Fecal transplantation as a treatment for *Clostridium difficile* infection in patients with ulcerative colitis

**Dear Editor,**

*Clostridium difficile* (CD) infection has become a critical epidemiological problem causing significant morbidity, mortality and cost (1). Patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) are a high susceptibility group (2,3). Fecal transplantation (FT) is an effective and safe alternative (4) with a cure rate of up to 90% in recurrent infections.

**Case report**

We report the case of a 59-year-old woman with a history of ulcerative colitis (UC) diagnosed after a moderate flare of ulcerative pancolitis. She was initially treated with mesalazine and prednisone with a negative CD stool test. Due to a suboptimal response, the patient became steroid-dependent and treatment with azathioprine and infliximab (IFX) was started. The first episode of CD infection occurred two days after the first infusion of IFX. She was treated with metronidazole with a good response. Subsequently, she received a second IFX infusion. One month later, she presented with signs of CD re-infection and was treated with a second cycle of metronidazole. Afterwards, a third IFX infusion was delivered. One week later, the patient was admitted due to a third CD infection episode, despite the fact that the ulcerative colitis (UC) was in remission. She was treated with vancomycin and metronidazole with a limited response. Thus, immunosuppressive therapy was discontinued. Given the poor progress of the patient, third line of treatment with fidaxomicin and vancomycin enemas was started. Pseudomembranous colitis persisted in the sigmoidoscopy eight days after the current treatment. Fourth line treatment with a tapering and pulse regimen of vancomycin was started and FT studies were ordered.

Finally, FT was performed 25 days after the beginning of the fourth line of treatment with an immediate clinical response. Five months later, the patient remained in clinical remission with mesalazine as a monotherapy.

**Discussion**

IBD is an independent risk factor for CD infection (2). FT is an effective and safe technique for the treatment of recurrent CD infection with a high success rate (1). The eradication rate of CD in IBD seems to be similar to that seen in the general population (4,5), thus, an early use of FT is proposed.

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**References**


