Anders Gustavsson was born in 1964 and received his M.D. degree from the Faculty of Medicine at Lund University. He did his internship at Mora hospital and obtained his specialist qualification in internal medicine, gastroenterology and hepatology at Örebro University Hospital. He is currently working as head of the Division of Gastroenterology at the Department of Medicine, Karlstad Hospital. The work presented in this thesis began 2004 with Professor Curt Tysk as supervisor.

Ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease are two manifestations of idiopathic inflammatory bowel disease. The aetiology of these diseases is not known. A severe attack is seen in 10-15% of the patients with ulcerative colitis and is potentially life-threatening. The results of this thesis show that the colectomy rate 10 years after a severe attack of ulcerative colitis is high but treatment with infliximab can reduce the need of surgery even in the long run.

As opposed to ulcerative colitis, Crohn’s disease can affect the whole gastrointestinal tract and will sometimes cause strictures of the bowel. The result of this thesis show that endoscopic balloon dilation is a safe and efficacious treatment as an alternative to surgical resection of intestinal strictures in Crohn’s disease. Smoking increases the need for a new dilation or surgery.