

SYSTEMATIC COMPARISON OF GASTROINTESTINAL SYMPTOMS IN PEDIATRIC FUNCTIONAL AND INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASES USING THE VALIDATED PSAGIS

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Poster

Colorectal

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Children with functional bowel disorders presented with significantly higher symptom burden across all gastrointestinal domains compared to those with organic diseases including IBD in a study of 1550 pediatric patients using the validated pSAGIS tool.

KEY POINTS

- Children with functional disorders reported more symptoms rated as present (6.4 ± 3.0 vs 4.8 ± 2.9 for any organic disease vs 4.3 ± 2.5 for IBD, $p < 0.001$) and more moderate-to-severe symptoms (4.3 ± 3.7 vs 2.2 ± 3.2 vs 2.0 ± 3.1 , $p < 0.001$) at first presentation
- Symptom severity scores were significantly higher in functional disorders across four of five domains: abdominal pain (5.1 ± 4.5 vs 2.6 ± 3.5 for IBD), dyspepsia (2.8 ± 2.9 vs 1.6 ± 2.5), constipation (3.2 ± 3.3 vs 1.6 ± 2.3), and dysphagia/nausea (1.1 ± 1.7 vs 0.3 ± 0.9), all $p < 0.001$
- Diarrhea scores did not differ significantly between functional disorders and IBD (1.0 ± 1.7 vs 0.8 ± 1.8 , $p = 0.254$) though functional disorders scored higher than any organic disease overall ($p < 0.001$)
- The study included 1276 children from 2016-2023 at St. Anna Children's Hospital Vienna: 28.7% diagnosed with functional disorders, 53.6% with any organic disease, and 7.2% with IBD, using Rome IV criteria for functional disorder diagnosis
- The pSAGIS tool may support early symptom-based differentiation and inform diagnostic pathways in pediatric gastroenterology

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