

Letter to the Editor

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

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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 Crohn'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 abscesse). In such a way, a B3 in the Vienna classification may become B3 but also B1p, B2p or B3p in the Montreal classification.

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

Vienna Classification	Montreal Classification	Analysis
Age at diagnosis	Age modifier (<40 years)	
< 40 years	<16 years	
= 40 years	17-40 years	
Location	Upper GI modifier (L4)	
Ileal (L1)	L1+L4	Terminal ileum+UpperGI
Colonic (L2)	L2+L4	Colon+Upper GI
Ileocolonic (L3)	L3+L4	Ileocolonic+Upper GI
Upper gastrointestinal (L4)		
Behaviour	Perianal disease modifier	
Inflammatory (B1) (nonstricturing-nonpenetrating)	B1p	Nonstricturing, nonpenetrating+perianal
Stricturing (B2)	B2p	Structuring+perianal
Penetrating (B3)	B3p	Penetrating+perianal

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

Stricturing	Non-perianal fistulas	Perianal disease (fistulas/abscesses)	Vienna Classification	Montreal Classification
(0=No, 1=Yes)	(0=No, 1=Yes)	(0=No, 1=Yes)		
0	0	0	B1	B1
0	0	1	B3	B1p
0	1	0	B3	B3
0	1	1	B3	B3p
1	0	0	B2	B2
1	0	1	B3	B2p
1	1	0	B3	B3
1	1	1	B3	B3p

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