

THE BURDEN OF BOWEL URGENCY IN ULCERATIVE COLITIS: A FRENCH MULTICENTRIC REAL-LIFE STUDY (THEFAR)

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Poster

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The THEFAR study found that 57% of ulcerative colitis patients treated with biologics or targeted-synthetic drugs experience bowel urgency, which is associated with significantly greater disease activity, disability, and work impairment.

KEY POINTS

- In this French cross-sectional study of 293 ulcerative colitis patients on biologic or targeted-synthetic therapy, 57.0% had bowel urgency (defined as urgency numeric rating scale greater than 1), and 52.3% had both bowel urgency and fecal incontinence.
- Patients with bowel urgency had significantly higher rates of active disease (57.2% versus 15.2%), more months in flare (2.3 versus 1.0 months), and greater steroid use (45.8% versus 14.4%) compared to those without bowel urgency.
- Bowel urgency was associated with substantially worse quality of life, with mean EQ-5D-5L utility scores of 0.846 versus 0.943 and visual analogue scale scores of 66.2 versus 82.1 in those without urgency.
- Work productivity was markedly impaired in patients with bowel urgency, with mean overall work impairment of 35.7% versus 11.3% and activity impairment of 33.0% versus 7.9% in those without urgency.
- Bowel urgency rates did not differ significantly by disease location, type of biologic or targeted-synthetic drug, or line of therapy.

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