GENDER-SPECIFIC DIFFERENCES IN GASTROINTESTINAL SYMPTOMS AMONG PEDIATRIC PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASES AND COELIAC DISEASES ASSESSED WITH THE VALIDATED PSAGIS SCALE

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A study using the pSAGIS patient-reported outcome measure in 1,559 paediatric patients found significant gender differences in gastrointestinal symptom burden in Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis but not in coeliac disease.

KEY POINTS

- In Crohn's disease (n=430), female patients had significantly higher overall GI symptom scores than males (7.3±10.1 vs 2.8±4.2, p<0.001), with higher scores across all five symptom groups including abdominal pain, dyspepsia, diarrhea, constipation, and dysphagia/nausea.
- In ulcerative colitis (n=302), male patients had significantly higher overall symptom scores than females (5.6±8.5 vs 2.9±5.9, p=0.002), driven particularly by higher dyspepsia and diarrhea scores in males.
- In coeliac disease (n=827), overall GI symptom scores were low and no significant gender differences were observed (3.1±4.6 in males vs 3.9±6.4 in females, p=0.064).
- The authors conclude that these gender-specific symptom patterns may affect time to diagnosis, treatment initiation, and adherence, warranting further investigation.
- This study used the pSAGIS scale, a validated 21-item patient-reported measure assessing type and severity of GI symptoms, in a paediatric outpatient clinic in Vienna between 2016 and 2020.

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