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## General Information

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**Project Funding Source:** This work was supported in part by the 'Talpiot' medical leadership grant from the Sheba Medical Center (to SBH)

**How did you learn about the YODA Project?:** Other

## Conflict of Interest

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## Certification

**Certification:** All information is complete; I (PI) am responsible for the research; data will not be used to support litigious/commercial aims.

**Data Use Agreement Training:** As the Principal Investigator of this study, I certify that I have completed the YODA Project Data Use Agreement Training

1. [NCT00036439 - C0168T37 - A Randomized, Placebo-controlled, Double-blind Trial to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of Infliximab in Patients With Active Ulcerative Colitis](#)
2. [NCT00096655 - C0168T46 - A Randomized, Placebo-controlled, Double-blind Trial to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of Infliximab in Patients With Active Ulcerative Colitis](#)
3. [NCT00094458 - C0168T67 - Multicenter, Randomized, Double-Blind, Active Controlled Trial Comparing REMICADE® \(infliximab\) and REMICADE plus Azathioprine to Azathioprine in the Treatment of Patients with Crohn's Disease Naive to both Immunomodulators and Biologic Therapy \(Study of Biologic and Immunomodulator Naive Patients in Crohn's Disease\)](#)
4. [NCT00487539 - C0524T17 - A Phase 2/3 Multicenter, Randomized, Placebo-controlled, Double blind Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of Golimumab Induction Therapy, Administered Subcutaneously, in Subjects with Moderately to Severely Active Ulcerative Colitis](#)
5. [NCT00207662 - C0168T21 - ACCENT I - A Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Trial of Anti-TNFα Chimeric Monoclonal Antibody \(Infliximab, Remicade\) in the Long-term Treatment of Patients With Moderately to Severely Active Crohn's Disease](#)
6. [NCT00537316 - P04807 - Efficacy & Safety of Infliximab Monotherapy Vs Combination Therapy Vs AZA Monotherapy in Ulcerative Colitis \(Part 1\) Maintenance Vs Intermittent Therapy for Maintaining Remission \(Part 2\)](#)
7. [NCT01551290 - CR018769; REMICADEUCO3001 - A Phase 3, Multicenter, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study Evaluating the Efficacy and Safety of Infliximab in Chinese Subjects With Active Ulcerative Colitis](#)
8. [NCT00488631 - C0524T18 - A Phase 3 Multicenter, Randomized, Placebo-controlled, Double-blind Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of Golimumab Maintenance Therapy, Administered Subcutaneously, in Subjects With Moderately to Severely Active Ulcerative Colitis](#)

**What type of data are you looking for?:** Individual Participant-Level Data, which includes Full CSR and all supporting documentation

## Research Proposal

### Project Title

Efficacy of biologic drugs in short-duration versus long-duration inflammatory bowel disease: individual-patient level meta-analysis

### Narrative Summary:

Crohn's disease (CD) and ulcerative colitis (UC) are inflammatory diseases often culminating in disease complications and/or the need of surgery. Biologic monoclonal antibody drugs ('Biologics') are efficacious for both diseases, but there are no systematic assessments of their efficacy if administered early after disease onset as opposed to later in the course of disease. We will analyze individual data from available clinical trials, by comparing health outcomes of patients receiving the Biologics before and after 18 months after the disease onset. The analysis will provide an important information for gastroenterologists in administering the Biologics.

## Scientific Abstract:

**Background:** Biologic monoclonal antibody drugs ('Biologics') are efficacious for Crohn's disease (CD) and ulcerative colitis (UC), but there are no systematic assessments of their efficacy if administered early after disease onset as opposed to later in the course of disease. **Objective:** to compare clinical response to biologics between patients with early-disease (<18months since disease onset) with patients with longer disease duration. **Study Design:** Electronic databases (MEDLINE, Cochrane CENTRAL register of controlled trials, the Cochrane IBD Group Specialized Trials Register, and Clinicaltrials.gov registry) were searched to identify all randomized placebo-controlled clinical trials of FDA-approved biologics for CD and UC. Individual-patient-level data (IPD) will be extracted from the identified trials through data-sharing platforms. **Participants:** patients included in selected trials. **Main Outcome Measures:** induction of remission and maintenance. **Statistical Analysis:** We will analyze induction of remission in patients with early-disease versus patients with longer disease duration, using a generalized linear mixed effect model, as well as by a two-stage approach using coefficient for the treatment-by-subgroup interaction within each trial.. We will perform receiver operator curve analysis of optimal disease-duration for response to biologics. All analyses will be separate for CD and UC. This first-of-its-kind meta-analysis at IPD level may elucidate the impact of early initiation of biologics, which is of paramount importance for management.

## Brief Project Background and Statement of Project Significance:

Crohn's disease (CD) and ulcerative colitis (UC) are chronic immune-driven inflammatory diseases of the gut, collectively known as inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Understanding of the progressive structural damage to the gut caused by incessant and/or recurrent bouts of inflammation in CD has led to the hypothesis that early initiation of biologic therapy (Top-down strategy) may better control underlying inflammation and prevent disease progression, compared with a later initiation of these drugs (Step-up approach) [1,2]. This contention has been supported by the SUTD trial which showed clinical benefit for top-down versus step-up treatment with infliximab in patients with CD [3]. REACT, a non-blinded controlled cluster randomized trial, did not show clinical benefit but did find lower rate of disease complications among CD patients treated by top-down compared to step-up approach [4]. However, no trial has directly compared efficacy of biologics in patients with early versus late disease. Such comparison is only available through some post-hoc sub-analyses of clinical trials and uncontrolled observations in retrospective cohorts. Some [5-7], albeit not all [8], of these studies seemed to indicate a better response rate to anti-TNF agents among CD patients with early as opposed to late-disease. Nonetheless, the impact of duration of CD on the response to biologic therapy has hitherto not been systematically investigated. Furthermore, whether such correlation exists in patients with UC has not been specifically explored.

Therefore, the primary objectives of the present study are to investigate the impact of disease duration on the rate of remission induction in CD and in UC, separately analyzed. To this end, we will compare the efficacy of FDA-approved biologics' in patients with early short-term disease versus those with a long-duration of disease. This first-of-its-kind meta-analysis at IPD level of interaction of disease duration with the response to biologics in UC and CD may elucidate the impact of early initiation of biologics, which is of paramount importance for clinical practice and management strategies of inflammatory bowel disease.

## Specific Aims of the Project:

We will analyze the following secondary endpoints in a comparative analysis of patients with short versus long-duration of disease:

- The proportion of induction of response. Clinical response is defined as CDAI reduction of 100 points from baseline for CD and as a total Mayo Drop  $\geq 30\%$  AND  $\geq 3$  points with either bleeding score of 0 or 1 OR drop of bleeding score  $\geq 1$ , for UC trials. When these are not available, the response is defined as per the clinical trial's designated response definition.
- The proportion of response and remission at the end of the maintenance phase of the trial (when applicable), at specific time-period between week 16-54 designated for assessment of the maintenance treatment by the trial.
- in UC patients: the proportion of colectomy for patients with short versus long-duration of disease at the end of the trial.
- Rate of intestinal surgeries and rate of hospitalizations for patients with short versus long-duration of disease at the end of the trial.

## What is the purpose of the analysis being proposed? Please select all that apply.

New research question to examine treatment effectiveness on secondary endpoints and/or within subgroup populations

Confirm or validate previously conducted research on treatment effectiveness

Participant-level data meta-analysis

Participant-level data meta-analysis pooling data from YODA Project with other additional data sources

## Research Methods

### Data Source and Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria to be used to define the patient sample for your study:

Electronic databases (MEDLINE, EMBASE/EMBASE classic Cochrane CENTRAL register of controlled trials, the Cochrane IBD Group Specialized Trials Register, and Clinicaltrials.gov registry) were searched to identify all randomized placebo-controlled clinical trials of FDA-approved biologics for CD and UC (by March 2016). Patients over 18 years old were included in the study. Inclusion and Exclusion criteria of these trials defined the study population. The following is the list of studies' ID in addition to those requested from YODA :

NCT00783718 (C13006)

NCT00783692 (C13007) GEMINI 2

NCT01224171 (C13011) GEMINI 3

JAPIC CTI-060298 Japan Kobayashi,

PMID 25844841 Jiang XL

NCT00032799 ENACT-1

NCT00032786 ENACT-2

NCT00078611 ENCORE

NCT00077779

NCT00445939 (M04-729)

NCT00445432 (M06-437)

NCT00055497 (M02-433)

NCT00853099 (M10-447)

### Main Outcome Measure and how it will be categorized/defined for your study:

The primary outcome in the study is induction of remission defined as remission at the end of induction as per the study-specific pre-defined timepoint and within 4-14 weeks following initiation of treatment by biologics approved by the FDA for IBD at the time of launching of this study (November 2015). A Crohn's Disease Activity Index (CDAI) <150 is defined as remission for assessment of primary outcome of CD trials, whereas a total Mayo score?2 with no individual subscore>1 is the primary remission outcome for UC trials. If these scores were unavailable, the remission/response measures are based on the specific clinical score and outcome definition employed by the respective clinical trial.

### Main Predictor/Independent Variable and how it will be categorized/defined for your study:

Biologics treatment in interaction with duration of disease (before and after 18 months from the disease onset).

### Other Variables of Interest that will be used in your analysis and how they will be categorized/defined for your study:

Exposure to prior anti-TNF, use of concomitant immunomodulators, prior surgery, disease phenotype and extent for CD, disease extent for UC, age, gender, BMI, smoking status, CRP (elevated or not at baseline as per the laboratory normal range in the respective trial ), albumin (below normal or not), difference in clinical scores used to measure the efficacy outcomes, and the class of the biologic (anti-TNF vs. anti-integrins)

### Statistical Analysis Plan:

Secondary analyses include analyses of the response to induction, the maintenance of response, maintenance of remission, and the proportion of colectomy (for UC patients only), as well as the sub-group analysis of the primary outcome within the strata of patients treated with anti-TNF class of drugs and patients treated by anti-integrins.

Pre-planned sensitivity analyses will assess the primary outcome by:

- 1) including also trials with high risk of bias;
- 2) including only the studies employing the pre-defined clinical score criterion for remission induction (CDAI<150 or Mayo?2 with no individual subscore>1 for CD and UC, respectively);
- 3) Using a fixed-effect model to pool data if heterogeneity assessment reveals I<sup>2</sup> <50%;

- 4) including only trials in which all patients were anti-TNF naïve;
- 5) including only patients who rolled over to the maintenance phase after responding to induction (only for the outcome of maintenance of remission, in applicable trials)
- 6) analyzing the primary outcomes using techniques of Bayesian analysis with vague priors for the treatment effect estimates.
- 7) analyzing the primary outcomes separately for industry and academic sources.

To assess the optimal threshold for duration of disease that best "predicts" the likelihood of patients' response to treatment, a summary Receiver Operator Characteristics (ROC) curve will be constructed based on the random effects generalized linear model adjusting for clustered structure of the pooled database, with the study outcomes as outlined above and continuous disease duration as independent covariate in the model.

SAS 9.4 and R (studio) software will be used for the main statistical analysis. We will generate Forest plots of pooled effect estimates (RR or OR) with 95% CIs, as well as funnel plots. The latter are assessed for evidence of asymmetry and therefore possible publication bias or other small study effects, using the Egger test, if there are sufficient (n=10) eligible studies included in the meta-analysis, in line with published recommendations [35].

Due to character limits, please see supplemental attachment for additional methods performed (sections "General approach in meta-anal" and "Specific analyses .

Software Used:

I am not analyzing participant-level data / I will not be using these software for analyses in the secure platform

#### **Project Timeline:**

We will analyze the data within 6 months after data become available to the researchers. Most of the analysis has been performed in the YODA trials platform, separately from other companies' trials. The analysis included data cleaning, variables definitions and a meta-analysis based on the separate YODA trials.

The proposed analysis will be conducted within the Vivli platform. Full approval for #2019-4107 will be contingent upon closing out #2015-0677. We would like the datasets derived under #2015-0677 (or at least the sascodes used by us for creating those datasets) be made available to us under #2019-4107, to save months of work while cleaning and defining the working variables. Upon completion of analyses we will summarize the findings in a manuscript (additional 2-3 months) and submit for publication.

#### **Dissemination Plan:**

Findings will be published in a peer-reviewed journal and disseminated via presentations at scientific meetings and links with patients groups and organizations. BMJ is one of the optional journals for publication.

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#### **Supplementary Material:**

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[https://yoda.yale.edu/sites/default/files/cod\\_by\\_sbh.pdf](https://yoda.yale.edu/sites/default/files/cod_by_sbh.pdf)

<https://yoda.yale.edu/sites/default/files/summary.docx>

[https://yoda.yale.edu/sites/default/files/dua\\_extension\\_letter2020-signed\\_fe.pdf](https://yoda.yale.edu/sites/default/files/dua_extension_letter2020-signed_fe.pdf)

[https://yoda.yale.edu/sites/default/files/details\\_to\\_be\\_added\\_to\\_the\\_stats\\_methods\\_in\\_the\\_protocol.docx](https://yoda.yale.edu/sites/default/files/details_to_be_added_to_the_stats_methods_in_the_protocol.docx)