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## ENTEROCUTANEOUS FISTULA IN NEONATES AND CHILDREN: THE ROLE OF OCTREOTIDE AND SOMATOSTATIN IN THE CONSERVATIVE MANAGEMENT

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Enterocutaneous fistula in neonates and children is a very challenging condition, with a low incidence but a significant morbidity and mortality. Conservative management is the cornerstone of treatment, although the role of octreotide and somatostatin in the closure of the fistula still remains controversial. We present an extensive literature review together with a case vignette to illustrate the different aspects of the treatment with these drugs. The great diversity among published treatment regimens makes outcomes difficult to compare. Nevertheless,

given the results in the cases reported in the literature and in our patient, we suggest a possible beneficial effect of octreotide and somatostatin on closure of enterocutaneous fistula. It is necessary to perform a multicenter, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial to determine the efficacy of octreotide and somatostatin and the most suitable treatment regimen to optimize conservative management of this complex condition.

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