

A useful tool to detect in vivo angiogenesis in IBD patients: Narrow-band imaging

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A research team from Italy investigated whether narrow-band imaging (NBI) is a useful tool for the in vivo detection of angiogenesis in inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) patients. Their results showed NBI may be a novel modality for imaging of intestinal angiogenesis in IBD.

Angiogenesis plays a crucial role in neoplastic and non-neoplastic chronic inflammatory disorders, including inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD). Several reports have shown that blockade of angiogenesis in preclinical models of IBD is a promising new therapeutic approach. Visualize angiogenesis in vivo may represent the first step for such a therapeutic approach. Narrow-band imaging (NBI) is a new endoscopic technology that highlights mucosal surface structures and microcapillaries.

Performing the conventional and NBI [colonoscopy](#) in 14 patients with colonic inflammation (8 ulcerative colitis and 6 Crohn's disease), a research team from Italy analyzed the use of NBI for the in vivo detection of angiogenesis in IBD patients. Their study will be published on May 21, 2010 in the [World Journal of Gastroenterology](#).

They found that NBI could be used to visualize areas of abnormal microvascular changes, not observed with white light colonoscopy. Blockade of angiogenesis could be beneficial in patients with [chronic inflammation](#) and some drugs that have demonstrated efficacy for the treatment of IBD, such tumor necrosis factor- α inhibitors, have potent antiangiogenic activity. The findings suggest that NBI could be a novel

tool for the in vivo assessment of mucosal angiogenesis. However, larger studies are needed to define the exact role of NBI in IBD patient follow-up.

More information: Danese S, Fiorino G, Angelucci E, Vetrano S, Pagano N, Rando G, Spinelli A, Malesci A, Repici A. Narrow-band imaging endoscopy to assess mucosal angiogenesis in inflammatory bowel disease: A pilot study. World J Gastroenterol 2010; 16(19): 2396-2400. www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/full/v16/i19/2396.htm

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