

IMAGINE: Ileus Management International

As Bulgaria is already involved in this international project IMAGINE including more than 20 countries, we would like to promote it on national level and find new partners. This is contributing to the study by including more patients and will be a great experience for the center itself.

Postoperative ileus (POI) is an unmet need. It is the most common complication after elective colorectal surgery and is associated with increased postoperative adverse events and prolonged hospital discharge. This study will produce a profile of gastrointestinal recovery after colorectal surgery. It will also assess the role of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) when used as postoperative analgesia for expediting the return of gastrointestinal function.

A multi-centre, student- and trainee-led, prospective cohort study will be delivered across an international collaborative network in Europe and Australia. Adult patients undergoing elective colorectal resection during two-week data collection periods between January – April 2018 will be included. The primary outcome is time to gastrointestinal recovery, measured using a composite outcome of bowel function and oral tolerance. The impact and safety of NSAIDs for expediting gastrointestinal recovery will be explored using Kaplan Meier plots with Cox regression analysis of clinical relevant variables.

Previous data indicate that 16% of patients receive NSAIDs after colorectal surgery. A recent study in a comparable United Kingdom cohort demonstrated a median time to gastrointestinal recovery of 3 (IQR 2-4). The study will be powered to detect an improvement in time to gastrointestinal recovery of 1 day.

Whilst NSAIDs present a favorable analgesic profile due to their anti-inflammatory and opioid-sparing properties, their risk profile remains contentious. Efficacy and safety data derived from this data will assist in the planning of future interventional studies.

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On behalf of the “EuroSurg Collaborative”