Prospective, randomized, double-blind, multicenter study. Patients with CD who underwent a surgery were randomised and started within 10 days on: mesalazine 4gr vs placebo during 18 months.

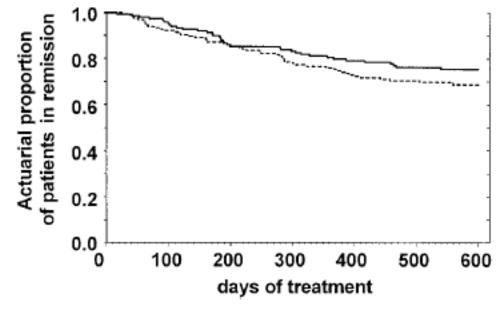
<u>Primary endpoints:</u> Clinical relapse defined by 1 of the following: increase in CDAI above 250; increase in CDAI above 200 but by a minimum of 60 points over the lowest postoperative value for 2 consecutive weeks

## **Results:**

- Cumulative relapse after 18 months were 24.5% 5ASA vs 31.4%placebo, p=0.1
- Probability of relapse was predominantly influenced by disease duration p=0.0006 and steroid intake prior surgery, p=0.0003

## **Conclusion:**

Eighteen months of mesalamine, 4 g daily, did not significantly affect the postoperative course of Crohn's disease. Some relapse-preventing effect was found in patients with isolated small bowel disease.



**Figure 2.** Actuarial proportion of patients without clinical relapse by treatment (intention-to-treat population). *Solid lines*, Pentasa; *broken lines*, placebo.

