



Title **Tnf α Inhibitors in Inflammatory Bowel Disease**

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Aim

To systematically review and critically appraise available documentation on the effect and safety of TNF α inhibitors and to review health economic studies.

Conclusions and results

Our conclusions are the following: Infliximab is effective in treating ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. Adalimumab and certolizumab have documented effects in treating Crohn's disease, while studies on patients with ulcerative colitis are lacking. Available data are too limited to draw conclusions on the safety of long-term treatment with TNF α inhibitors for both ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. Based on results from countries outside Norway, infliximab does not appear to be cost effective as continuous treatment for patients with Crohn's disease. There might be an exception in the case of patients exhibiting good and long-lasting response. No relevant economic studies were found for ulcerative colitis or for the other TNF α inhibitors.

Methods

We identified documentation in a systematic search of the Cochrane Library, MEDLINE, EMBASE, PubMed, and NHS Economics Evaluation Database. Our evaluation of efficacy and safety was based on systematic reviews. However, to ensure the inclusion of all available data, we searched for randomized controlled trials published after the literature search for systematic reviews had been completed.