COVID-19 IBD patients' perception

This survey has been co-designed with Pr. Silvio Danese, Head of the IBD Center at Humanitas University Hospital in Milan in order to better understand the concerns and fears of the IBD community in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The data have been collected during the period March, 30th – April, 16th.
OVERVIEW

3815 PARTICIPANTS:

- 72% female
- 28% male
- 41 y average age
- 40% live with children
- 18% live with elderly
- 2007 average year of diagnosis

58% Crohn’s disease
40% Ulcerative colitis
2% Indeterminate colitis

37% private employee
21% public employee
12% student
12% unemployed
12% freelancer
6% retired

The graph above shows how females represent the majority and overall both genders belong to the 40-45 age class.

The graph below shows the TOP 7 COUNTRIES which participated to the survey.
OVERVIEW

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS X COUNTRIES

PARTICIPANTS’ CHARACTERISTICS N=3815 (+/- 0.05%)
GENERAL FEELINGS

IS RESPIRATORY TRANSMISSION THE ONLY POSSIBLE TRANSMISSION?

- 97% THINK THAT COVID-19 INFECTION IS TRANSMITTED FROM PERSON TO PERSON
- 91% THINK THAT AN ASYMPTOMATIC PERSON CAN TRANSMIT THE INFECTION
- 78% THINK PROTECTIVE AIDS (E.G. MASKS, GLOVES, DISINFECTANTS) ARE ABLE TO PREVENT CONTAGION
- 83% USE PROTECTIVE AIDS (E.G. MASKS, GLOVES, DISINFECTANTS) TO PREVENT CONTAGION

1 DISINFECTANT
2 MASK
3 GLOVES

- 96% THINK THAT A PATIENT WITH COVID-19 INFECTION CAN HEAL
- 97% THINK COVID-19 INFECTION CAUSE DEATH
- 65% ARE AFRAID OF DYING FROM COVID-19 INFECTION

PARTICIPANTS’ CHARACTERISTICS N=3815 (+/- 0.05%)
FEARS AND HABITS

87% ARE AFRAID OF INFECTING OTHER PEOPLE

85% ARE AFRAID OF GETTING INFECTED FROM COVID-19

85% ARE WORRIED OF PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH OTHER PEOPLE

96% DECLARED THAT HIS / HER COUNTRY IMPOSED TRAVEL AND DAILY LIFE RESTRICTIONS

87% ARE AFRAID OF TRAVELING

82% REDUCED TRAVELS

64% ARE WORRIED OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF QUARANTINE ON INCOME

51% THINK THERE IS SOMETHING THAT REDUCES FEAR AND WORRIES ABOUT COVID-19:

1. 42% Patient Association

2. 27% Relatives

3. 14% Recommendations from national and international authorities

4. 7% Friends

5. 6% Physician consultation

6. 4% Psychologist

57% FEEL SOCIAL ISOLATION

71% ARE NOT WORRIED FOR BEING IN QUARANTINE

94% THINK QUARANTINE IS IMPORTANT TO PREVENT CONTAGION

98% HAVE NOT UNDERTAKEN VOLUNTARY QUARANTINE

98% REDUCED THEIR DAILY HABITS (E.G. GOING TO THE SUPERMARKET, GOING TO THE RESTAURANT ETC)

PARTICIPANTS’ CHARACTERISTICS N=3815 (+/- 0.05%)
PHYSICIAN ACCESSIBILITY

ARE YOU HAVING PROBLEMS IN REACHING YOUR PHYSICIAN SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY?

- Yes: 46%
- No: 40%
- Not applicable: 14%

DID YOUR PHYSICIAN GIVE YOU INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19?

- Yes: 45%
- No: 31%
- Not applicable: 24%

75% ARE AFRAID TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL / IBD CENTER FOR A GASTROENTEROLOGICAL CONSULTATION DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS

73% FEEL STRESSED FROM THIS SITUATION

60% THINK THE STRESS MAY WORSEN THE SYMPTOMS OF THE DISEASE

The majority of respondents are afraid to reach healthcare facilities, but equally they have no issue about reaching their doctor if needed.

PARTICIPANTS’ CHARACTERISTICS N=3815 (+/- 0.05%)
**Physician Recommendations**

**Did your physician give you specific recommendations related to your IBD (drugs, contact etc.) during this COVID-19 pandemic?**

- Yes: 43%
- No: 30%
- Not applicable: 27%

**Are there any additional recommendations about COVID-19 you would like from your physician?**

- Yes: 48%
- No: 31%
- No answer: 21%

**If you received recommendations, are you satisfied with the information your physician has provided you?**

- Yes: 66%
- No: 26%
- No answer: 8%

1/3 of the participants would like to receive more recommendations about COVID-19 from the physician.

Participants' Characteristics N=3815 (+/- 0.05%)
DO THE IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS PREDISPOSE TO COVID-19 INFECTION?

- Yes: 23%
- No: 64%
- Do not know: 13%

ARE YOU AFRAID THAT YOUR MEDICATIONS MAY INCREASE THE RISK OF COVID-19 INFECTION?

- Yes: 12%
- No: 63%
- Do not know: 25%

The majority of respondents declared they are afraid that medications may increase the risk of COVID-19, but at the same time they strictly follow the indication of the specialist and do not intend to abandon the therapy.
While earlier there was a clear majority that think that immunosuppressive drugs can predispose to infection, as far as the disease in general is concerned, it is not clear whether it can predispose to a higher infection of COVID-19 and if it can make IBD worse. Furthermore, the majority of respondents think that asymptomatic patients should also be tracked down.
EFCCA wishes to thank the participants and local associations for being part on this survey.

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