

Prospective, randomized placebo-controlled trial.
 Paediatric patients with moderate to severe CD.
 Two arms: Randomized to MCP (1.5mg/kg/d) or placebo for 18 months.
 Both groups also received steroids 40 mg prednisone at start.
 Follow-up 18 months

Primary endpoints:
 Remission at week 8

Results:

- Remission w8: 89% in both groups.
- Relapse 9% in MCP group vs 47% placebo, $p=0.007$
- 6MP group shorter need of steroids $p<0.001$ and lower cumulative steroid dose at 6,12 and 18 months $p<0.01$

Conclusion:

Addition of 6-MP to a regimen of corticosteroids significantly lessens the need for prednisone and improves maintenance of remission. 6-MP should be part of the initial treatment regimen for children with newly diagnosed moderate-to-severe CD.

A Multicenter Trial of 6-Mercaptopurine and Prednisone in Children With Newly Diagnosed Crohn's Disease

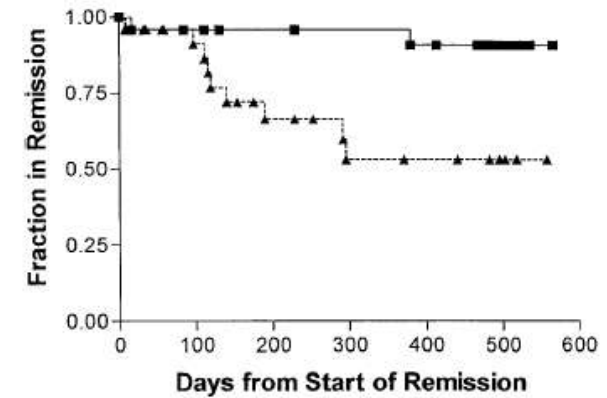


Figure 4. Kaplan-Meier survival curve of relapse-free duration of remission. ■, 6-MP; ▲, controls. $P < 0.007$.

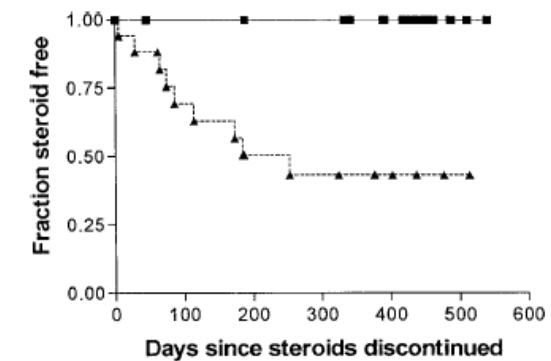


Figure 1. Time (days) off of corticosteroid treatment after initial discontinuation, depicted as a Kaplan-Meier survival curve. ■, 6-MP; ▲, controls. $P < 0.0001$.

