

Clinical Features

- ✓ Any age but has its highest incidence in **young adults**
- ✓ **-Extremely variable** clinical feature.
- ✓ **Acute phase**: fever, diarrhea, and right lower quadrant pain may **mimic acute appendicitis**.
- ✓ **Chronic disease**: remissions and relapses over a long period of time.
- ✓ Thickening of the intestine may produce an ill-defined mass in the abdomen.

Sites of Involvement:

- Any part of the GIT from the **mouth** to the **anus**.
- ✓ **ileum** (30%) **colon** (20%).
 - ✓ most commonly **terminal ileum**
 - ✓ Commonly **(75%) have perianal lesions** such as abscesses, fistulas, and skin tags.

Gross Appearance:

- ✓ Involvement is typically **segmental**, with skip areas of normal intestine between areas of involved bowel.
- ✓ **Marked fibrosis** causing **luminal narrowing** with **intestinal obstruction**.
- ✓ **Fissures** (deep and narrow ulcers that look like stabs with a knife that penetrate deeply into the wall of the affected intestine)
- ✓ **fistulas** (communications with other viscera).
- ✓ **Mucosa**: **longitudinal serpiginous** ulcers separated by irregular islands of edematous mucosa. This results in the typical **cobblestone effect**.
- ✓ **FAT**: In involved **ileal segments**, the **mesenteric fat** creeps from the mesentery to surround the bowel wall (**creeping fat**)

Microscopic Features

1. Distortion of mucosal crypt architecture,
 2. **Transmural** inflammation,
 3. **Epithelioid granulomas** [60%].
- Fissure-ulcers and fistulas can be seen **microscopically**.

Complications

1. **Intestinal obstruction**
2. **Fistula formation**
 - between the **ileum** and the **colon** result in **malabsorption**
 - Enterovesical fistulas** lead to **urinary infections** and passage of **gas** and **feces** with **urine**.
 - Enterovaginal fistulas** produce a **fecal vaginal** discharge.
- 3-**Extraintestinal manifestations** (arthritis and uveitis)
- 4-**Slight increased** risk of development of **carcinoma of the colon**.

Crohn Disease

is a **chronic inflammatory** disorder that most commonly affects the **ileum** and **colon** but has the potential to involve any part of the **gastrointestinal tract** from the mouth to the anus.

Complications

- ✚ **Acute phase**: Severe bleeding, Toxic megacolon.
- ✚ **Chronic ulcerative colitis**
 - ✓ **Increased** risk of developing **colon carcinoma**.
 - ✓ The presence of **high-grade dysplasia** in a mucosal biopsy imposes a **high risk of cancer** and is an indication for **colectomy**.
- ✚ **Extraintestinal manifestations**
 - ✓ occur more commonly in **ulcerative colitis** than in **Crohn's disease**. Arthritis, Uveitis, skin lesions (pyoderma gangrenosum), sclerosing pericholangitis leading to obstructive jaundice.

Clinical Features

- ✓ In the **acute phase** and during relapse, the patient has fever, leukocytosis, lower abdominal pain, bloody diarrhea and mucus in the stool.
- The disease usually has a chronic course, with remissions and exacerbations.

Ulcerative Colitis

- ✓ is an inflammatory disease of uncertain cause.
- ✓ It has a chronic course characterized by remissions and relapses.
- ✓ 20- to 30-year age group but may occur at any age

Etiology

The cause is **unknown**
Antibodies that cross-react with intestinal epithelial cells and certain **serotypes of *Escherichia coli*** have been demonstrated in the serum of some patients with **ulcerative colitis**.

Sites of Involvement

- ✓ Ulcerative colitis is a disease of the **rectum**, and the **colon**.
- ✓ **Rectum** is involved in **almost all cases**
- ✓ The disease extends proximally from the **rectum** in a **continuous** manner without skip areas.
- ✓ The ileum is not involved as a rule

Gross Appearance

Involves mainly the **mucosa** (**diffuse** hyperemia with numerous **superficial** ulcerations in the **acute phase**.
The regenerated or non-ulcerated mucosa may appear polypoid (**inflammatory pseudopolyps**) in contrast with the atrophic areas or ulcers.

Microscopic Appearance

The inflammation is usually restricted to the **mucosa**.
In the active phase.....neutrophils (Cryptitis, crypt abscess)
In the chronic phase.....crypt atrophy and distortion

- ✓ Active inflammation **correlates well** with the severity of symptoms.