Reviewer's report

Title: Early ultrasonographic detection and assessment of the severity of Crohn's disease recurrence after curative ileal resection

Version: 1 Date: 10 March 2010

Reviewer: Luisa Guidi

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The paper deals with a hot topic in Crohn's disease (CD) patient's follow up: the early detection and assessment of post surgical recurrence, with emphasis to the transmural extension of recurrent CD lesions.

The Authors employ a non invasive technique as SICUS with oral contrast. Their method appears particularly useful in this setting, allowing the Authors to describe a good correlation with the endoscopic score. The paper is very interesting and adds new findings to the knowledge in the field. The study is well designed and conducted and clearly described.

However, I have some questions regarding the study design. It is described as a prospective follow up study in which 58 patients were enrolled at the time of bowel resection. Successively the patients were submitted to a SICUS and a colonoscopy at 6 months and 1 year and at 6-12 months thereafter.

1. Did the 58 patients experience a colonoscopy every 6-12 months after the first follow up after surgery?

2. How long have been the patients followed? According to the statement in the second paragraph of the RESULTS section, the longest follow up was 24 months, so how do the Authors explain the median interval from surgery and evaluation reported in table 2 for each Rutgeerts score (33.3/36/59.6 months respectively)?

3. How were selected the 111 pairs of SICUS and colonoscopy included in the analysis?

4. How many patients had sequential evaluations included in the analysis? (A table of results per single study interval could probably be helpful)

5. In fig 2B the asterisk relative to the significant difference between score 4 and score 1 (p<0.001) is missing.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.