

Dear ECCO National Representatives,

Dear IBD National Study Group Representatives,

Dear Colleagues,

Pancreatic disorders are a heterogeneous group of conditions commonly observed in IBD patients, but probably underestimated. The most common manifestation is acute pancreatitis, maybe because its clinical onset is easily recognisable. However, very few data are available regarding the aetiology, management, and outcome of this condition in IBD patients. Moreover, there is a wide spectrum of pancreatic manifestations in IBD, including chronic pancreatitis, autoimmune pancreatitis, exocrine pancreatic insufficiency and asymptomatic chronic enzyme elevation, which may represent a challenge for the clinician.

With this email, the Pancreas Institute of the University of Verona (Italy) would like to ask different European research groups as well as individual IBD centers, to collaborate on this topic in an observational, retrospective, multicenter study.

The collaborative approach with a pancreatic tertiary center may be the most productive route to understand the aetiology, to guide additional diagnostic workup, and define the treatment and follow-up of these patients. In addition, expanding this study to a European level would certainly provide more data, giving an insight into acute pancreatitis (and other pancreatic manifestations) management across Europe and creating an international network.

Each participating center will be invited to answer a brief survey investigating the number of IBD patients with pancreatic disorders referred between January 2011 and December 2020, and to collect data in an electronic database.

The amended study protocol (see attachment) has been reviewed by the Clinical Committee (ClinCom) of the ECCO. The initial study with unique code (3767CESC) was also approved by the local Ethical Committee.

Who can collaborate?

- Each IBD center which maintain a prospective or retrospective list of adult IBD patients, with easily retrievability of data and a low risk of missed cases, who are willing to provide information about their patients with one or more pancreatic disorders.

If you are interested in collaboration to this study, please contact mariacristina.contibellochi@aovr.veneto.it by **14 September 2022**.

You will receive an email immediately after, with a brief survey about local standard of care and case volumes. It will be requested to fill out the survey and to send it to the same email address. Subsequently the credentials to access to REDCap, a secure web application for building and managing online surveys and databases, will be sent within a few weeks to collect a detailed case report form (eCRF) about each patients with acute pancreatitis or documented other pancreatic abnormality.

Data collection will last about 2 months after local Ethic Committee/IRB approval. Inform us, if you need ethical approval and informed consent of each patient, and when you will expect this.

It is plausible that participation and Ethic Committee/IRB approval will be obtained at different time periods among the participating centers, thus requiring a duration of data collection of 18 months. Taking into account a period of six months for analysis of data, the total duration of study might be of 24 months.

We will aim for the submission of a full manuscript after data analysis. The publication list will consider the number of patients included in the study, as specified in the study protocol. Participants will be included in the main author's list, but everyone will be mentioned as collaborator and therefore traceable through a PubMed search.

Of note, IBD centers that collaborate to this multi-center cohort study are allowed to publish their own data independently as well. However, joint forces will lead to a manuscript with a higher impact.

This initiative was already discussed at the ECCO National Study groups meeting and received positive feedback. Therefore, we truly hope that this retrospective study will become a success and might lead to an intense collaboration.

Looking forward,

Maria Cristina Conti Bellocchi MD, PhD student, Study PI

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