

Paediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease: an Asian Perspective

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Abstract:

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) is a heterogeneous group of conditions, comprising of Crohn's disease (CD), ulcerative colitis (UC), and indeterminate colitis (IBD-U). The pathogenesis of IBD is multifactorial. IBD develops in genetically susceptible hosts with altered intestinal response to external stimuli as a result of intestinal dysbiosis. There is a worldwide increase in the incidence of IBD. The incidence of IBD in Asian children is increasing as well, although it is still much rarer as compared to the Caucasian population. The prevalence of IBD is not homogeneous in Asia. It is more common in Indian subcontinent and less prevalent in East Asians. Most studies on childhood IBD in Asia focused on clinical features and descriptive epidemiology. There are no population-based studies in Asia outside Japan or Taiwan. In addition, many aspects of children IBD in Asian children, including genetics, natural history, extra-intestinal manifestations, and intestinal dysbiosis are well not well described. Because of its relative rarity in Asia, many paediatricians and gastroenterologists are not familiar with childhood IBD. This often lead to delayed diagnosis and management. Differentiating CD from intestinal tuberculosis may be challenging, particularly in region where tuberculosis is prevalent. Many management algorithm on the management of childhood IBD have been published. Most are from Western Europe and North America where health resources are more abundant. There are urgent needs to have management algorithm from this part of the world where health care resources are more limited.