

What is it?

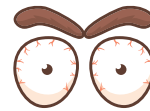
Crohn's disease, or chronic inflammation bowel disease (IBD), is a condition that usually affects the intestines, but can affect any area from the mouth to the rectum.

Signs and symptoms

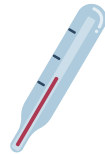
Causes

Crohn's disease is an autoimmune disease where the body attacks its own cells

- Infection (include tuberculosis, measles, etc.)
- Long-term use of anti-inflammatory drugs
- Cigarette smoking
- Genetics and family history



Inflammation of the eyes, skin rashes and arthritis can occur before the onset of the condition



Fever



Swollen gums



Loss of appetite



Tiredness



Mouth ulcers



Skin lumps or sores



Diarrhoea/pain with passing stools



Rectal bleeding with bloody stools

Constipation

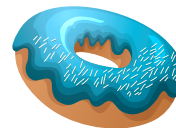
Diagnosis

Physical examination

- Barium enema
- Gastroscopy, colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy
- CT scan of the abdomen
- MRI scan of the abdomen
- Endoscopy
- Stool culture

LIFESTYLE CHANGES

- Eat small amounts of food
- Avoid high fibre foods like beans, nuts, seeds and popcorn
- Avoid food that produces gas, e.g. beans and onions
- Limit dairy products



Treatment

- Corticosteroids (cortisone/steroids)
- Anti-inflammatory medications
- Immune system suppressors
- Biological therapy
- Antibiotics
- Anti-diarrhoeal medications and fluid replacements
- Surgery