

Case report: Treatment for rectovaginal fistula in Crohn's disease using fractionate CO₂ vaginal laser with anti-TNF therapy

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Abstract

Background

Rectovaginal fistulas (RVFs) are defined as any connection between the anorectum and the vagina. They can have several causes, being Crohn's disease, the second leading cause of RVFs, responsible for ~10% of the RVFs. Despite the advances in surgical and clinical treatment, there is no consensus regarding the best line of treatment.

Objective

To report another therapeutic option, we describe the case of a patient with Crohn's disease and RVF refractory to anti-tumor necrosis factor (TNF) therapy, submitted to intravaginal CO₂ fractional laser treatment.

Materials and Methods

Three laser sessions with monthly interval and analysis by clinical examination, sexual evaluation questionnaire, and magnetic resonance of the pelvis were performed.

Results

We obtained an important improvement of the symptoms and of the dimension of the fistulous path.

Conclusions

We believe this method to be a complementary, promising, and safe therapeutic alternative for the management of vaginal fistula. Future studies using this therapeutic strategy are needed to confirm the efficacy of this method in this clinical setting.