

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE THERAPEUTIC DECISIONS AND MONITORING OF PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE: A RETROSPECTIVE SINGLE-CENTER STUDY

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UEG Week Copenhagen 2023

Poster

IBD

October 15, 2023

A single-center retrospective study of 201 IBD patients during the COVID-19 pandemic found that most patients on biologics continued maintenance therapy with modifications to reduce hospital exposure, including extended infusion intervals and switches to home subcutaneous administration.

KEY POINTS

- Among 201 IBD patients followed from March 2020 to May 2021, the vast majority treated with biologics did not discontinue maintenance therapy despite the pandemic.
- To avoid hospital environments, 10% of UC patients and 5% of CD patients on infliximab switched to subcutaneous home infusions with adalimumab.
- Infusion intervals for infliximab were extended to ten weeks in 38% of UC patients and 30% of CD patients on this therapy, with no complications observed.
- Outpatient visits, endoscopic procedures, and non-urgent surgeries were postponed, with patient monitoring shifted to telemedicine including remote monitoring, intangible prescription, and drug home delivery.
- Emergency surgeries for two CD patients on infliximab were performed without delay, demonstrating that urgent care remained accessible.

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