

# AGA releases new tool to help GIs evaluate and treat Crohn's disease

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The treatment of Crohn's disease is evolving. To help gastroenterologists better identify and manage their Crohn's disease patients, the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) has created a clinical decision tool to guide GIs in their decision-making process. The "[Identification, Assessment, and Initial Medical Treatment in Crohn's Disease Clinical Decision Support Tool](#)," published in *Gastroenterology*, the official journal of the AGA, synthesizes gastroenterologist's understanding of the disease with data from recent studies to create a pathway for GIs to follow in assessing and treating their patients.

"As health-care systems move towards providing better quality care, it is important for [gastroenterologists](#) to have clinical support tools that will help them treat underlying disease, as well as the whole person," according to William J. Sandborn, MD, AGAF, author of the AGA [clinical decision](#) tool, from the division of gastroenterology, University of San Diego, La Jolla, CA. "This clinical support tool represents a big step forward for the treatment of Crohn's disease and was created using a rigorous review process."

To create the tool, a workgroup reviewed current literature to develop a practical algorithm to help clinicians:

- Assess patients for active inflammation and the presence of complications and co-morbid conditions.
- Risk stratify their patients.
- Apply effective therapies based on AGA's latest [guideline](#)

- Ensure that patient's underlying inflammation is sufficiently treated.

## Point-of-Care Clinical Decision Support Tools

[The Identification, Assessment, and Initial Medical Treatment in Crohn's Disease Clinical Decision Support Tool](#) is the most recent clinical decision tool published by the AGA. A number of other clinical decision support tools have been developed for hot topic issues in GI, such as biologics for [Crohn's disease](#), [colonoscopy surveillance](#) and [hepatitis C screening and evaluation](#).

**More information:** Terdiman, JP et al. American Gastroenterological Association Institute Guideline on the Use of Thiopurines, Methotrexate, and Anti-TNF-Alpha Biologic Drugs for the Induction and Maintenance of Remission in Inflammatory Crohn's Disease. *Gastroenterology* 2013;145(6):1459

Provided by American Gastroenterological Association

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