Postoperative ileus: Pathophysiology & treatment strategies
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Patients undergoing an abdominal surgical procedure develop a transient episode of impaired gastrointestinal motility, or postoperative ileus. Postoperative ileus, remains an almost inevitable consequence of surgery. Importantly, postoperative ileus is a major determinant of recovery after intestinal surgery and leads to increased morbidity and prolonged hospitalization. The aetiology of postoperative ileus is multifactorial, but activation of a local inflammatory response within the intestinal muscularis has become an accepted pathophysiological mechanism. Although a variety of strategies reduce postoperative ileus, none of these methods have been completely successful in shortening its duration. This thesis consist of a series of investigations into the mechanisms behind postoperative ileus and highlight new strategies to intervene in the postoperative inflammatory cascade and prevent postoperative ileus.

Sjoerd van Bree was born on July 30th, 1981 in The Netherlands. After graduating from high school at the Gemeentelijk Gymnasium in Hilversum, he obtained his propaedeutics at the medical school of the University of Antwerp in Belgium. In 2007, he received his medical degree Cum Laude from the University of Amsterdam and subsequently started his PhD project under the guidance of Prof. dr. G. Boeckxstaens. Meanwhile, he was certified as an International Medical Graduate by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates of the United States. In January 2012 he started his training in Internal Medicine in Amsterdam.