

# **Endoscopic treatment of internal gastrointestinal fistulas with fibrin glue.**

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## **Abstract:**

**OBJECTIVE:** Gastrointestinal fistulae are a heterogeneous entity originating from various etiologies. When occurring, these fistulae are associated with considerable morbidity and even mortality. One third of the fistulae heal spontaneously and the rest have traditionally required major revisional surgery at a later stage. Even after surgery, the healing rate remains at a level of 75% to 90%. During the last years, gastrointestinal fistulae have been successfully treated endoscopically with fibrin glue.

**METHODS:** All (n = 8) consecutive patients with diagnosed internal upper or lower gastrointestinal fistula treated endoscopically with fibrin glue.

**RESULTS:** During the minimum follow-up of 11 months, 7 of 8 patients (87.5%) were successfully treated endoscopically, and in only 1 case (12.5%) with a major diagnostic delay, a reoperation was required.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Our results support the view that endoscopic treatment with fibrin glue may be considered as a first-line therapy to treat small caliber gastrointestinal fistulas.