

CROHN'S DISEASE

Crohn's disease is a condition where the intestines become inflamed (red and swollen) and ulcerated (open sores that may bleed). Crohn's disease can occur in any part of the gastrointestinal tract, from mouth to anus, often in a patchy distribution with sections of normal gut in between. It is one of the two main forms of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). The other is Ulcerative Colitis. Crohn's disease is a chronic condition. This means that is ongoing and life-long, although it can be managed effectively, especially with the use of medication to control the inflammation,

The exact cause of Crohn's disease is not known. It is thought to be an autoimmune disorder. In people who are genetically predisposed, the immune system becomes overactive against the bowel (possibly the bacteria in the bowel). This could be triggered by environmental triggers like smoking, food-poisoning or the use of some anti-inflammatory medications like ibuprofen. The overactive immune response then causes the inflammation in the intestines causing the symptoms of IBD.