



## Call for Participants in the ECCO Topical Review on IBD-like patterns of drug colitis with practical guidance and a focus on immune checkpoint inhibitors

**Deadline for submission is July 8, 2024**

### Context and aim of the project

In recent decades, there has been a surge in the availability of medications for treating cancer and various other diseases. However, the advantages come with a wide array of potentially severe side effects, including gastrointestinal (GI) abnormalities. Diagnosis of drug-induced GI mucosal injury (DIMI) poses a clinical challenge as most therapeutic agents causing toxicity can manifest more than one clinical, endoscopic, or histological pattern of injury. Conversely, a singular pattern of injury raises suspicions of numerous possible drug culprits. Moreover, DIMI may closely mimic inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and related colorectal conditions like infectious colitis, ischaemic colitis, and graft-versus-host disease (GVHD). The mimicry can be intricate, with subtle distinguishing clinical and pathological features.

Immune checkpoint inhibitor-induced colitis is increasingly observed in clinical practice, prompting oncologists to seek guidance from IBD teams. As immune checkpoint inhibitors have significantly improved overall survival in multiple malignancies, their use will continue to rise, resulting in more cases of ICI-induced colitis. However, many other drugs also cause GI tract problems. Understanding the clinical and pathological patterns of GI injury produced by both established and newer agents reduces the risk of misclassification, misdiagnosis, and incorrect management. Effective communication between clinicians and pathologists is therefore crucial and can significantly impact clinical outcomes.

This topical review aims to explore DIMI of the GI tract, focusing on clinical and pathological patterns resembling IBD and on endoscopic and pathological features differentiating IBD and DIMI, with emphasis on ICI-induced colitis. We will also examine the pathologist's role and limitations in supporting a clinical diagnosis and review treatment algorithms for drug-induced colitis.

### Timeline

DATE	ACTION
MID JUNE 2024	Call sent out
MID JULY 2024	Applicants selected and notified
28 <sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2024	<b>Virtual Kick off meeting (mandatory)</b>
SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2024	Literature research First draft of "ECCO Positions" (incl. first draft of supporting text and recommended summary tables for literature research)
EARLY DECEMBER 2024	Online voting
MID DEC 2024- EARLY MARCH 2025	Revision of ECCO Positions as per the online voting results Final draft of ECCO Positions and supporting text
END OF MARCH 2025	<b>Virtual Consensus Meeting (half day/exact date TBC - mandatory)</b>
APRIL - EARLY MAY 2025	Finalisation of manuscript
EARLY - MID MAY 2025	Cross-check by medical writer
JUNE - EARLY JULY 2025	Revision of manuscript by Coordinators as per feedback from medical writer
EARLY JULY 2025	Submission of abstract for ECCO'26 and submission of manuscript to JCC
PRESENTATION	ECCO'26 Congress

**Failure to deliver any task within the defined deadlines will lead to exclusion from the project.**



## Workgroups:

### WG1: Clinical and pathological features of IBD-like drug colitis

#### Clinical:

- Patient presentation
- Laboratory findings
- Image studies
- Endoscopic evaluation

#### Pathology:

- Pathological patterns of drug-induced colitis (brief overview)
- Immune checkpoint inhibitor (ICI) colitis: pathology
- IBD-type colitis caused by ICI and other drugs (more detail)
- Pathological differential diagnosis

### WG2: Practical guidance on management of ICI colitis

- Current therapy and monitoring of ICI colitis
- Re-challenge with the same ICI
- Use of ICI in patients with IBD
- Research gaps and new potential treatments

## If you are:

- An ECCO Member (in good standing – 2024 Membership) and are interested in joining one of the Workgroups for this project;
- Able to fully commit to the process including participation in the two meetings: virtual **Kick-off Meeting (August 28, 2024, 18:00-20:00 CET)** & virtual **Final Consensus Meeting** (TBC)

to apply online\*, please [click here](#) and use your **ECCO Portal Credentials**.

**Deadline for submission is July 8, 2024**

Best regards from the Project Coordinators,

**Natália Queiroz, Gabriele Dragoni, Roger Feakins, Bram Verstockt**

If you have trouble logging in, please contact [a.thiel@ecco-ibd.eu](mailto:a.thiel@ecco-ibd.eu) and [f.ifram@ecco-ibd.eu](mailto:f.ifram@ecco-ibd.eu)  
*ECCO is looking forward to your application!*

*\*Data processing consent and retention: By sending an application, you agree to the data processing for the above-described project: ECCO Office stores applicants' personal data of this application for the project timeframe. You have the right to object at any time at [ecco@ecco-ibd.eu](mailto:ecco@ecco-ibd.eu). ECCO Office will delete data securely after the end of this project*