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Foreword

The management of fistulizing Crohn's disease continues to evolve. Over the last two decades, advances in medical therapy and in surgical technique have dramatically altered the multidisciplinary management of Crohn's patients. Among others these include the growing number of monoclonal antibodies and now small molecular inhibitors, the introduction of stem cell therapies, the expanding use of minimally invasive surgical techniques, and the use of enhanced recovery pathways. In this issue of *Current Problems in Surgery*, Dr. Amy Lightner from the Cleveland Clinic and her colleagues from around the world have written a masterful overview on this topic entitled, "Fistulizing Crohn's Disease." After an introduction, they begin with an overview of the epidemiology, classification, and pathophysiology of fistulizing Crohn's disease. Subsequent sections address perianal disease, rectovaginal fistulas, Crohn's disease of the pouch after restorative proctocolectomy, and enterocutaneous, enteroenteric, and enterovesical fistulas. For each condition, they discuss the presentation, diagnosis, and medical and surgical therapy in considerable detail. This a balanced review of the literature by experts in the field. This superb review should become a frequently cited addition to the literature on this complex topic and a resource for all caregivers involved in the care of the patient with Crohn's.

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