From Vienna to Montreal: the new Crohn’s disease classification

K.H. Katsanos, E.V. Tsianos

TO THE EDITOR:

Sir, a new classification of Crohn’s disease has been recently suggested1 in an attempt to improve existing Vienna classification.2 This new classification called the ‘Montreal classification’ has introduced changes in all three categories of the Vienna classification: age at diagnosis (A), disease location (L) and disease behaviour (B). In detail, in the “Montreal classification” more categories were introduced targeting a more analytical disease description (Table 1). It is of importance that in the “Montreal classification” perianal fistulas are no longer included in the penetrating disease category and they are included as disease modifiers (indicated with the letter “p”) of the disease behaviour variable.

Age at diagnosis and disease location can be easily transformed from the Vienna to Montreal classification; by contrast the transformation of disease behaviour from one classification to the other seems a more complicated procedure.

Herein we provide a table with which one can easily categorize Crohn’s disease behaviour according these two classification systems (Table 2).

For the Vienna classification we have to take into account all three columns indicating information (yes or no) on Cronh’s disease behaviour (structuring, non-perianal fistulas, perianal disease) and then we characterize accordingly as B1, B2, B3. For the Montreal classification we have to take into account initially the information (yes or no) in the first two columns ((structuring, non-perianal fistulas) which we characterize accordingly as B1, B2, B3 and then we appreciate the third column and we add the letter “p” if there is evidence of perianal disease (perianal fistulas or absces). In such a way, a B3 in the Vienna classification may become B3 but also B1p, B2p or B3p in the Montreal classification.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

-Dr Konstantinos H. Katsanos is an international grant recipient of the Hellenic Society of Gastroenterology.

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Table 1. Modifiers from Vienna to Montreal disease classification of Crohn’s disease

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vienna Classification</th>
<th>Montreal Classification</th>
<th>Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age at diagnosis</strong></td>
<td><strong>Age modifier (&lt;40 years)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 40 years</td>
<td>&lt;16 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>= 40 years</td>
<td>17-40 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
<td><strong>Upper GI modifier (L4)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ileal (L1)</td>
<td>L1+L4</td>
<td>Terminal ileum + Upper GI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonic (L2)</td>
<td>L2+L4</td>
<td>Colon + Upper GI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ileocolonic (L3)</td>
<td>L3+L4</td>
<td>Ileocolonic + Upper GI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper gastrointestinal (L4)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Behaviour</strong></td>
<td><strong>Perianal disease modifier</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflammatory (B1)</td>
<td>B1p</td>
<td>Nonstricturing, nonpenetrating + perianal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(nonstricturing-nonpenetrating)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stricturing (B2)</td>
<td>B2p</td>
<td>Structuring + perianal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penetrating (B3)</td>
<td>B3p</td>
<td>Penetrating + perianal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Changing from Vienna to Montreal classification the Crohn’s disease behaviour according to the perianal disease modifier ("p")

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stricturing</th>
<th>Non-perianal fistulas (0=No, 1=Yes)</th>
<th>Perianal disease (fistulas/abscesses) (0=No, 1=Yes)</th>
<th>Vienna Classification</th>
<th>Montreal Classification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>B1</td>
<td>B1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>B3</td>
<td>B1p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>B3</td>
<td>B3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>B3</td>
<td>B3p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>B2</td>
<td>B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>B3</td>
<td>B2p</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>B3</td>
<td>B3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>B3</td>
<td>B3p</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES