Reviewer's report

Title: Adalimumab seems to be an effective and promising treatment in patients suffering from fistulizing Crohn's disease: a case series

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Reviewer: Laurent Peyrin-Biroulet

Comments to authors:

The authors report the efficacy of adalimumab in treating fistulizing disease in 3 patients with Crohn's disease. Overall, it is a well-written and well-illustrated manuscript on a timely topic. Before publication, I have several comments:

- While no conclusion can be drawn from the case report on the efficacy of adalimumab in treating fistulizing perianal disease, the 2 cases of enterocutaneous fistulas add fuel to the existing literature data. Indeed, even though the 3 cases of fistulizing disease belong to external fistulas, the subgroup analysis from CHARM trial published recently in GUT (Colombel et al.) demonstrated the efficacy of adalimumab in treating perianal disease, whereas the treatment of enterocutaneous fistulas remains a challenge in clinical practice. There is no data on the use of adalimumab in this particular setting. It is the reason why I would suggest the authors to present in the manuscript only the 2 case reports on enterocutaneous and to remove the data on perianal Crohn's disease.

- Similarly, in the Discussion, I would suggest the authors to focus on epidemiology and management of enterocutaneous fistulas.

- To better illustrate the manuscript, could the authors include a table summarizing available data on the efficacy of medical treatment (antibiotics etc.) for enterocutaneous fistulas?

- If the authors decide to leave the data on perianal disease in the revised manuscript, 2 key articles have to be discussed: the meta-analysis on anti-TNF therapy in Crohn's disease by Peyrin-Biroulet et al. published in CGH summarizing efficacy of anti-TNF agents for fistulizing perianal disease in RCTs, as well the article by Colombel et al. published in GUT (subgroup analysis from CHARM trial).