Anti-Tumor Necrosis Factor Therapy in Inflammatory Bowel Disease
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The introduction of anti TNF antibodies into the treatment of patients with inflammatory bowel disease about fifteen years ago has dramatically changed the field of IBD therapy. This treatment option has significantly improved the quality of life for patients with severe Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis. Extensive research has been performed analyzing the mode of action of anti TNF antibodies in vitro and in vivo, positioning this therapeutic approach in current treatment strategies and analyzing the side effects of anti-TNF strategies and various other aspects, such as monitoring of therapy. With the introduction of anti-TNF antibody biosimilars the field has become more complex and new questions have been raised.

Surprisingly so far there have been no attempt to provide a comprehensive overview on all aspects of TNF action, mechanisms of anti TNF therapy, treatment strategies, side effects, monitoring, biosimilars and many other aspects that are important with respect to anti TNF therapy. This monograph for the first time makes the effort to cover all those important aspects and answer questions that are associated with them. It is the first text book written by experts in the field that tries to bridge basic research on TNF action and on properties of the different antibodies to frequent questions regarding treatment strategies, stop options, etc. The authors have included newest results; the single chapters are focused and to the point; and the information given is helpful and precise.

We hope that this wide-ranging overview on anti-TNF therapy in inflammatory bowel disease will help clinicians and guide them to the optimal treatment decision. At the end we hope to improve the quality of life of patients with inflammatory bowel disease with the information provided in this monograph.

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