



Over the next 72 hours, he reports partial improvement. Bloody bowel movements have decreased from 12 per day to eight per day with persistent nocturnal bowel movements. He continues to have abdominal cramps with eating.

- Hemoglobin: 87 g/L
- CRP: 90 mg/L
- Albumin: 30 g/L
- *C. Difficile* negative, biopsies no CMV

Decision Node 3

- Do you move to second-line therapy or wait, given there has been a partial response?
- Which agent will you prescribe: infliximab or cyclosporine? What dose?
- Do you offer cyclosporine in your hospital as one of your therapeutic options?

The PPD test is negative and the chest X-ray is normal. You discuss the options of infliximab and surgery, including risks and benefits. You have no experience with cyclosporine and your center cannot measure drug levels of cyclosporine. You prescribe infliximab 10 mg/kg IV.

Four days after the infliximab infusion there is no improvement. He still has eight to 10 bloody bowel movements daily. His CRP is now 82 mg/L and his Hb is now 85 g/L.

Decision Node 4

- Would you wait longer to assess for a therapeutic response?
- Would you prescribe a second dose of infliximab or switch to cyclosporine?
- Would you consider vedolizumab? Adalimumab?

Jim absolutely refuses colectomy. He says that he was well for so long and doesn't understand why he flared and he cannot accept surgery. After discussion of therapeutic options, you treat him with a second dose of infliximab 10 mg/kg IV. After five days, there is no clinical response. He is seen by you and the surgeon and he remains opposed to surgery. You explain and he understands the risk of morbidity and mortality with ongoing acute severe ulcerative colitis (ASUC) but this does not impact his decision to refuse surgery.

Decision Node 5

- How do you proceed?
- How is cyclosporine prescribed and managed in ASUC?
- Would you consider vedolizumab or adalimumab?

You decide to refer him to a specialized centre for cyclosporine treatment. However, after long discussion with his family and evaluating his condition, he decides to opt for surgery.
