



## 9° Congresso Nazionale della Società Italiana di GastroReumatologia

Roma 7-8 Ottobre 2022

Ergife Palace Hotel

**ABSTRACT SESSION**

### ***More severe Crohn's disease clinical presentation in an Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) center of emergency department during COVID-19 pandemic***

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## **Background and Aim**

- COVID-19 outbreak and restrictive measures have strongly influenced clinical management of several chronic disease
- Lengthening of waiting times for visits, follow-up and procedures
- We aim to show how COVID-19 has influenced Crohn's disease (CD) clinical course by increasing the number of patients with more severe symptoms at presentation

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## Methods

- We observed the clinical presentation of all previously diagnosed, or subsequently confirmed, CD patients who accessed the emergency department and then in our operative gastrointestinal unit from January 2020 to December 2021
- The absolute percentage of all symptoms was compared to a CD population admitted to emergency department during a previous two-years period (January 2018 to December 2019)
- All data were collected from years-related databases based on information contained in medical records.

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## Results (1)

- A total of 91 CD patients were first time visited in the two-year period 2020-2021. The median age of patients was 31.7 years (23-35) and 57,8 % (63 out of 109) were female
- The most frequent clinical presentations were **abdominal pain** in 82 patients (90,1%), **tiredness/fatigue** in 80 patients (87,9%), **diarrhoea** in 54 patients (59,3%) and **abdominal bloating/distension** in 61 patients (67,0%). A severe clinical presentation with **intestinal obstruction or perforation occurred** in 10 (10,9%) and 5 (5,4%) patients, respectively

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## Results (2)

- In the two-year period 2018-2019, a total of 145 CD patients were first time visited; the median age was 32.8 years (25-36) and 61,5% (83 out of 135) were female.
- The most frequent clinical presentations were **abdominal pain** reported in 128 (88,3%) and **tiredness/fatigue** in 125 patients (86,2%) followed by **diarrhoea** in 85 patients (58,6%) and **abdominal bloating/distension** in 87 patients (60,0%).  
**No severe presentation symptoms were recorded in 2018-2019 two-years period**

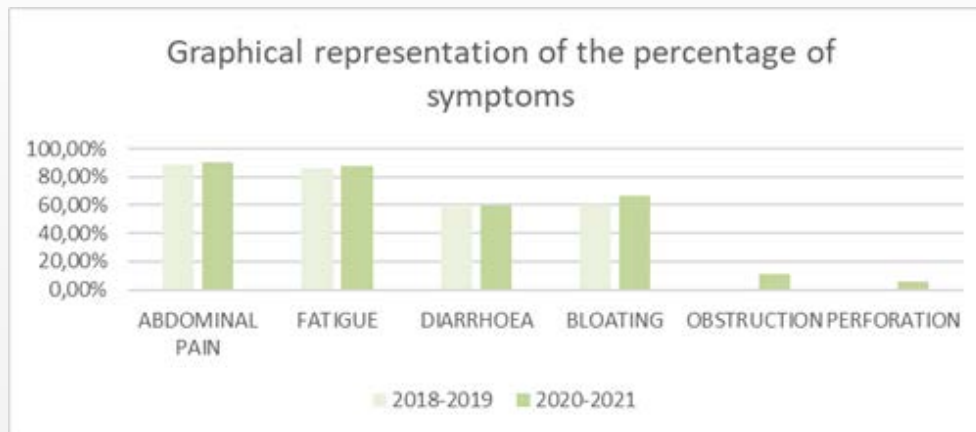
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## Results (3)



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## Conclusions

- Our data suggest a change in clinical presentation of CD patients with an increase of all symptoms including severe presentation, such as intestinal obstruction and/or perforation in 2020/2021 two-year period, likely as direct or indirect consequence of COVID19 outbreak. Further clinical investigation is needed to confirm this observation.

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# Thanks !!!

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