

## **Crohn's disease :**

is a type of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) that may affect any segment of the gastrointestinal tract from the mouth to the anus.

## **Symptoms:**

abdominal pain, diarrhea (which may be bloody if inflammation is severe), fever, abdominal distension, and weight loss.

## **Causes :**

While the exact causes are unknown, Crohn's disease seems to be due to a combination of environmental factors and genetic predisposition .Crohn's is the first genetically complex disease in which the relationship between genetic risk factors and the immune system is understood in considerable detail. Each individual risk mutation makes a small contribution to the overall risk of Crohn's . The genetic data, and direct assessment of immunity, indicates a malfunction in the innate immune system. In this view, the chronic inflammation of Crohn's is caused when the adaptive immune system tries to compensate for a deficient innate immune system.

## Complications :

Crohn's disease can lead to several mechanical complications within the intestines, including obstruction, fistulae, and abscesses. Obstruction typically occurs from strictures or adhesions that narrow the lumen, blocking the passage of the intestinal contents. A fistula can develop between two loops of bowel, between the bowel and bladder, between the bowel and between the bowel and skin. Abscesses are walled-off concentrations of infection, which can occur in the abdomen or in the perianal area. Crohn's is responsible for 10% of vesicoenteric fistulae, and is the most common cause of ileovesical fistulae.

## Diagnosis :

No single test result is enough for your doctor to diagnose Crohn's disease.

Your doctor may use several types of tests to make a diagnosis:

- Blood tests can help your doctor look for certain indicators of potential problems, such as anemia and inflammation.
- A stool test can help your doctor detect blood in your GI tract.
- Your doctor may request an endoscopy to get a better image of the inside of your upper gastrointestinal tract.
- Your doctor may request a colonoscopy to examine the large bowel.

- Your doctor will likely have a tissue sample, or biopsy, taken during an endoscopy or colonoscopy for a closer look at your intestinal tract tissue.
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- Imaging tests like CT scans and MRI scans give your doctor more detail than an average X-ray. Both tests allow your doctor to see specific areas of your tissues and organs.

## **Treatment :**

A cure for Crohn's disease isn't available yet, but the disease can be managed. A variety of treatment options exist that can lessen the severity and frequency of your symptoms.

### Medications

Several types of medications are available to treat Crohn's. Antidiarrheal and anti-inflammatory drugs are commonly used. More advanced options include biologics, which use the body's immune system to treat the disease.