Reviewer's report

Title: Change in Anatomical Distribution of Inflammatory Bowel Disease in Children: A Retrospective Cohort Study

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Reviewer: Gamal Mahdi

Reviewer's report:

The authors could do well if they have available the data of the total numbers of patients diagnosed with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis during the same period of time, outcomes regarding need for surgery, what constituted what was termed 'maximum therapy' and lastly changes in Crohn's disease behaviour. Widening the scope of this important idea, to examine the real 'progression' of IBD overtime might potentially make this manuscript a very important landmark work. Similar reports are old reports that show high figures of inflammatory Crohn's disease progressing to stricturing and penetrating disease, and distal colitis extending to pancolitis, also need for surgery in up to 80% of Crohn's patients within 20 years. All of that might be different because of the developments in therapeutic modalities that have become available in the recent years. If the disease progression and the outcomes are the same or even worse, this is also is worth learning about. The authors of this manuscript have limited the scope so much that makes this only a 'statistically good report, that really lacks clinical relevance'.

There is a need for clarifying the numbers of each patient group in the abstract. Consistency in the description of the disease progression: is it anatomical behaviour-(while disease behaviour is generally understood as type of pathologic changes in Crohn's), or is structural change... some consistency and adherence to established terminology is recommended. Classifications as in Montreal and Paris classifications are better applied in sake of consistency and ease of comparisons.


Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:
Nothing to declare