colectomy (12

Table 4 Key studies on the role of wireless capsule endoscopy on pouchitis patients						
Patient group	Ref.	No. of patients	WCE findings/(n)	CD reclassification		
UC (IPAA)	Calabrese et al <sup>[61]</sup>	16	15/(15)	None		
UC (IPAA)	Mehdizadeh et al <sup>[62]</sup>	21	7/(21)	7		
UC (IPAA)	Long et al <sup>[35]</sup>	23	13/(23)	3		

UC: Ulcerative colitis; IPAA: Ileal pouch-anal anastomosis; WCE findings: Number of patients with findings on WCE; WCE (*n*): Total number of patients who had undergone WCE; CD: Crohn's disease; WCE: Wireless capsule endoscopy.

out of 99 patients/12%), indicating the importance of capsule endoscopy studies prior to colectomy in ulcerative colitis patients. Similarly, data obtained from a study of 30 inflammatory bowel disease unclassified patients with negative serology<sup>[66]</sup> showed that wireless capsule endoscopy findings resulted in disease reclassification in favor of Crohn's disease in five of them. Another significant conclusion of this study was that negative for findings capsule endoscopy studies, do not exclude small bowel Crohn's disease, as further investigation with ileocolonoscopy and biopsies in six patients led to a diagnosis of Crohn's disease in five patients and ulcerative colitis in one patient. In two studies that enrolled pediatric patients[67,68] capsule endoscopy resulted in reclassification of more than half of the ulcerative colitis, inflammatory bowel disease unclassified/indeterminate colitis patients to Crohn's disease.

# POSSIBLE FUTURE INDICATIONS OF WIRELESS CAPSULE ENDOSCOPY IN THE FOLLOW UP OF INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE PATIENTS

Research on the prognostic value of mucosal healing on treatment response<sup>[69-72]</sup>, has shown that assessment of mucosal healing on certain time points can predict the likelihood of prolonged deep remission. The data of 127 patients<sup>[73]</sup> who had participated in the SONIC trial, were used to estimate the prognostic value of ileocolonoscopy findings on treatment response. Patients Simple Endoscopic Score for Crohn's Disease and the Crohn's Disease Endoscopic Index of Severity were calculated on baseline, after week 26 and week 50. Namely, the endoscopic response and mucosal healing in week 26 identified the patients who would be on corticosteroid-free clinical remission on week 50. The study's results provided confirmatory evidence that assessment of mucosal healing in certain time points during therapy has a significant prognostic value on the response of treatment.

Growing evidence<sup>[74-76]</sup> in the corresponding literature, indicate the strong association between disease location and disease complications. Patients with ileal

Table 5 Key studies evaluating the role of wireless capsule endoscopy on disease reclassification						
Patient group	Ref.	No. of patients	SB findings of inflammation	Reclassified to CD		
UC/IC	Gralnek et al <sup>[68]</sup>	4	2	2		
UC	Higurashi et al <sup>[64]</sup>	23	13	None		
UC/IC	Cohen et al <sup>[67]</sup>	7	5	5		
UC/IBDU	Mehdizadeh et al <sup>[62]</sup>	120	19	NA		
IBDU	Maunoury et al <sup>[66]</sup>	30	5	5		
UC/IC	Mow et al <sup>[65]</sup>	21	12	5		

UC: Ulcerative colitis; IC: Indeterminate colitis; IBDU: Inflammatory bowel disease unclassified; SB: Small bowel; CD: Crohn's disease; NA: Not available.

Crohn's disease were shown to have a greater risk of stricturing and penetrating disease development as well as disease progression compared to those with colonic involvement.

There is no supporting evidence for the use of wireless capsule endoscopy on treatment response, on risk stratification and as a prognostic tool for prolonged remission, but given videocapsule endoscopy's non invasive nature and the advantage of detailed imaging of the entire small intestine, it could be a promising tool towards this direction.

Wireless capsule endoscopy could play an important role in the early detection of ulcerative colitis related panenteritis<sup>[77]</sup>, a new and rare entity related to colectomy which typically occurs after colectomy, and its histological picture is not compatible with Crohn's disease. In a small case series of 6 patients<sup>[78]</sup>, the use of ileocolonoscopy identified ulcerative colitis related panenteritis findings in 5 patients, resulting in treatment step-up and clinical improvement. One patient had to be evaluated with capsule endoscopy to confirm small bowel mucosa inflammation leading to the conclusion that video capsule endoscopy could offer an alternative method for the early detection of this rare complication.

## CONCLUSION

Wireless capsule endoscopy is a valuable, non-invasive tool for the follow-up of inflammatory bowel disease, offering direct and detailed visualization of the entire intestine. Even though it cannot replace the role of traditional endoscopy, its use is advocated when there is high suspicion of small bowel disease involvement and as an alternative method in incomplete colonoscopy studies or when colonoscopy is contraindicated. Wireless capsule endoscopy's important disadvantages comprise the inability of tissue sampling and the limited, or in selected cases, prohibited application on patients with known stenosis or obstruction of the intestinal lumen, due to the high risk of capsule retention. Unnecessary capsule endoscopy studies can be avoided with the use of fecal calprotectin levels to identify patients who will probably not benefit from the procedure, and the use of patency capsule to identify patients that are

likely to experience capsule retention. Lewis Score and Capsule Endoscopy Crohn's Disease Activity Index are validated, objective and reliable scoring systems developed to minimize interobserver agreement and provide a standardized reporting system of small-bowel inflammation. Assessment of mucosal inflammation has a positive impact on treatment tailoring and is proven to be a reliable prognostic tool for disease remission. Videocapsule endoscopy studies in the postoperative period of ulcerative colitis and inflammatory bowel disease unclassified/indeterminate colitis patients provide valuable information on the differential diagnosis of Crohn's disease as well as postoperative complications, and can aid significantly in the early recognition of recurrence for the timely initiation of immunomodulatory or biologic treatment, before obvious clinical and laboratory relapse. Wireless Capsule endoscopy may have potentially significant roles in the prognosis of treatment response as well as the occurrence of potential complications and the early diagnosis of ulcerative colitis related panenteritis, a recently described rare entity, affecting patients with ulcerative colitis after colectomy.

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